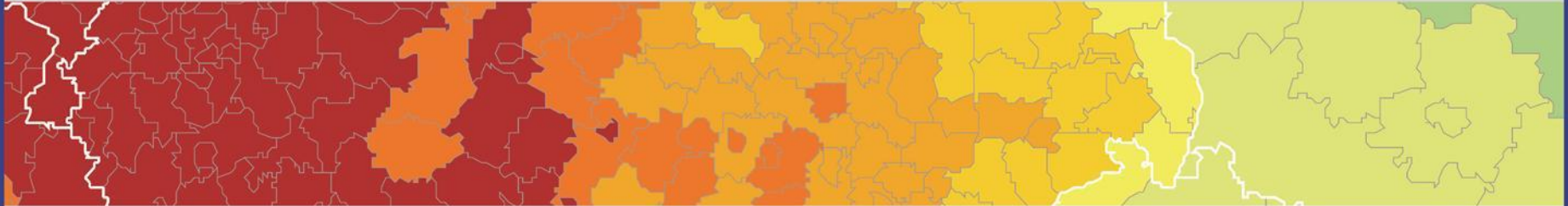


ESPON



EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



**European Shrinking Rural Areas:
Challenges, Actions and Perspectives for Territorial Governance**
ESCAPE

**Austrian Spatial Development Concept
ÖREK 2030**

**virtual peer-learning workshop,
conclusions from participation in ESPON projects**

13th November 2020



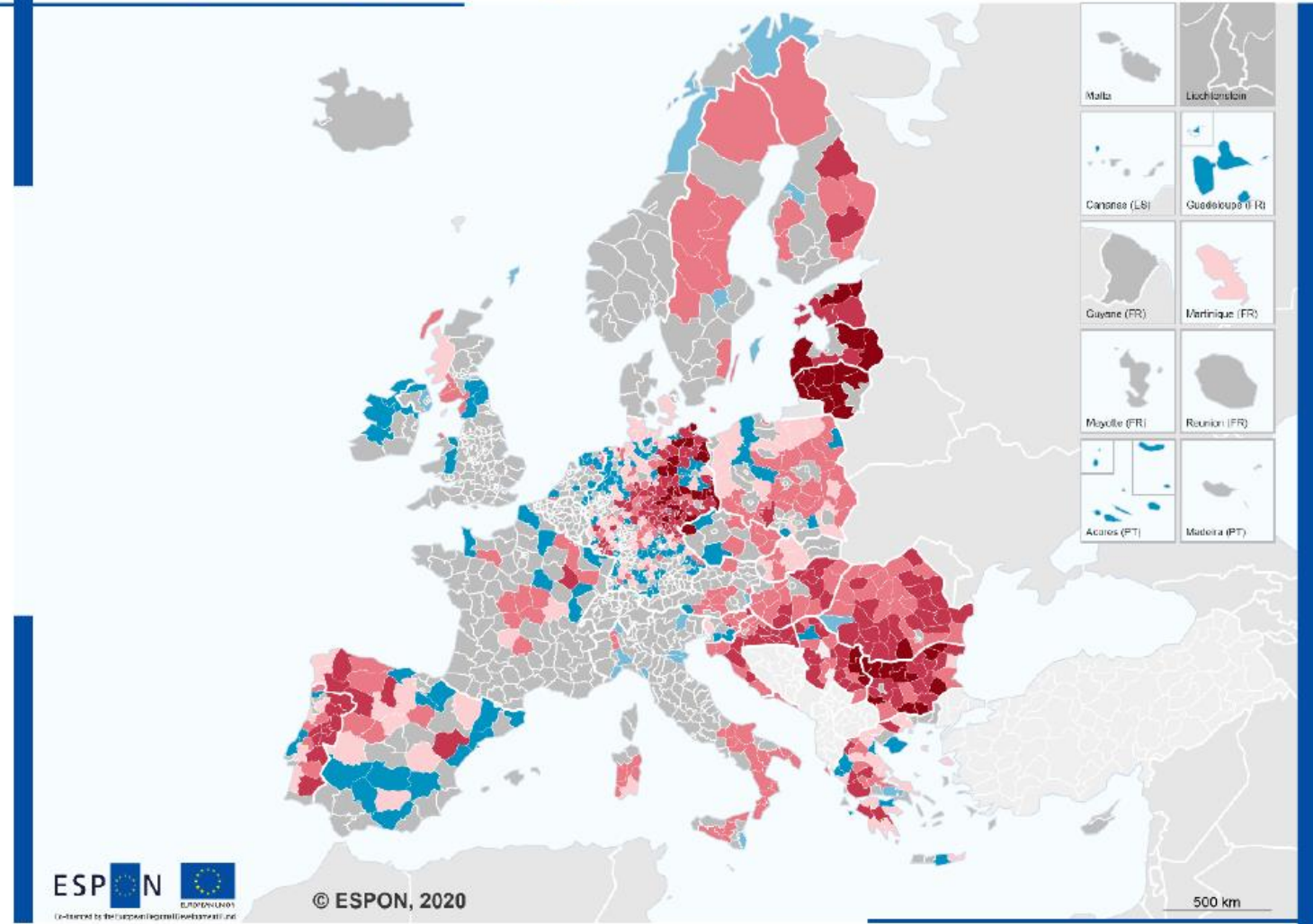
Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

Shrinking in rural regions: an old problem

1. Old problem, but only recently emerging interest
2. Different “faces” of rural shrinkage
3. Simple and complex
4. Legacy and “active” shrinkage
5. Focus on appearance, awareness and action towards shrinkage
6. Narratives and EU Policy option

Chronology of demographic shrinkage 1993-2033

Chronology of demographic shrinkage



Chronology of demographic shrinkage 1993-2033, Legend

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
- No data
- Other regions

Source: Copus et al. 2020, 8

Four types of rural shrinkage in Europe

Four generalised types of shrinking process:

❖ **Economic Restructuring**

(most European regions affected, dramatic change of agricultural structures, particularly strong in Mediterranean regions, and also CEECs; with wide ranging socio-economic and environmental effects)

❖ **Locational Disadvantage**

(rural associated with “negative” locational characteristics, poor resource endowment perceived; main relevance in NW-Europe; plus throughout Europe, e.g. in border areas)

❖ **Peripherization**

(discourse on macro-scale processes of spatial reorganisation and global interdependence; relevant for different scales; experienced at “edges” of EU and in areas of geographical specificities, e.g. mountains, islands etc.)

❖ **Disruptive Events and Political/Systemic Transitions**

(end of socialist era 1989; Balkan wars in 1990s; EU integration process in 2000s; financial crisis, low self-perception, and slow catching-up processes)

Thank you

More information on ESCAPE:

<https://www.espon.eu/escape>

Austrian partner institute:

Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research

thomas.dax@bab.gv.at