



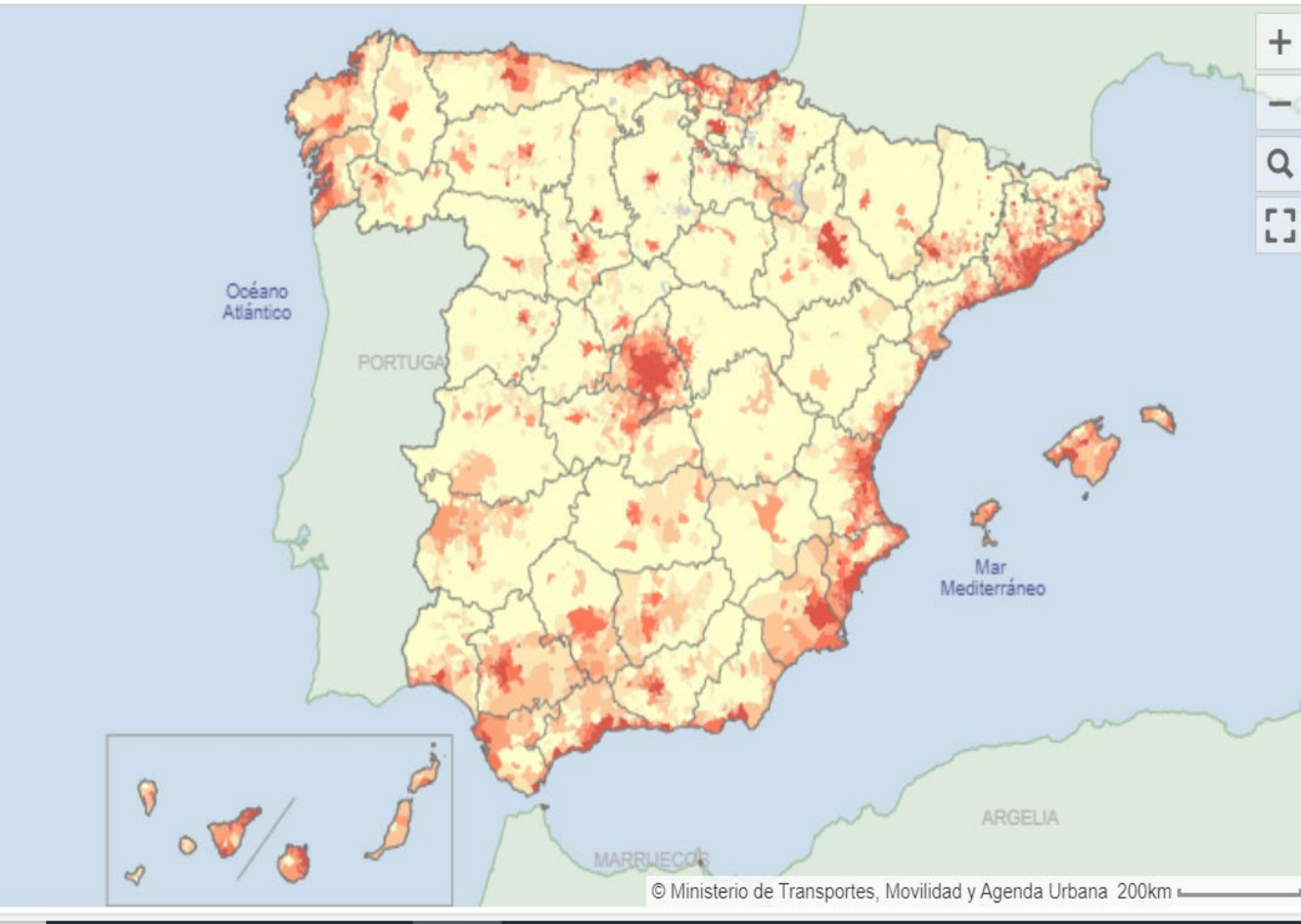
# Small and medium urban areas in cohesion policy in Spain

**Cuenca, 15 November 2023**

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# THE RATIONALE: The Spanish Partnership Agreement

1 Densidad de población (habitantes/Km²) 2022 ▼



## ➤ High degree of urbanisation in Spain

- 80% of the population in urban areas that occupy 20% of the territory
- Medium urban areas play a key role for polycentric development
- Over 60% out of 8.131 municipalities in Spain have less than 1.000 inhabitants (INE, 2022)

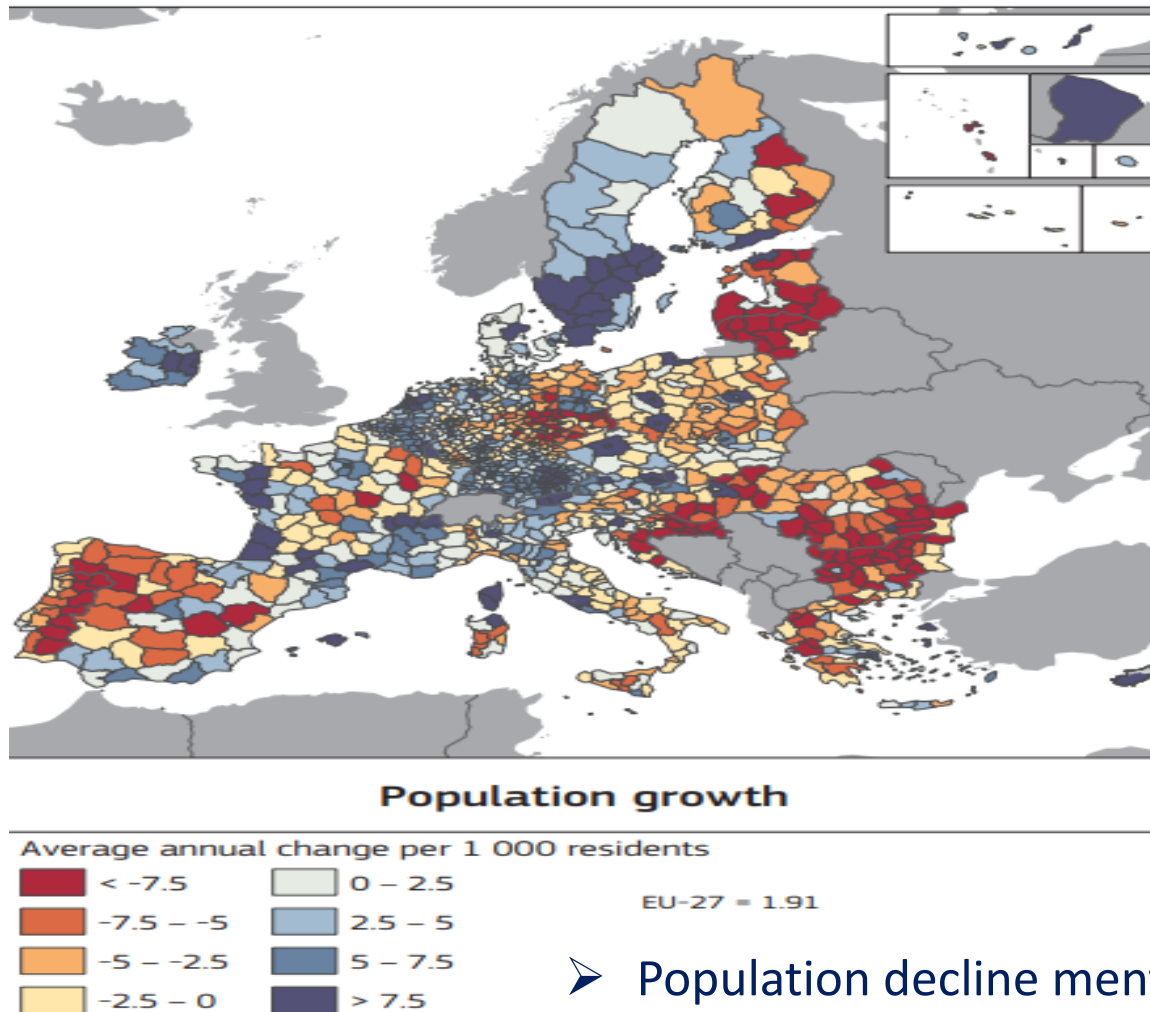
## ➤ Challenge: internal territorial unbalances

Source: Ministry of Transport Mobility and Urban Agenda (MITMA)

# Population decline in Spain

- Spain and Portugal are the MS most exposed to shrinkage in the West of the EU

Source: 8th cohesion report



- In the '60s rural shrinkage prevailed but it is now clear that small and medium cities also lose population

La España vaciada, el medio país con escasez de población y servicios que sale a la calle convertido en el centro de la disputa electoral

Los diputados de muchas de estas circunscripciones provinciales estarán entre los



- Population decline mentioned in the ES Country Report (as from 2019) and in Annex D

# The 2021-2027 programming period in Spain

## Policy Objective 5 in Spain Pluriregional programme of Spain

### SO 5.1: Integrated urban development 8% ERDF

EUR 1,9 billion (14% of the Programme)

Three typologies of urban areas:

- big cities** >75.000 inhab.
- medium cities** 20.000 to 75.000 inhab. (40% to 60% of funds)
- Functional urban areas** min. 20.000 inhab. (5% to 15% of funds)

### SO 5.2: Territories art. 174 of the Treaty

**Pilots on population decline**  
EUR 29 million – Less developed Regions  
and Castilla y Leon

Municipalities of less than 10.000 inhabitants  
Functional area perspective  
Supramunicipal entities  
Replicability

**Population decline: transversally addressed  
by sectoral investments**

# Challenges of small and medium urban areas in Spain



**Integrated Territorial Planning**



**Governance system /  
multilevel governance**



**Functional Urban Areas**



**Administrative capacity**



**Complementarity with other  
funds**