

GENALGUACIL DECLARATION

Local Governance and Cultural Management Forum The impact of PACESETTERS on a new model

Genalguacil · 13 and 14 October 2026

Introductory remarks

“We have reached the point at which dialogue must become commitment. The Genalguacil Declaration brings together the main conclusions and proposals put forward during the Forum. It is not separate from the conversation we have shared: it grows out of the experiences, difficulties and priorities expressed today by local representatives, institutions, technical staff, cultural actors and PACESETTERS partners. Its Decalogue seeks to contribute to the dialogue with S4Andalucía and guide the next steps of Andalusian municipalism.”

The Smart Specialisation Strategy for Sustainability of Andalusia, S4Andalucía, provides the strategic framework for directing regional innovation towards key sectors, strengthening competitiveness and promoting sustainable and balanced development. Within this context, Andalusian municipalities —particularly rural ones— play a fundamental role as spaces for innovation, creativity and territorial cohesion.

PACESETTERS brings an innovative perspective that combines culture, creativity and environmental sustainability as drivers of local transformation. This vision is fully aligned with the objectives of S4Andalucía, particularly in relation to:

- Social and cultural innovation
- Ecological transition
- Balanced territorial development
- Knowledge economy
- Citizen participation
- Rural cohesion



The Genalguacil Forum has made it possible to organise a participatory process combining municipal experience, technical knowledge, cultural vision and a European perspective.

DECLARATION

Genalguacil, a leading municipality in cultural and rural innovation, hosted the Local Governance and Cultural Management Forum on 13 and 14 October 2026. The Forum was a space for dialogue, reflection and collective construction promoted within the European PACESETTERS project.

Gathered together as local elected representatives, technical officers, cultural actors, European institutions and representatives of the Andalusian ecosystem, we recognise:

- That culture, creativity and sustainability are essential pillars for the future of our territories.
- That culture, heritage and creativity in rural areas encompass a very broad range of productive initiatives which contribute to the diversification of the so-called “New Rurality”.
- That municipalities, particularly rural municipalities, possess capacities, knowledge and energy that must be activated and recognised.
- That public innovation emerges from the territory, its people and the way they relate to their environment.
- That Andalusia has a historic opportunity to become a European reference for cultural governance and ecological transition models.

In particular, we propose:

- Permanently incorporating municipal and rural perspectives into the governance and entrepreneurial discovery processes of S4Andalucía.
- Designing financing and technical assistance instruments proportionate to the scale and administrative capacity of small municipalities.
- Recognising the capacities, alliances, learning processes and social and environmental transformations generated within the territory as innovation results.
- Defending, within the 2028–2034 European framework, a clear place for culture, creativity and practice-based research in competitiveness, cohesion and just transition policies.

The Local Governance and Cultural Management Forum, held in Genalguacil on 13 and 14 October, brought together local elected representatives, technical officers, cultural actors, European institutions and representatives of the PACESETTERS ecosystem to reflect on the role of culture, creativity and sustainability in the transformation of Andalusian territories.

The meeting formed part of the European PACESETTERS project, which promotes new forms of local governance based on culture, community innovation and ecological transition. Andalusia participates in this European consortium through the Andalusian Federation of Municipalities and



Provinces, FAMP, and LAB Genalguacil, contributing a territorial, creative and deeply community-based perspective.

The Forum was conceived as a space for dialogue and collective construction. Its main result is the Genalguacil Decalogue, a set of strategic proposals to be submitted to the Co-Decision Committee of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Sustainability of Andalusia, S4Andalucía.

Following shared dialogue, reflection and debate, and drawing on the instruments generated within PACESETTERS—including its Policy Paper—we agree to submit the following to the Co-Decision Committee of S4Andalucía:

GENALGUACIL DECALOGUE

Proposals for a new model of local governance and cultural management in Andalusia

This Decalogue grows out of dialogue among local elected representatives, municipal technical officers, cultural actors, European institutions and PACESETTERS partners.

It is a living document, built through listening and reflection and grounded in the conviction that Andalusia can lead a new model of local governance based on culture, creativity and sustainability.

This Decalogue will be submitted to the Co-Decision Committee of the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Sustainability of Andalusia as a contribution from Andalusian municipalism to building a more participatory, creative and sustainable future.

We will now read the Genalguacil Decalogue.

1. Recognise culture as essential public infrastructure.

Integrate it into strategic territorial planning as a pillar of wellbeing and cohesion.

2. Promote participatory and creative models of local governance.

Support open, collaborative and community-based decision-making structures.

3. Incorporate creativity as a driver of sustainable economic development.

Foster local ecosystems that combine culture, entrepreneurship and the circular economy.

4. Place the ecological transition at the centre of cultural and municipal action.

Integrate landscape, energy and biodiversity into local planning.

5. Strengthen the technical and creative capacities of rural municipalities.

Reduce gaps through training, mentoring and knowledge transfer.

6. Consolidate cooperation networks among municipalities, cultural institutions and European partners.

Use the PACESETTERS experience to create stable alliances.



7. Create territorial laboratories for cultural and climate innovation.

Establish permanent spaces for experimentation inspired by the Genalguacil model.

8. Evaluate cultural and community impact in public policies. Include indicators of cohesion, participation, identity and sustainability.

9. Guarantee stable funding for transformative cultural projects. Design specific support lines for comprehensive and sustainable initiatives.

10. Position Andalusia as a European reference for cultural innovation and local governance. Strengthen its leadership in European territorial innovation networks.

“Through this Decalogue, Andalusian municipalities express their commitment to a development model that emerges from the territory and returns value to the territory.

Thank you for being part of this process.”

Through this Declaration, Genalguacil and the participating municipalities express our commitment to a development model that places culture, creativity and sustainability at the heart of public action.

Through this Declaration, we undertake a shared task: turning its proposals into relationships, projects and public decisions. FAMP will help organise and transfer the results, maintain the link among the participating municipalities and connect this learning with the relevant institutional spaces.

The FAMP Secretary General, as the Federation’s representative on the S4Andalucía Co-Decision Committee, and the Director General for Tourism of the Andalusian Regional Government, as head of the S4Andalucía Tourism and Culture Working Group, will forward the Declaration to the Co-Decision Committee and the competent bodies through the channels established by the Strategy.

Commitments of the participating political representatives

The support expressed at the Forum represents a shared position and does not, by itself, imply the formal signature of every institution present. The participating political representatives expressed their willingness to:

- Open local innovation processes to participation by the territorial ecosystem.
- Document and share both the results and the learning and difficulties arising from the experiences developed.
- Integrate sustainability, equality, inclusion and participation into cultural and innovation projects.



Through this Declaration, we affirm that territorial innovation cannot be designed entirely from the centre, but that public policies can create the conditions for it to emerge from places and with the people who inhabit them.

Genalguacil reminds us that scaling does not necessarily mean reproducing a single solution. It can mean connecting many territories, many capacities and many forms of innovation that learn from one another without losing their distinctiveness.

From Andalusian municipalism, we offer this Declaration as a contribution to a new model of local development that places culture, sustainable development and the response to demographic challenges among its fundamental pillars, while connecting innovation emerging from territories with the priorities of the next European framework.

Genalguacil, 14 October 2026