



TAKING ACTION TO TACKLE RURAL DEPOPULATION IN SPAIN

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

Need to rethink the territorial model:

- ❖ Organize the territory from the point of view of functionality and the generation of opportunities.
- ❖ Ensure equal access to services and opportunities.
- ❖ Reduce territorial vulnerability.
- ❖ Rethink the relationship between urban and rural environments.
- ❖ Incorporate new, innovative and transformative formulas.
- ❖ Multilevel and multactor governance: cooperation with regional and local governments and civil society



Social and Territorial Cohesion Framework

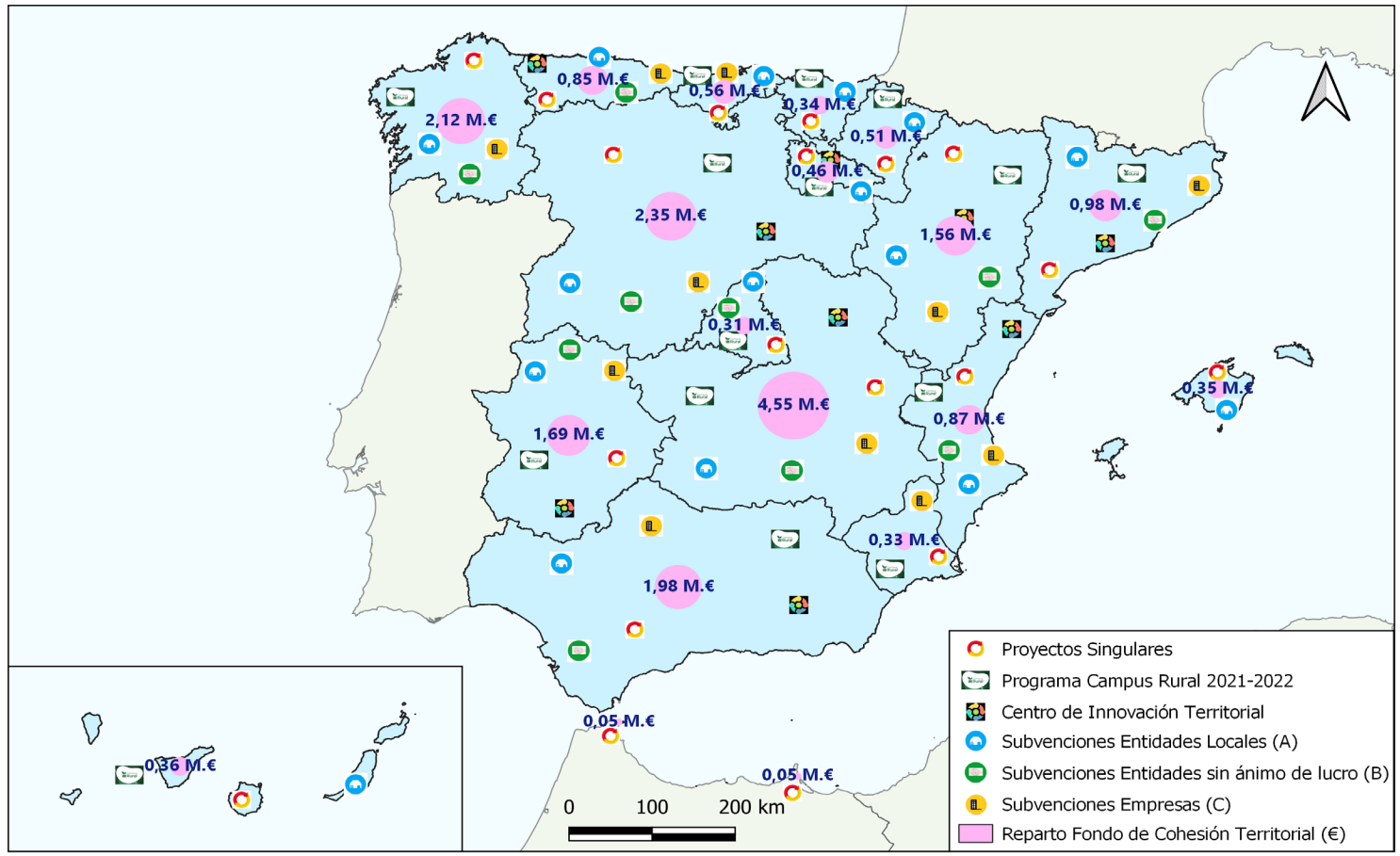
- ✓ 2030 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE
- ✓ PLAN 130 TO FACE THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Secretary General for Demographic Challenge ACTIONS

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



ACTUACIONES DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL PARA EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO EN LAS CCAA EN EL AÑO 2022



130 Measures Plan

- > More than 13,000 million EUR; 85% measures active
- > Fully alignment with 2030 Territorial Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals
- > Sinergies with Swedish Presidency (promotion of green growth, circular economy, innovation, etc.).

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**

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS IN SPAIN



Solidarity and territorial equality ensuring the establishment of an economic balance, adequate and fair, between the various parts of the Spanish territory.

Spatial planning, urban planning and housing; agriculture and livestock; forest exploitation; environmental protection; social assistance; health; and promotion of regional economic development

Closest to the citizen, promotion of activities and provision of public services, with competences that vary according to their size.

GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

SPANISH GOVERNMENT COORDINATION BODY

Delegate Commission for Demographic Challenge

APPROVAL OF 130 MEASURES PLAN

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES COORDINATION BODY

Demographic Challenge Sectoral Conferences

COHESION AND TERRITORIAL TRANSFORMATION FUND



INTERRELATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Biannual forum

What's next?

2023 Spanish Presidency Priorities



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

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.

HIGH LEVEL RURAL POLICY FORUM: 27-29 September 2023

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RURAL AREAS

- ❖ Stocktaking of the contribution of the common agriculture and cohesion policy to the long-term vision for rural areas in the EU.
- ❖ Making the Rural Vision and Pact happen in Member States.
- ❖ Using data and evidence for policy making and rural proofing to address rural depopulation.
- ❖ Progress in deploying the ICT infrastructure in rural areas and boosting digital connectivity and skills in rural areas in Spain.
- ❖ Strengthening rural areas contribution to food systems and the bioeconomy.
- ❖ Boosting women's role in rural areas.
- ❖ Enabling community-led innovation and Smart Villages.
- ❖ Harnessing rural talent through entrepreneurship and the social economy.

ESPON SEMINAR: 15-16 November 2023

INTERMEDIARY CITIES AS A KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN-RURAL COOPERATION

- ❖ Reflect on the role of small and medium-sized cities as intermediaries in the policy of combating depopulation and socio-territorial cohesion.
- ❖ Discuss the needs of the territories to ensure every citizen is given an opportunity and has access to public services.
- ❖ Identify challenges and opportunities within the framework of multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance through a process of joint reflection on the actions to be undertaken to improve socio-territorial cohesion and inclusion.
- ❖ Define conclusions on how small and medium-sized cities will contribute to build the New Territorial Contract.



THANK YOU!

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