

The Symbios proposal

The demographic crisis affecting Galicia is also occurring and growing in a number of European regions. It's in fact a shared risk and a challenge for all of them. The specific features and intensity of this phenomenon have implications on the shrinking territories, as well as on the quality of life of their inhabitants. It poses a challenge in terms of equity and sustainability.

The territorial exclusion affecting some areas, namely rural regions, as a result of demographic decline and ageing, may easily become a social exclusion factor for those living in there, taking into consideration the difficulties in developing a project of life comparable to the mainstream standards. The satisfaction of the basic human needs and the development of the personal capacities become more difficult for those who decided to, or have to, remain. The informal support network in the proximity - family, community, neighbours- speedily weaken. Public networks are not enough and private businesses also vanish, after a basic cost-benefit analysis.

That loss in life's quality and opportunities triggers a unidirectional exodus which produces negative side effects in social life, in human ecology, and also in the economic and ecological sustainability of the excluded territories. Quite so, this "spontaneous dynamism" produces negative externalities and implies an added cost in social services provision, in environmental deterioration, misusing of endogenous economic resources and loss of both tangible and intangible heritage. Contrarily, to make social and economically viable the shrinking territories, to make it possible and desirable to remain or return, will benefit the society at large.

With this **I Seminar**, the **Symbios Project** tries to facilitate a trans-national and a trans-regional exchange of

knowledge and practical experience, both in identifying what is really happening –academic approach-, and in linking that analysis with the design of strategies and policies. The aim is also to generate new ideas, foster innovation and creativity, to confront and deconstruct false stereotypes and common assumptions, and to envisage new chances for the future.

Being aware that in order to correct the curse and reduce the negative effects of demographic crisis it's not enough to only count in the public resources or in the business sector, the Project Symbios aims at facilitating the symbiosis amongst the job done by the public administration, the universities, the social economy and the community grassroots' organizations within the affected territories. The purpose is thus to bridge and make room to a new cooperation amongst researchers, community stakeholders, innovative entrepreneurship and public policies.



Registration and participation

This technical seminar is a forum for exchange of knowledge on key issues raised by the project SYMBIOS (www.proyectosymbios.eu).

Participation is limited to those organizations, stakeholders, individual contributors or potential contributors to the development of this transnational project. Registration is by invitation of the Symbios Project management. To query about participation, e-mail to: inclusion.social.ctb@xunta.es or phone to + 34 981 544 653



I SYMBIOS project seminar

September 26, 2013.
MUSEO PEDAGÓGICO DE GALICIA
San Lázaro, 107
Santiago de Compostela

Demographic crises, territorial exclusion, social exclusion
Approaches, analysis and strategies



9:00 h.

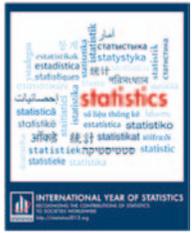
1. Opening:

On occasion of “2013, the International Year of Statistics”

Demographic warnings and vulnerable territories: the need of a long term view.

Contribution of the territorial statistics institutes to the regional strategic planning in Europe: The Galician case.

By Instituto Galego de Estatística. IGE



2. Analysis, exchange and debate:

10:00 h.

2.1. What happens in our territories and which are the implications?

Approaches from an academic point of view:

• Instituto para o desenvolvemento económico de Galicia IDEGA. (USC):

Demographic change in Galicia: challenges and unavoidable questions

- Trends and social consequences of the demographic crises in Galicia: a socio-territorial approach.
- Territorial exclusion: the right questions to be posed.
- Case analysis.
- Externalities and cost of the no-action.

• Centro de Estudos Transdisciplinares para o Desenvolvemento (CETRAD). Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e alto Douro:

Strategies in rural depopulated territories: environmental policies, sustainability and traditional residents

- Process of territorial marginalization: social and economic effects of the current demographic and financial crises impact in North Portugal.
- Territories revaluation strategies: Environmental protection as a mean to social and labour inclusion and stabilizing rural population? The issue of the real involvement and benefits for the residents.

• CERST. Zuyd University of Applied Sciences. Maastricht (The Netherlands):

Demographic change: Denial? Fighting? Or rather a proper management

- Demographic decline in a mining area. The case of Limburg: the debate.
- Social effects of demographic decline: town & space planning implications.
- Quality of life, social services, solutions for all generations.



• University College Cork & IDEGA (USC):

Atlantic rural Europe: first, to destroy; then to resettle?

- “Rural modernization” and depopulation: Compared analysis between Ireland and Galicia.
- Realities and stereotypes about the small family farming.
- Social, ecological and economic balance of industrial and small agriculture: *it was not so bad, after all!*
- Rural resettlement policies in Ireland.

14:30 h.

2.2. Welfare, new governance and inclusion of territories and people. Criteria for analysis and Strategies. The needed symbiosis among public sector, social economy and community initiative.

• North Karelia (Finlandia):

Welfare, governance and rural shrinking areas in North Karelia

- Demographic decline in rural areas in Finland.
- Criteria, ideas, strategies and innovative projects to foster welfare and inclusion of territories and people.
- The role of public, private and third/ volunteering sector.

• Rede Eusumo (Xunta de Galicia):

Cooperating for a new future

- Cooperatives as a strategy in declining areas in Galicia.
- Cooperatives and labour inclusion.
- Ageing, social care, proximity services: a challenge and an opportunity for new cooperatives.

• COCEDER: Rede de centros de desenvolvemento rural:

Welfare self-organization: the strength of the community

- Quality of life, ageing and exclusion in rural areas.
- The role of community: Grassroots NGOs. Examples from COCEDER network.
- Person care: new inclusive and sustainable approaches.

