



ADDRESSING RURAL DEPOPULATION USING DATA AND EVIDENCE

General Directorate on Policies against Depopulation
Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge



VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE (SGDC), CREATED IN 2020

General Directorate on Policies against Depopulation: reduction of urban-rural inequalities, territorial cohesion and fight against depopulation

Social and Territorial Cohesion Framework

- ✓ 2030 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE
- ✓ PLAN 130 MEASURES TO FACE THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE for the period 2021-2023

Need to rethink the territorial model. ACTIONS:

- CREATION OF COHESION AND TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATION FUND
- ANNUAL SUBSIDIES to reactivate territories expose to depopulation
- CREATION OF 12 INNOVATION CENTRES: In vulnerable areas, facilitation of local innovation and network.
- RURAL CAMPUS PROGRAM: internships in rural areas in Spain and Portugal
- DIGITAL TRAINING IN RURAL AREAS
- FINANCING PROJECTS FOR FORESTRY AND BIOECONOMY MANAGEMENT



2030 Territorial Agenda

A Just Europe that offers future perspectives for all places and people

BALANCED EUROPE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL AND COHESION NATIONAL STRATEGY
PLAN 130 FACE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

FUNCTIONAL REGIONS
COHESION FUND AND LOCAL NETWORK OF INNOVATION: National
Budget/Next Generation EU/ EU Regional Funds
ANNUAL SUBSIDIES TO REACTIVATE TERRITORIES

INTEGRATION BEYOND BORDERS
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL CROSS-BORDER STRATEGY
RURAL CAMPUS PROGRAM FOR INTERSHIPS IN RURAL AREAS

A Green Europe that protects common livelihoods and shapes societal
transition

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: €120 MILLION ALLOCATED IN
THE LOCAL BIOECONOMY

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
ANNUAL SUBSIDIES TO REACTIVATE TERRITORIES

SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS
DIGITAL RURAL CHALLENGE PLAN and DIGITAL TRAINING IN RURAL
AREAS: Full Territorial Connectivity by 2025, UNICO Program; and
training at least 384,868 people before the end of 2025.

RURAL VISION

Ten shared goals, summarised by four complementary areas of
action emerged, embodying a long-term vision from, by and
for stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by
2040.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL PACT

Bringing rural voices: collaborations with associative entities
Facilitating networking and mutual learning:
Network of Territorial Innovation Centres as a platform for
national public-private collaboration
Forum of companies with rural commitment

IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL PROOFING

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Law for the Institutionalization of Public
Policy- approved in December 2022

REGIONAL LEGISLATION

- ❖ Aragón
- ❖ Castilla La Mancha
- ❖ Galicia
- ❖ Valencia
- ❖ Extremadura

Using evidence for policy making and rural proofing to address rural
depopulation in Spain: SIDAMUN

IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL LONG TERM VISION

EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES, DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL INNOVATION: **creation of 12 innovation
centres, annual subsidies, cohesion and territorial
transformation fund**
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: **digital rural challenge plan and digital
training in rural areas**

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RURAL PROOFING: Institutionalising public policy evaluation

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Evaluation of of Public Policy- approved in December 2022.

- ❖ Ex-ante and post evaluation.
- ❖ The evaluation shall have a defined purpose and scope and shall be based on scientific rigour, objectivity and methodological soundness and take into account, among others, intergenerational balance, the demographic challenge and territorial cohesion.
- ❖ Promotion of rural proofing mechanism: incorporating the evaluation of the territorial, environmental and rural social effects of public policies.

ADDITIONAL NATIONAL LEGISLATION APPROVED IN THE PERIOD 2020-2023 WITH THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE AND TERRITORIAL COHESION: housing, education, telecommunications, employment, remote working, university system, protection and assistance to gender victims, etc.

REGIONAL LEGISLATION OF RURAL PROOFING: Aragón , Castilla La Mancha, Galicia, Valencia, Extremadura

USING DATA AND EVIDENCE FOR POLICY MAKING

DATA: SIDAMUN

- Tool available to the general public.
- With indicators and data on different topics (demographic, economic, public services, housing and household, environmental and geographic).
- To show in detail the state of the territory, by municipality (LAU level).




POLICY MAKING: COHESION AND TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATION FUND DISTRIBUTION CRITERIA

**OUTPUTS BASED ON
EMPIRICAL CRITERIA and
WEIGHTING SYSTEM**

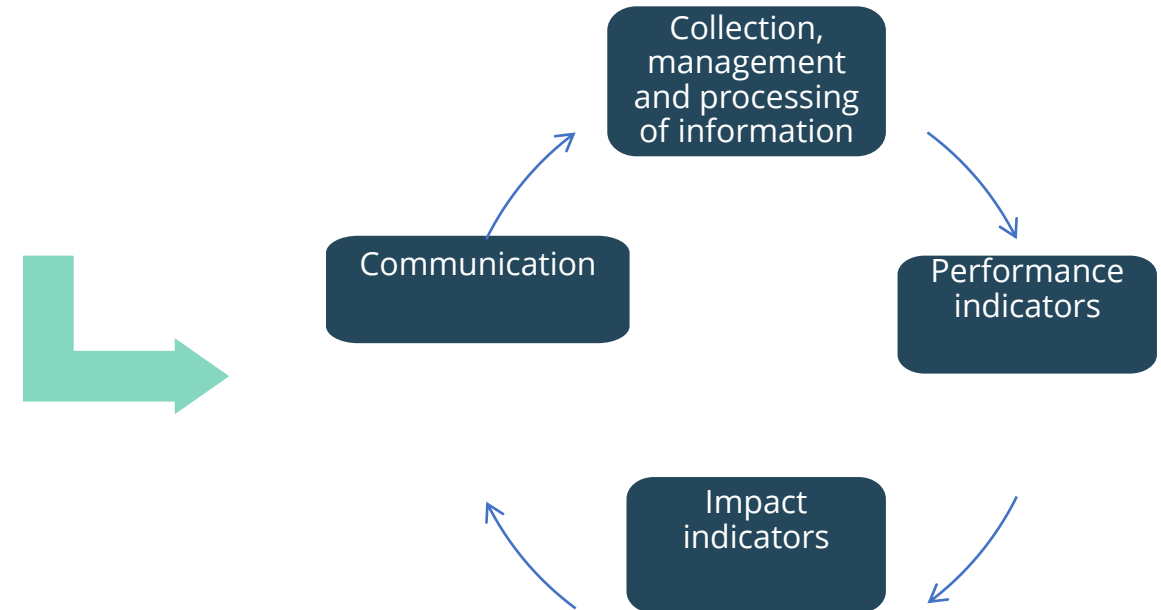
- > **Purpose:** Provide the 130-measure Plan with a systematic monitoring tool to facilitate coordinated management and communication of progress on the demographic challenge.
- > **How?** Dashboard + Agile information system

Agile Information System: inspired by the PDCA methodology: plan, do, check, act.



This methodology, combined with the design of a scorecard, facilitates decision-making by promoting the measurement of progress that allows accountability, identification of opportunities for improvement and strengths.

Components of the monitoring and evaluation system



DESIGN OF IMPACT INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE DEGREE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE OBJECTIVES (DCOs) TO GENERATE ACTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND FUNCTIONAL TERRITORIES


- ❖ Measured at different geographical levels, which offer different levels of detail: municipalities between 20,000 and 10,000 inhabitants and less than 10,000, and by autonomous community.

Exercise of alignment of the 130 measures with the DCOs to allow for an exhaustive follow-up on a periodic basis over the execution period of the 130 Measures Plan (2021-2023).

What's next?

After the 130 Measures Plan: the New Action Plan to Face Demographic Challenge

Inspired to complete the 2030 Territorial Agenda and EU Rural Vision in those areas where stronger efforts are needed, to:

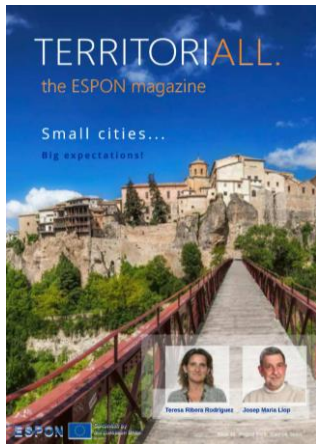
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1. Face the demographic challenge and fight against depopulation within the commitments of the European Union in the **framework of the ecological and digital transitions**.
 2. Implement **rural proofing** as a compulsory mechanism to design and assess public policies.
 3. Based on the territorial, social and economic imbalances between rural and urban areas, **promote actions to structure the territory at European level to face demographic changes, to generate more opportunities for rural areas and regions in demographic decline, as well as guarantee social inclusion**.
 4. Promote and develop public policies for socio-territorial cohesion **complementing traditional sectoral policies** providing a **transversal vision**. These policies must constitute the **pillar** on which the political, regulatory and budgetary framework and actions are based in favor of territorial balance and ensuring the **full effectiveness of the rights of citizens** to generate **active, inclusive and functional territories**.

Objectives

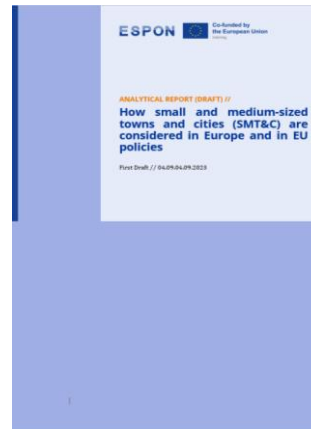
1. Promotion of the **urban-rural link** and **functional approach** to the integrated development of territories.
2. Strengthened **governance and institutional consolidation** of the **Rural Vision and 2040 Goals**.
3. Revalue the rural environment as a **space of new opportunities and innovation**.
4. Promote intelligence and innovation processes in the territory.
5. Promote territorial governance mechanisms and activate articulation of actors in the territory
6. Promote **quality and proximity management processes** and environments that can be transferable at national and European level.



ESPON MAGAZINE



POLICY PAPER-ON PROGRESS



ESPON WEEK IN CUENCA



7

ESPON SEMINAR ON SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN-RURAL COOPERATION

15 AND 16 NOVEMBER IN CUENCA, SPAIN





THANK YOU!

General Directorate on Policies against Depopulation
Secretary General for the Demographic Challenge
Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic
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