

## Feet-on-the-ground & innovative initiatives

Demographic change is increasingly affecting a number of European regions and should be considered a common risk and challenge. But it is also an opportunity to look ahead and plan a new future. The particular features and intensities of those phenomena differ from one region to another and produce a diverse impact on territories and people's quality of life.

**The consequences of a shrinking scenario need to be faced, especially for those peripheral, rural and disadvantaged areas, where territorial exclusion – which often leads to social exclusion- is a challenging factor. Innovative, creative bottom-up initiatives are emerging here and there. Public policies must contribute to support, visualize, discuss and articulate those new solutions in order to make the ageing and shrinking areas liveable.**

**The Symbios Project aims at learning together in order to implement strategies in times and contexts of no growth: smart, sustainable and inclusive solutions conceived for smart, sustainable and inclusive shrinking territories.**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminar aims at sharing and analysing a number of initiatives which are actually facing the challenge of inclusion and quality of life in those areas severely affected by the consequences of the demographic change. The purpose is to identify common trends and key factors and thus to formulate operational hypotheses on the success factors in this kind of experiences.

The Seminar will make especial room for the active discussion on relevant issues and will take advantage of the contribution and experience of the Symbios European partners' network. Presentations and round tables will combine, in an agile format, with open debate.



### Registration and participation

This technical seminar is a forum for exchange of knowledge and practical experience gained by individuals and organizations in the implementation and management of a number of initiatives identified and analysed by the SYMBIOS project. ([www.proxectosymbios.eu](http://www.proxectosymbios.eu)). Participation is restricted to representatives of those initiatives. Registration is by invitation of the Symbios Project management. However, if you represent an initiative thematically linked to the key issues dealt with by the Symbios Project and want to participate in this seminar, please, address your query to:

**inclusion.social.ctb@xunta.es**

**Phone number:+ 34 981 544 653**



## II Technical Seminar: Initiatives supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive territories. Analysis and debate

Museo do Pobo Galego,  
Santiago de Compostela  
19 June, 2014



# Agenda

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## 9:00H Opening

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### 9:15H 1st Round table:

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#### Some lessons learnt in a diverse Europe

Jan Merks from NEIMED-CESRT. Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)  
Hermínia Gonçalves (*Projeto ASAS: aldeias sustentáveis ativas*). CETRAD. University of Trás-os-montes e Alto Douro. Portugal  
Risto Poutiainen, Director of Regional Development and Planning. North Karelia (Finland)  
Mark Rylands, Social Inclusion and Socio-Economic Initiatives in Irish Rural Areas: *Knockmealdown Active and South Tipperary Development Company*. (Ireland)

SYMBIOS Project representative. Symbios Project Initiative research: Advance of conclusions

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## 10:20H Coffee-break

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### 10:40H 2nd Round table: Initiatives (A sample of six experiences within the Euro-region Galicia-North Portugal):

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#### Examples on how to handle a smart, sustainable and inclusive “not growing” territory

Arqueixal - Son de aldea, Xosé Luís Carrera. Galicia  
“Geraz com Querença” Project. Bruno Leitao. North Portugal  
Rural School Cloud, María José Rodríguez Malmierca (CESGA). Galicia  
Rural Development Centre “Portas Abertas”, Tamara Balboa García. North Portugal  
Granxa Familiar (Family Farm) Lucia Lorenzo. Galicia  
ITI Peneda-Gêres, Carlos Pinto

Micro-video presentations and open discussion

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### 11:45H Debate:

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#### Identifying barriers and constraints to a bigger impact

Open discussion  
Small discussion groups to generate ideas  
Sharing of results on a plenary panel.

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## 12:50H Lunch break

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### 14:00H 3rd Round Table

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#### Shrinking & rural areas potential to move forward towards a smart and sustainable inclusion

Xosé Luís Carrera ( *Arqueixal - Son de aldea*). Galicia  
Bruno Leitão. *Projeto “Geraz com Querença”*. North Portugal  
María José Rodríguez Malmierca *Rural School Cloud*, , CESGA. Galicia  
Tamara Balboa García. *Rural Development Centre “Portas Abertas”*, Galicia.  
Lucia Lorenzo & Yolanda García *Granxa Familiar (Family Farm)* Galicia  
Carlos Pinto . *ITI Peneda-Gêres*. North Portugal.  
Jan Merks. NEIMED-CESRT. Zuyd University of Applied Sciences Limburg.The Netherlands  
Hermínia Gonçalves. CETRAD. University of Trás-os-montes e Alto Douro. Portugal  
Risto Poutiainen, Director of Regional Development and Planning. North Karelia Finland  
Mark Rylands, Social Inclusion and Socio-Economic Initiatives in Irish Rural Areas: *Knockmealdown Active and South Tipperary Development Company*. Ireland

Questions & answers on the potential of the shrinking& rural areas

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### 15:10H Debate:

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#### The new proposals our territories need

Open debate: all participants.  
Questions to be discussed in three-person micro groups (post-it with each one of the agreed responses)  
Sharing of results on a plenary panel  
Prioritizing the proposals

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## 16:10H Break

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### 16:30H Seminar recap &peer review round table:

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#### Conclusions and partners review

Results on the prioritization of the proposals  
Brief peer review, assessment & advice from the Symbios network partners:

Maja Rocak. Researcher. NEIMED-CERST-ZUYD University,  
Risto Poutiainen, Director of Regional Development and Planning. North Karelia (Finland)  
Patrick O’Flanagan. University College Cork (Ireland)  
CETRAD, University of Trás-ós-Montes e Alto Douro.  
COCEDER

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### 17:30H Tribute to the initiatives: presentation of recognition awards

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## 18:00H Closing of the Seminar

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