

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



PORTUGAL'S NATIONAL DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN RURAL PACT

Fátima Bacharel
Directorate General for Territory



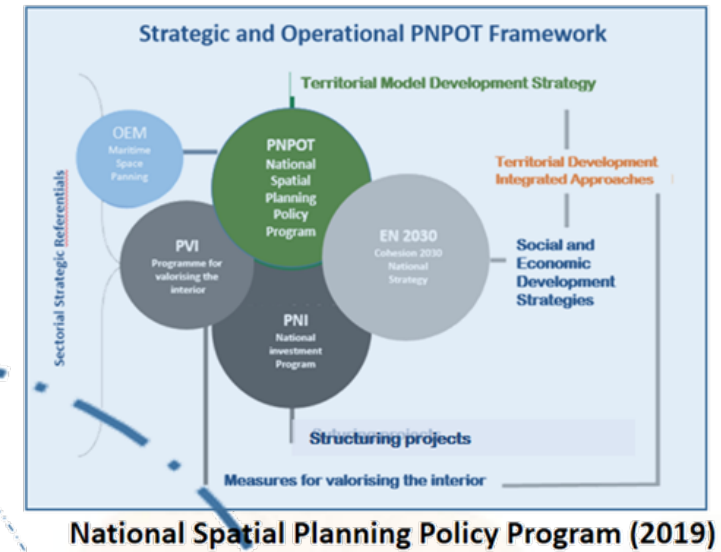
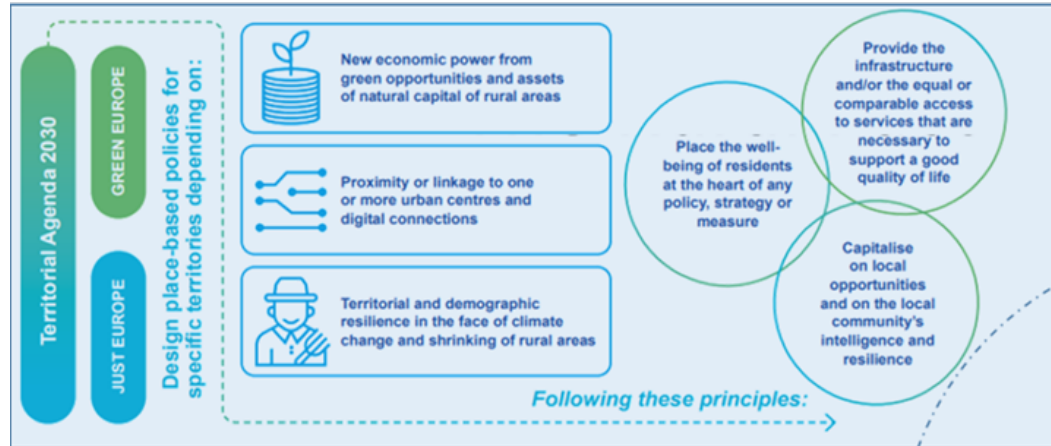
Photo: Domingos Lopes (UTAD, Portugal)

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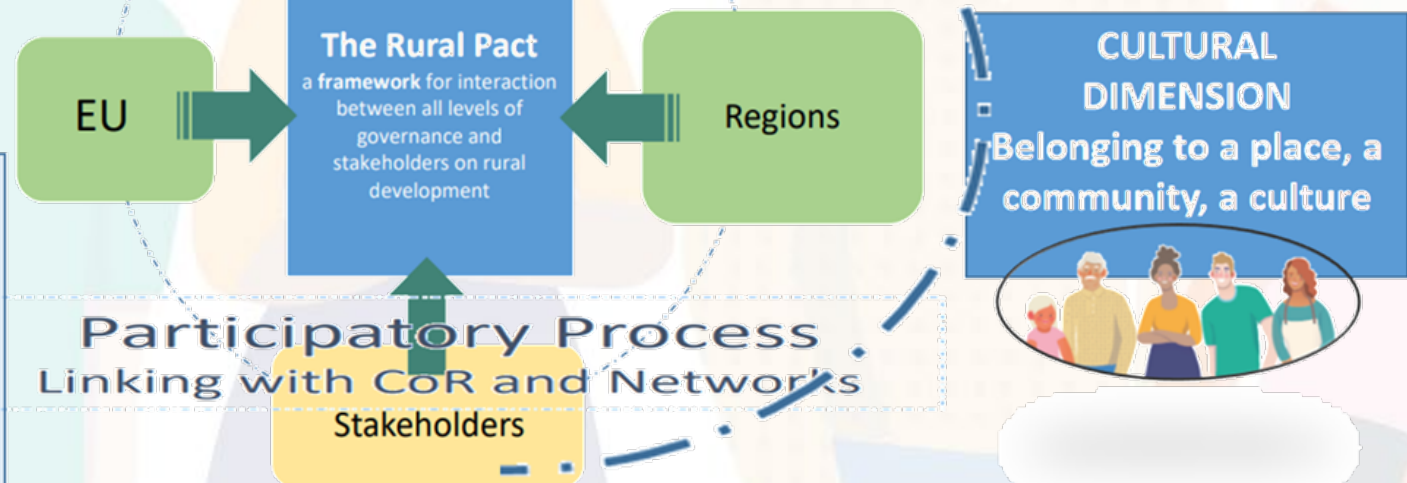
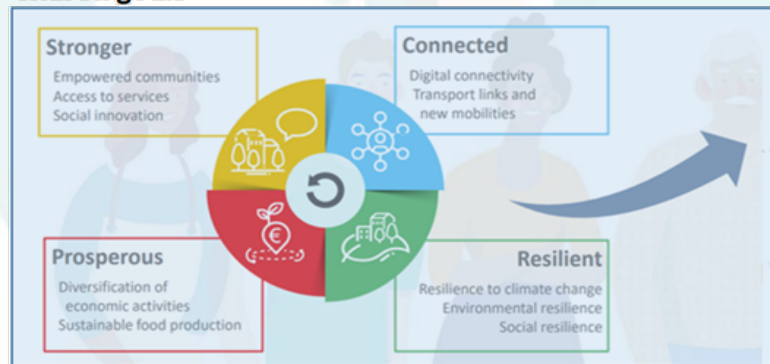


ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE RURAL PACT

ESPON / Portuguese Presidency of the Council Policy Brief (2021):
 Long Term Vision For the Rural Areas + Territorial Agenda 2030

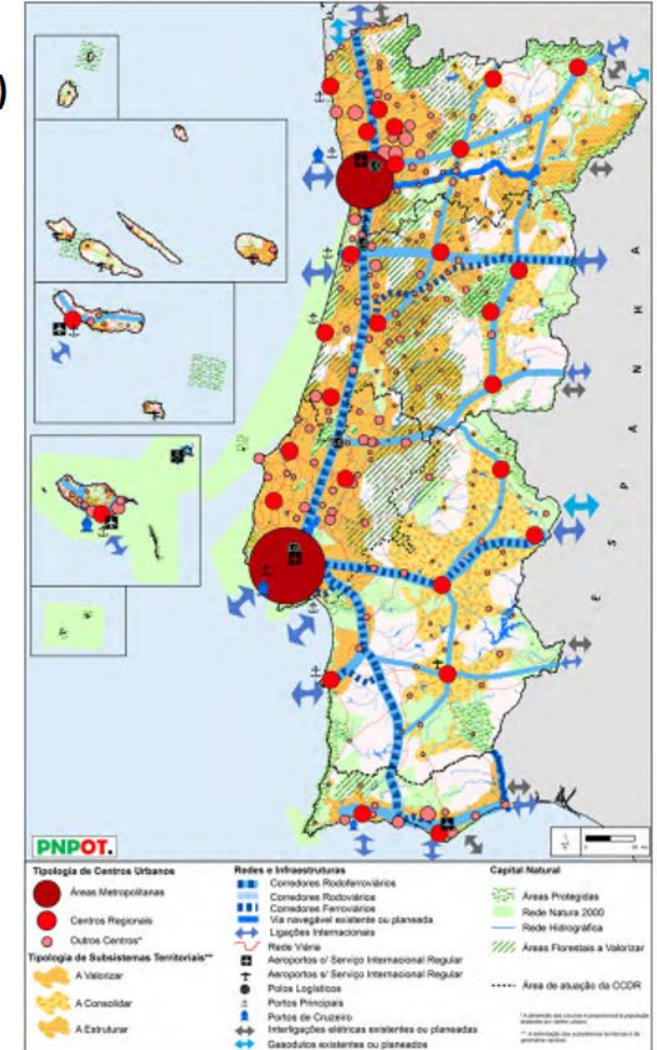


Long Term Vision For the Rural Areas(2021)
 shared goals

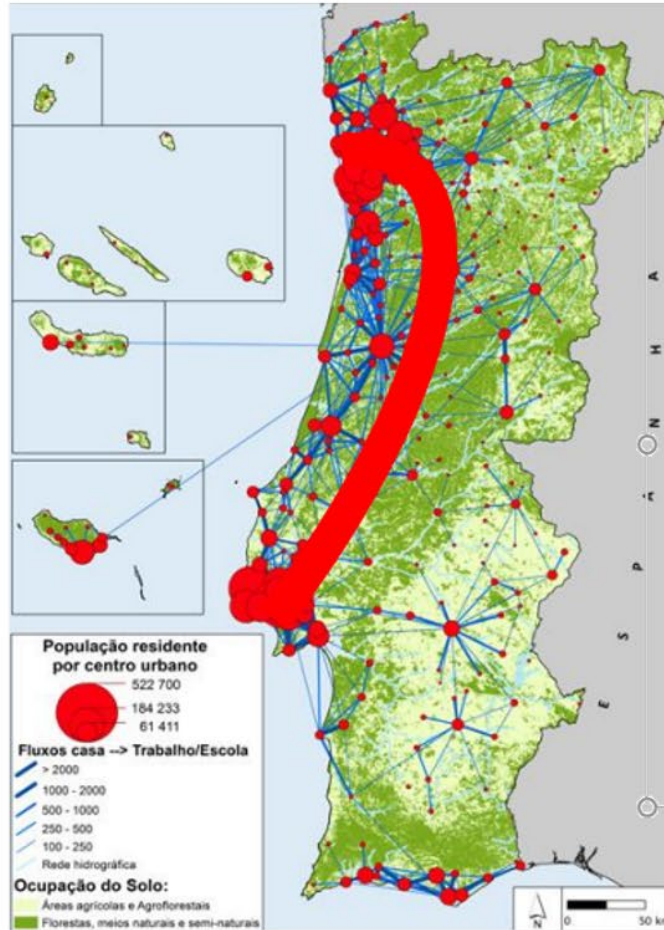


Adapted from 08_tg2-rp_rural-pact_dg-agri_rouby.pdf

Territorial Model



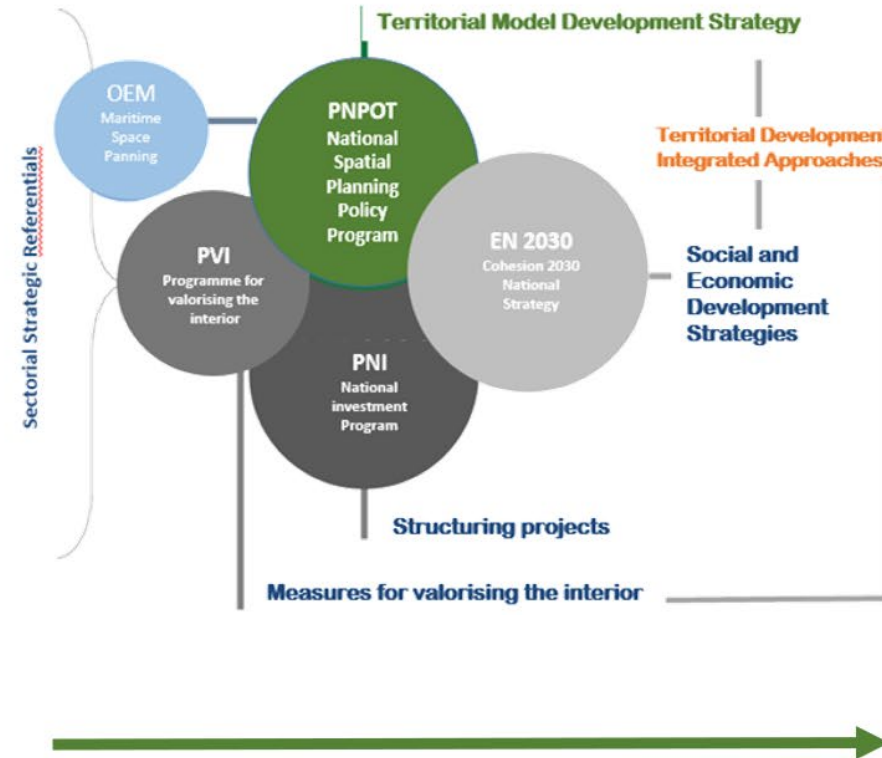
Portugal – a prevailing rural territory



Urban centers from Setubal to Braga that concentrate 44% of the population

National Spatial Planning Policy Program (PNPOT 2019)

Strategic and Operational PNPOT Framework



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Long Term Vision For the Rural Areas(2021) shared goals

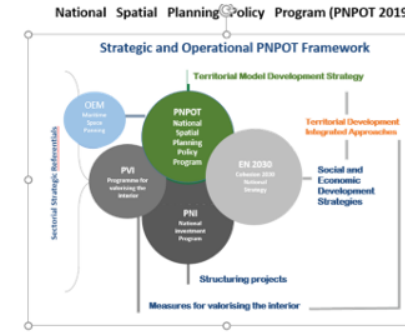
EU RURAL AREAS

76% of EU territory

26% of EU population (116 million people)

13% of the EU GROSS VALUE ADDED

15% of EU jobs



Program for Valorising the Interior 9 relevant programmes for crosscutting initiatives

Stronger
Empowered communities
Access to services
Social innovation

Connected
Digital connectivity
Transport links and new mobilities

Prosperous
Diversification of economic activities
Sustainable food production

Resilient
Resilience to climate change
Environmental resilience
Social resilience



Shared goals for 2040

Rural action plan +

Rural Pact

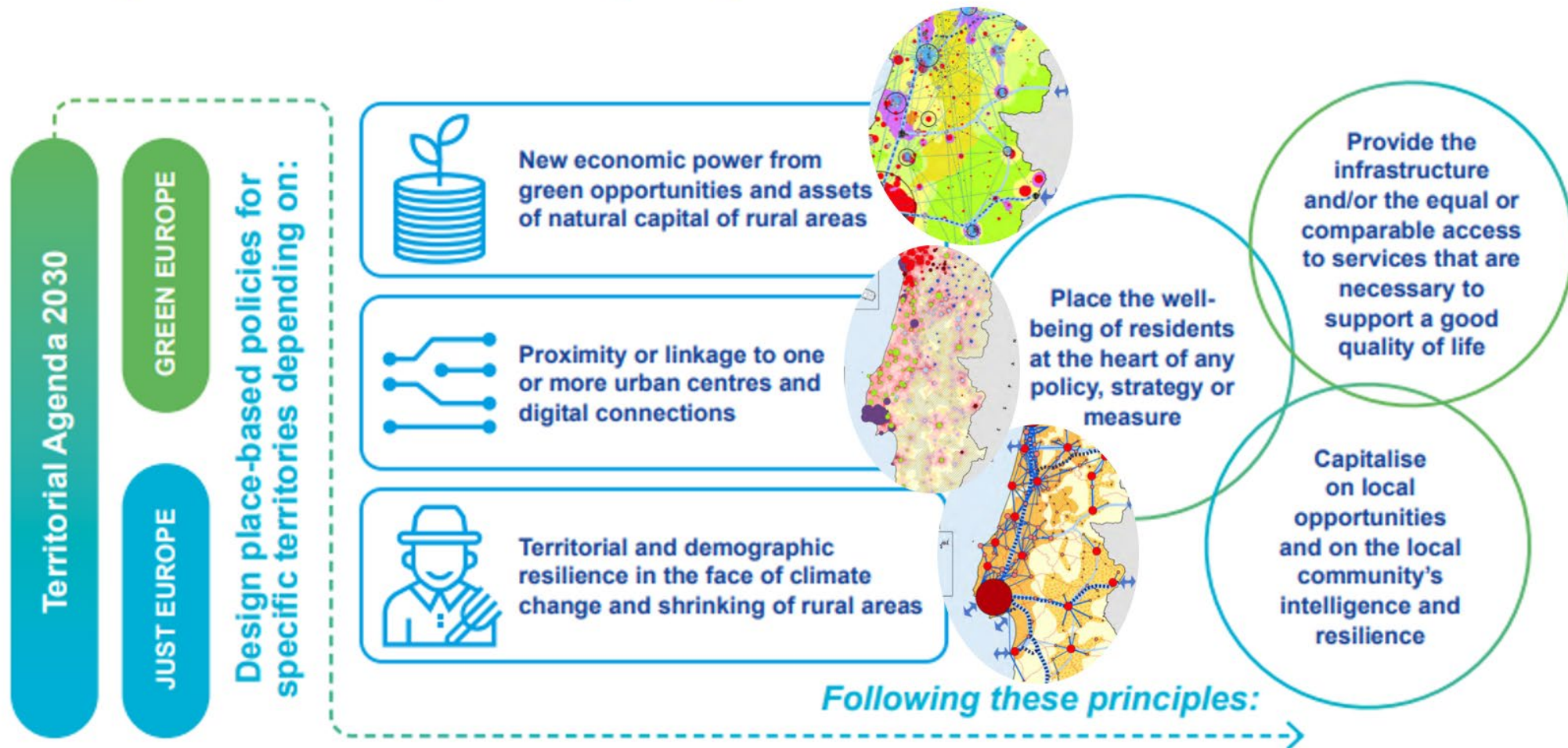
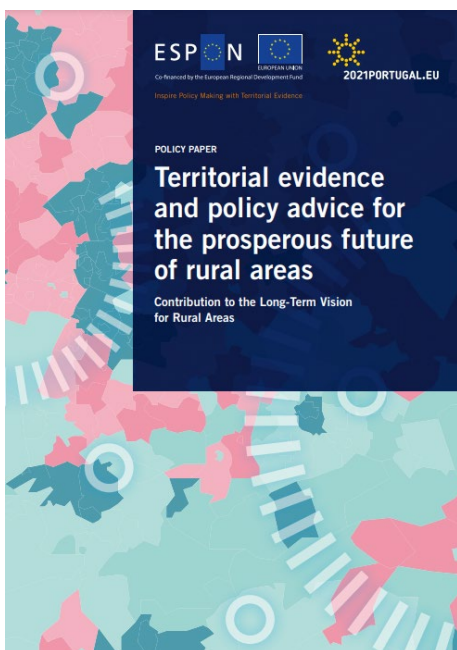
- Natural capital assets (soil, agriculture, forest, biodiversity)
 - Knowledge labs
 - Digital networks
 - Proximity
- Innovation and social inclusion
 - Employment
 - Competitiveness
- Cross border cooperation
 - Tourism

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Principles that underly the design of place-based policies

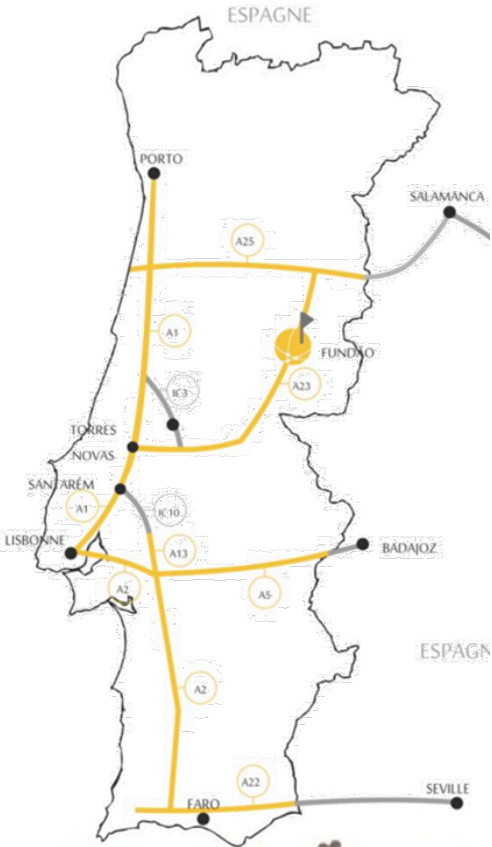


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LIGHT HOUSE INITIATIVES OF CULTURAL DIMENSION

Belonging to a place, a
community, a culture



Area: 700 Km2

Population: 26.521 inhabitants

Population density: 38 hab/km2

Cova da Beira region: 100 000 inhabitants

Main economic activities: Agriculture, ICT, Tourism,
Precision Metalworking, Services and Commerce



Main challenges faced in recent decades:

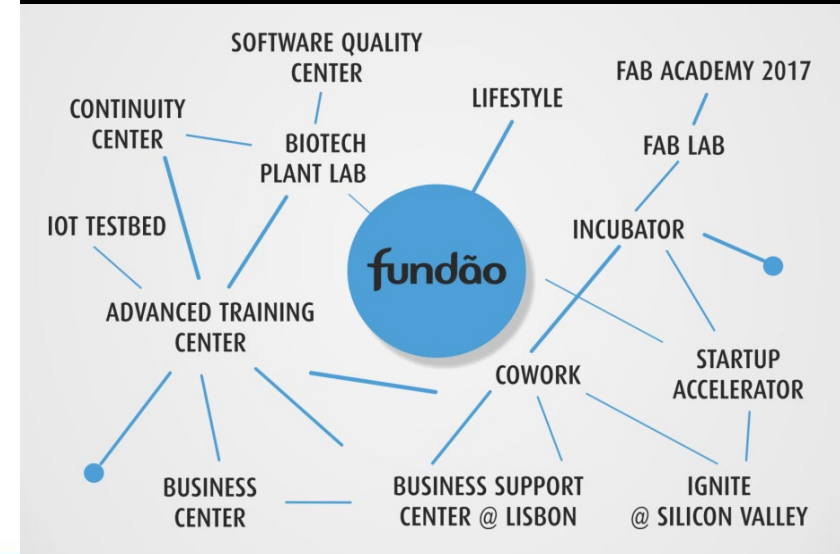
- Economic weakness cycle, due to the lack of investment and attractiveness;
- Ageing population;
- Population relocation, especially amongst the youngest and most qualified, to large urban centers and/or abroad;
- Urban life decline and city's historic center abandonment, bringing urban degradation and loss of identity with it.
- Rural areas abandonment and poor exploitation of countless endogenous resources.

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REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

GABINETE DA MINISTRA
DA COESÃO TERRITORIAL





Anticipating the implementation of Rural pact goals

- Be prepared with a National Spatial Planning Policy Programme
- Make sure of sectors long term commitment in a common vision to rural areas
- Identify and prepare the necessary funds and its accessing – keep it simple, fair and place-based tailored
- Promote the communities reliability on investments and incomes concerning people's life time decisions
- Focus properly the main local goals despite the global positives effects that may be associated to the Rural Pact goals
- Collect key actors on the ground empowered to act
- Implement pilot and demonstrative place-based solutions that can be up scaled and replied

Is it easy or fast? No, it is not!

But is inspiring how the European Rural Pact can change our perceptions of rural areas and, above all, of those of the decision makers.



Thank you

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