



SPANISH UE PRESIDENCY ESPON WEEK

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 multitactor 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

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS IN SPAIN

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

Secretary General for Demographic Challenge ACTIONS



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU

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 internships in rural areas in Spain and Portugal

FINANCING PROJECTS FOR FORESTRY AND BIOECONOMY MANAGEMENT

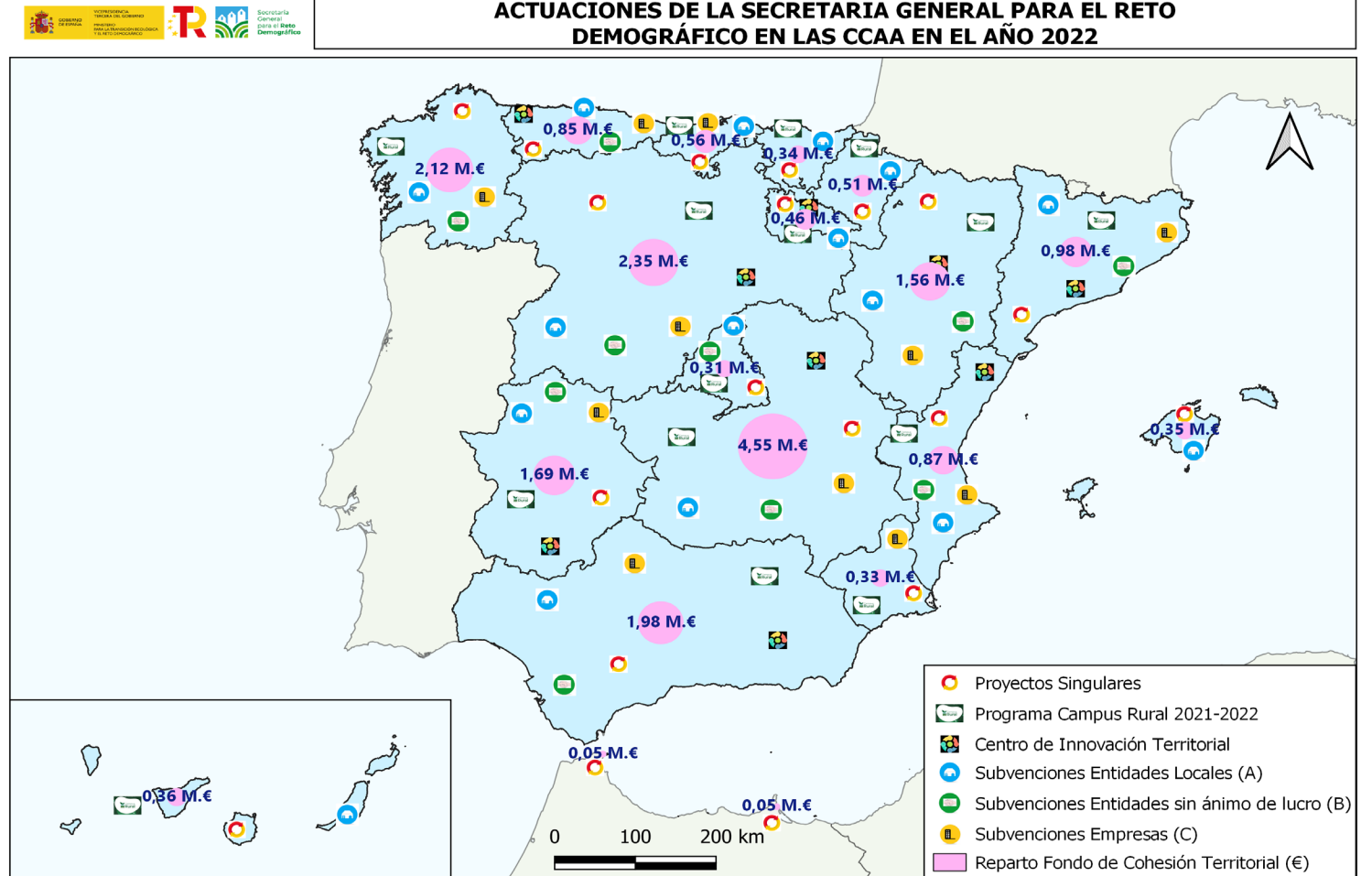
DIGITAL TRAINING IN RURAL AREAS

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.).



Where is the SGRD in relation to the 2030 Territorial Agenda?

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

BALANCED EUROPE

Better balanced territorial development utilising Europe's diversity



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

FUNCTIONAL REGIONS

Convergent local and regional development, less inequality between places



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

INTEGRATION BEYOND BORDERS

Easier living and working across national 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

Better ecological livelihoods, climate-neutral and resilient towns, cities and regions



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

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Strong and sustainable local economies in a globalised world



ANNUAL SUBSIDIES TO REACTIVATE TERRITORIES

SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS

Sustainable digital and physical connectivity of places



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

What's next?

Spanish Presidency Priorities & ESPON



Inspired to complete the 2030 Territorial Agenda 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. 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**.
3. 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. Revalue the rural environment as a **space of new opportunities and innovation**.
3. Promote intelligence and innovation processes in the territory.
4. Promote territorial governance mechanisms and activate articulation of actors in the territory
5. Promote **quality and proximity management processes** and environments that can be transferable at national and European level.
6. Strengthened **governance and institutional consolidation** of the Demographic Challenge.

What's next?

ESPON WEEK IN SPAIN: 13-17 November 2023

13-14 November: MC meetings

15-16 November: SEMINAR

TENTATIVE: 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.

16-17 November: ECP meetings



THANK YOU!

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