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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

# ESPON peer learning workshop:

## Understanding green infrastructure and shrinking rural areas

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# ESPON ESCAPE - Territorial evidence on European shrinking rural areas and governance perspectives

Territorial evidence

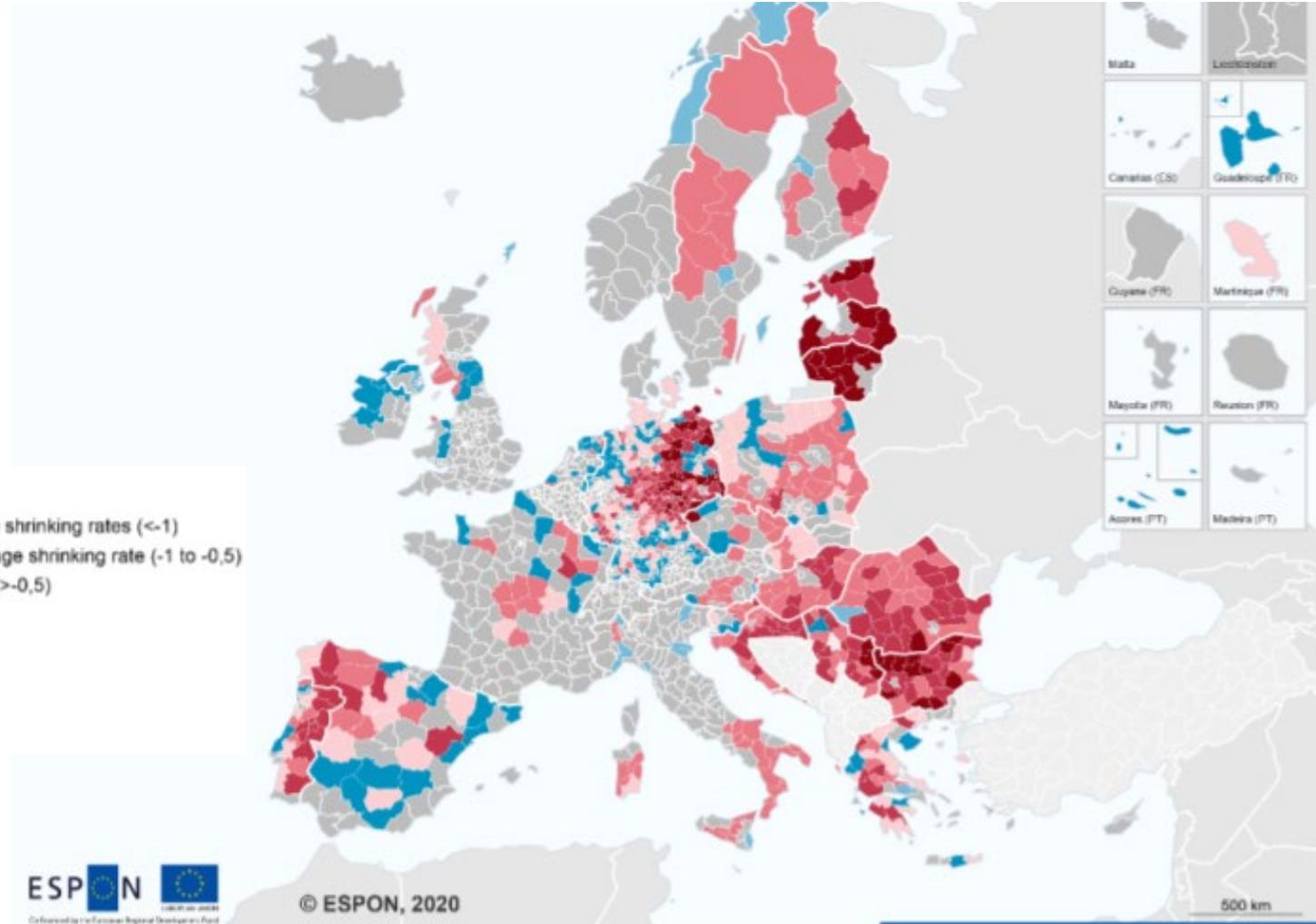
Chronology of demographic shrinkage and growth (1993 - 2033)

## Rural regions with population decrease in the period 1993-2033

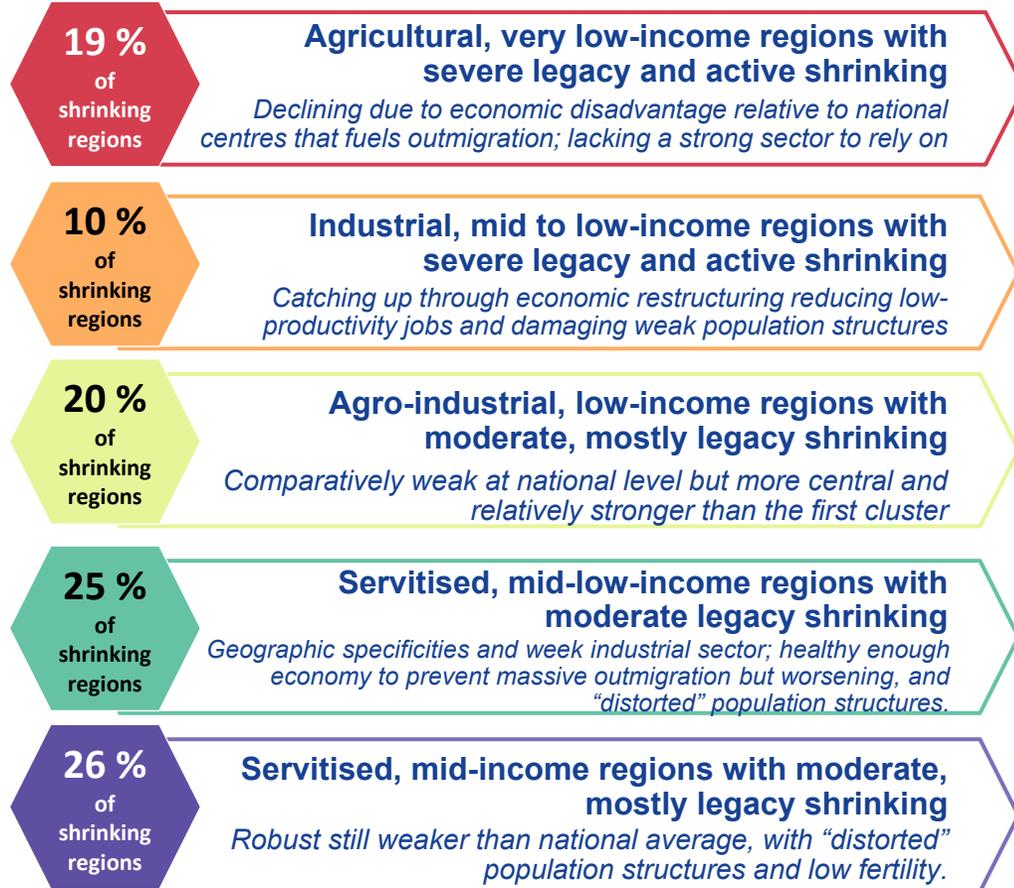
- Experiencing population decrease in both periods 1993-2013 and 2013-2033 at severe annual average shrinking rates ( $<-1$ )
- Experiencing population decrease in both periods 1993-2013 and 2013-2033 at moderate annual average shrinking rate ( $-1$  to  $-0,5$ )
- Experiencing population decrease in both periods 1993-2013 and 2013-2033 at modest shrinking rate ( $>-0,5$ )
- Experiencing population decrease only in the period 2013-2033 at modest shrinking rates ( $>-0,5$ )

## Rural regions with population increase in the period 1993-2033

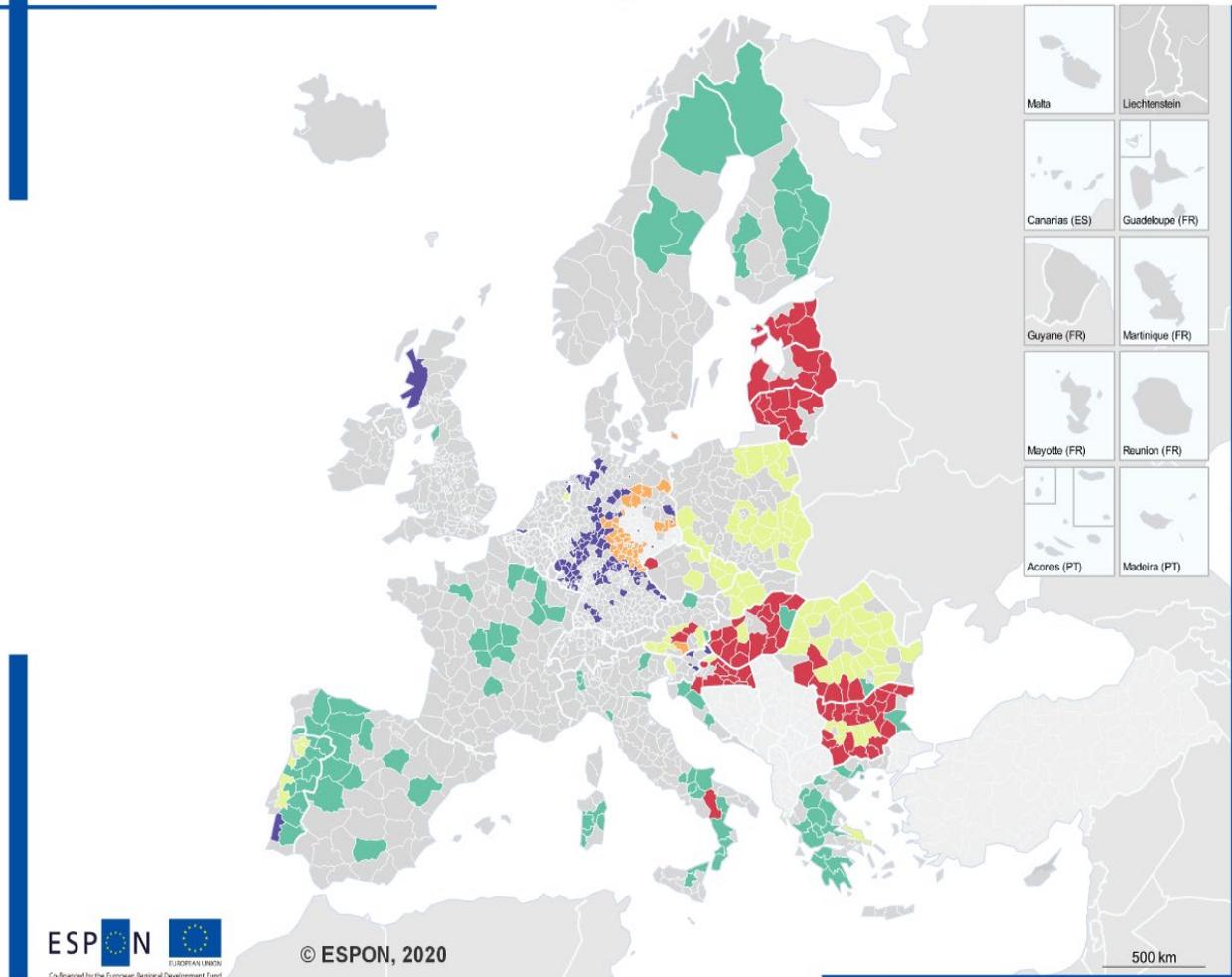
- Experiencing population decrease in the period 1993-2013
- Experiencing population decrease in the period 2013-2033



# ESPON ESCAPE – typologies of rural shrinkage

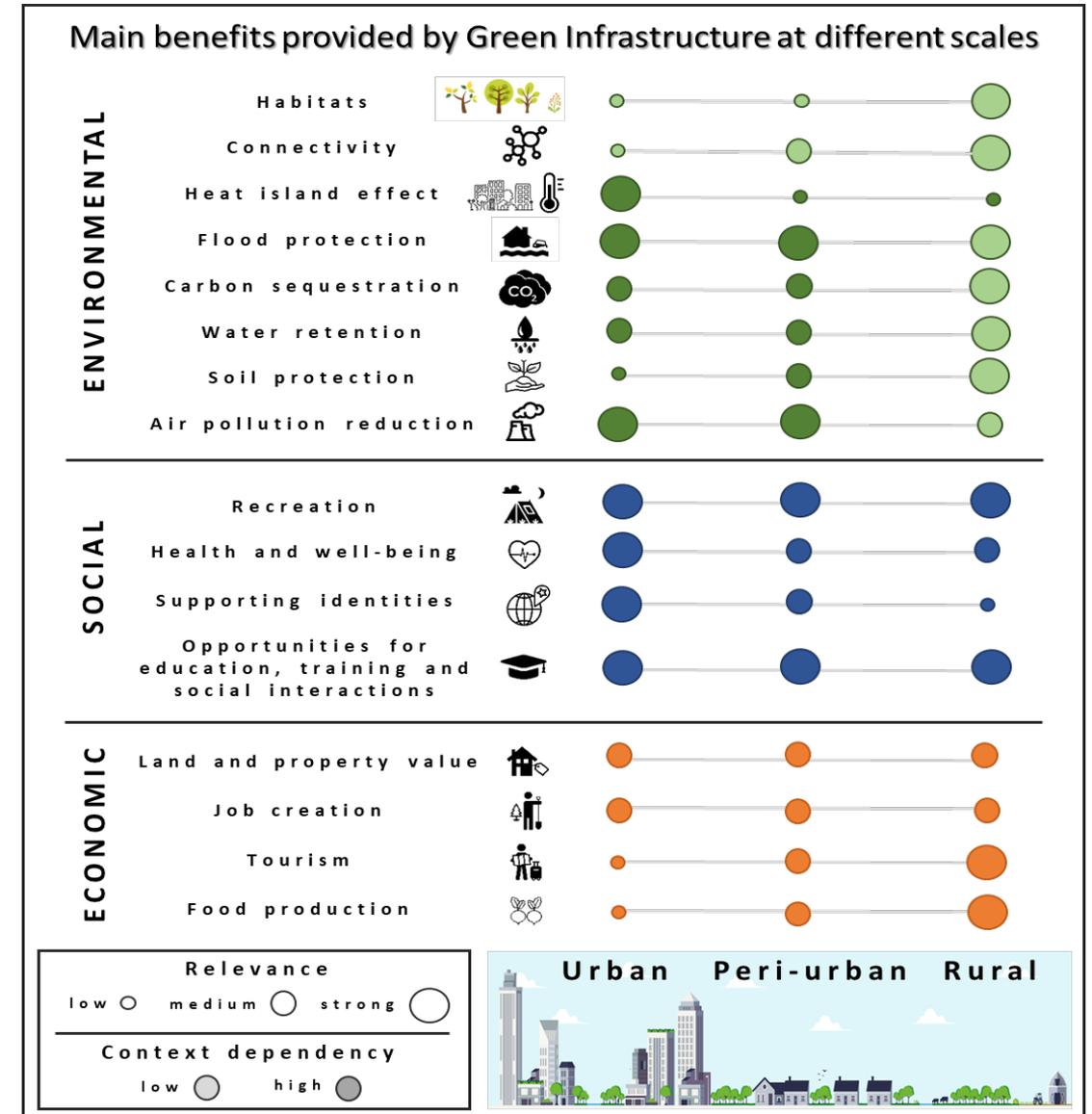


Typology of complex shrinkage in shrinking rural and intermediate regions (5 classes)



# ESPON GRETA - Green Infrastructure (GI): Enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services for territorial development

- **Strategically planned** network of natural and semi-natural areas
- **Multifunctional** character of GI
- GI provides various **ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits** (i.e. ecosystem services)
- GI can **contribute to mitigate long-term environmental challenges** e.g. climate change and biodiversity loss

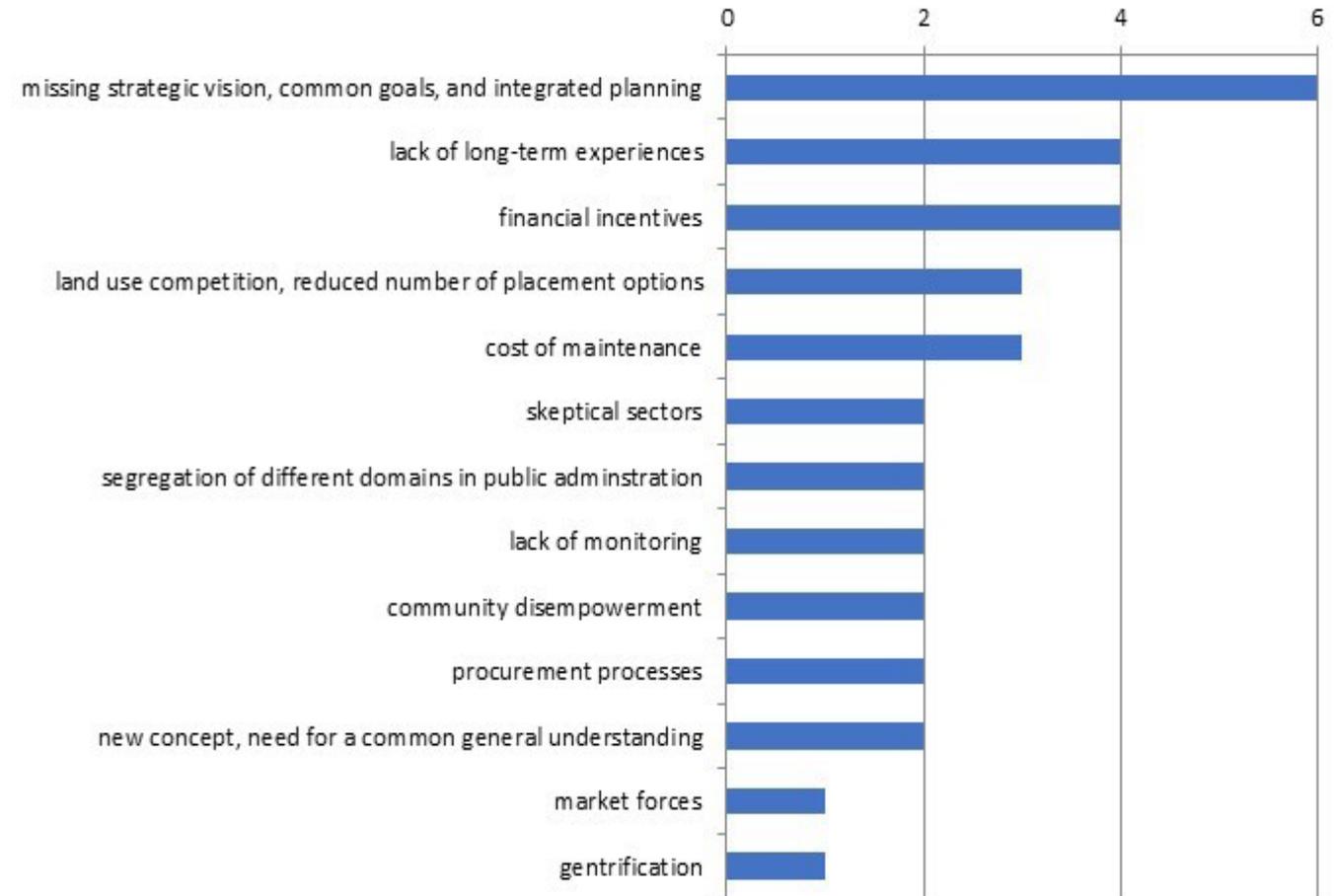


# Supporting and limiting factors for GI development

## Supporting factors

- Most important: a **strategic vision** for implementing GI
- Knowledge of monetary value attached to and benefits derived from GI as opposed to grey solutions.
- Long-term political commitment at all scales of governance.
- Ideally a cooperative process combining bottom-up and top-down approaches.

Most frequent barriers and challenges in the implementation of Green Infrastructure





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# Thank you

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