



# SYMBIOS PROJECT

DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS, LIVABLE TERRITORIES AND  
INCLUSION  
A SOCIOTERRITORIAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE EUROPE 2020



XUNTA  
DE GALICIA



UNIÓN EUROPEA

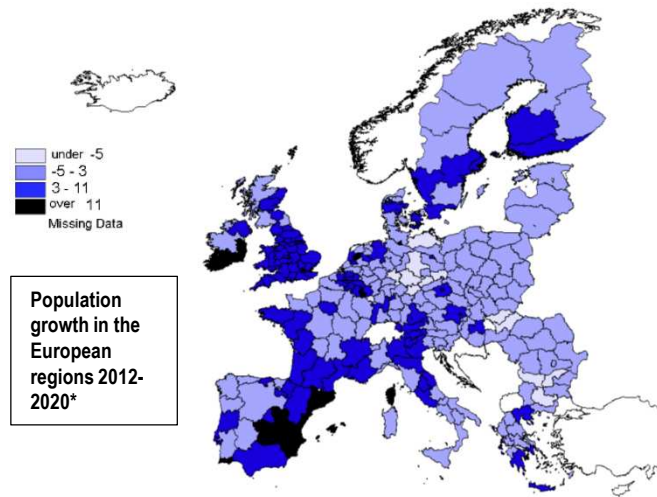
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# DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS

EUROPEAN ISSUE



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Demographic crisis is a common challenge in European Union. Many European regions are already affected– and new ones will be affected in a short term- affected by ageing intensify, intense migration waves and depopulation.

The already completed DART Project –framed in European Territorial Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC- was focused on the impact of the demographic change in thirteen European – included Galicia.

Knowledge and experiences were interchanged by participants within DART framework. As a result, they produced recommendations in order to adapt regional policy and public services to the needed answer in Health, education, employment and social services matters, among others-. A new challenge is on the table: the demographic crisis effects in the quality of life of those people living in declining areas must be avoided.

[www.dart-project.eu](http://www.dart-project.eu)



\*Source: Eurostat; authors' calculations in Final Report to the Federal Ministry of the Interior for the Research Project **“Study on Demographics and the Future of EU Structural Funding”** (Ref. no. B1,40-0375/10) Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW). January 2012.

# DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS

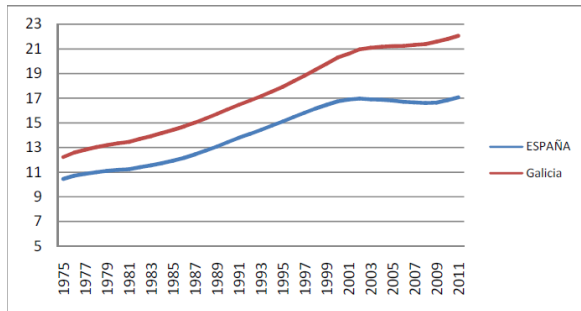
## THE GALICIAN CASE



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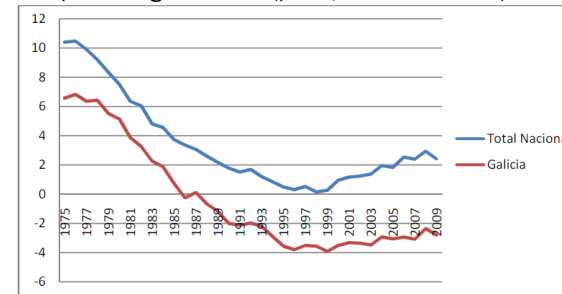
People over 64 years old rate (1975-2011)\*



For decades now, population **ageing** is an on-going process in Galicia. It's due to the steady decrease in fertility rate and, as well, to the recurrent outward migration waves of working-aged people. Subsequently, old-age dependency ratio has remarkably increased. Furthermore, increasing of life expectancy at birth simultaneously caused a **over ageing** rate increasing in Galicia.

Population **growth** rate is negative in Galicia. The mortality rate is higher than birth rate since 1988. But this fact is only recently noticeable, as migration balance was positive in the first year of XXI century.

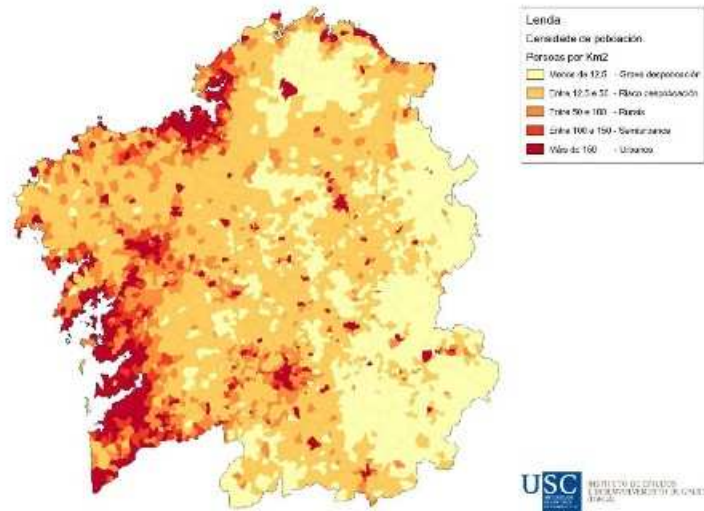
Population growth rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)\*



Moreover, **both tendencies are being speeded up by the current financial crisis** situation. New waves of outward migration, mainly youngsters, are caused by the alarming unemployment rates.

\* Source: IDEGA from INE data in Preliminary report: *The socio-territorial impact of the demographic change in Galicia*. In [www.proyectosymbios.eu](http://www.proyectosymbios.eu)

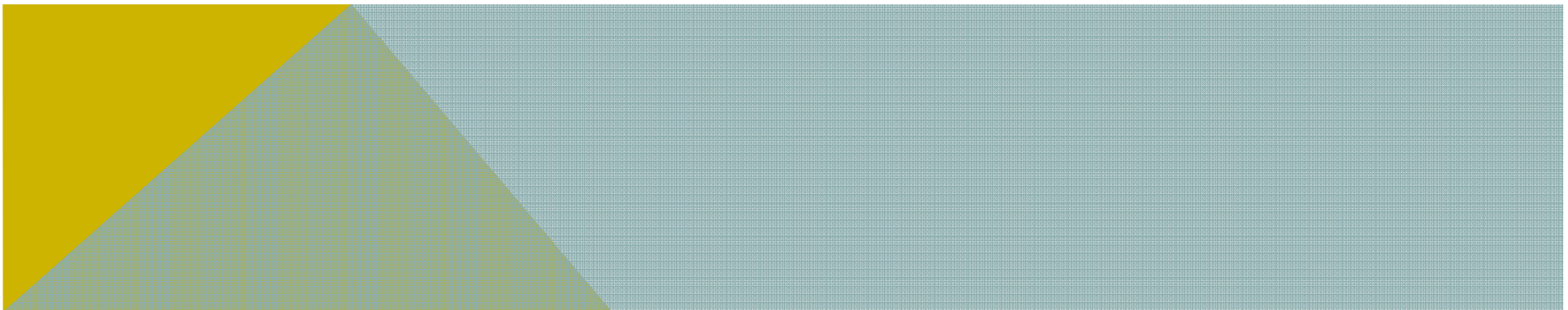
Mapa 11: Rural-Urbano criterio densidade de poboación por parroquias



The traditional spatial settlement in Galicia have been closely linked to a smallholder farming model. Galicia differs from other European regions due to its highly scattered population and the existence of many single small population nucleus in the territory (the region registers half of the total population nucleus of Spain).

Currently, however, the *Atlantic axis* tends to concentrate the main portion of Galician population, as shown in the figure. The Galician population dynamics entail migration from eastern provinces towards western ones, thus causing territorial imbalances as this phenomenon intensifies.

It is needed to design again *the backbone* of those Galician inland areas by means of a new rationally adapted plan for public services and, namely inclusive social services.



# SOCIAL EFFECTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS

TERRITORIAL EXCLUSION

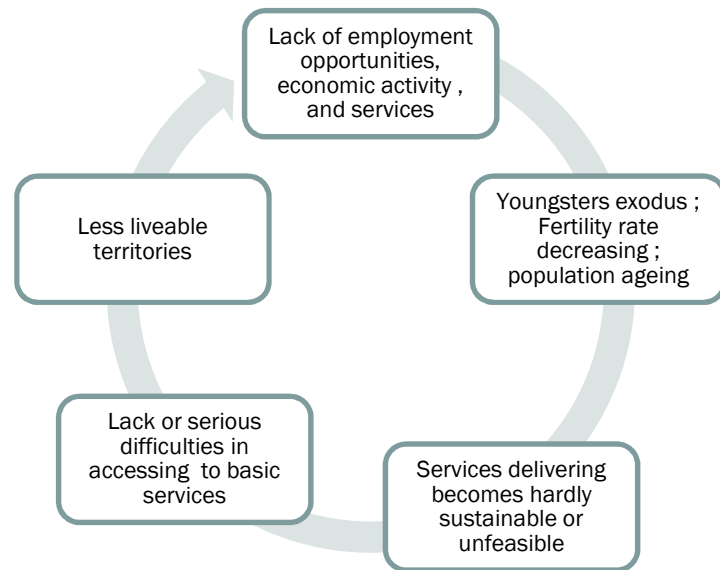


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Population decline negatively affects **people and territories'** access to a basic quality of life.

Because of the place where they live, many people find more difficulties to develop their own life project, specially if compared with other people living in other areas within the same administrative territory. As Galicia Social Inclusion Plan set, social exclusion finds a strong root in the territory, and beyond the individual level, territorial perspective actions are required to overcome this fact.



The territorial imbalance cycle begins from a situation of demographic declining and it feeds on decreasing in services and amenities. This imbalance situation steps up youngsters exodus and intensify the territorial imbalance and exclusion. It causes economic, social and ecological negative effects.

Source: Deputy Directorate of Social Inclusion and Cooperation with municipalities- Xunta de Galicia. 2010





**SYMBIOS**  
THE PROJECT

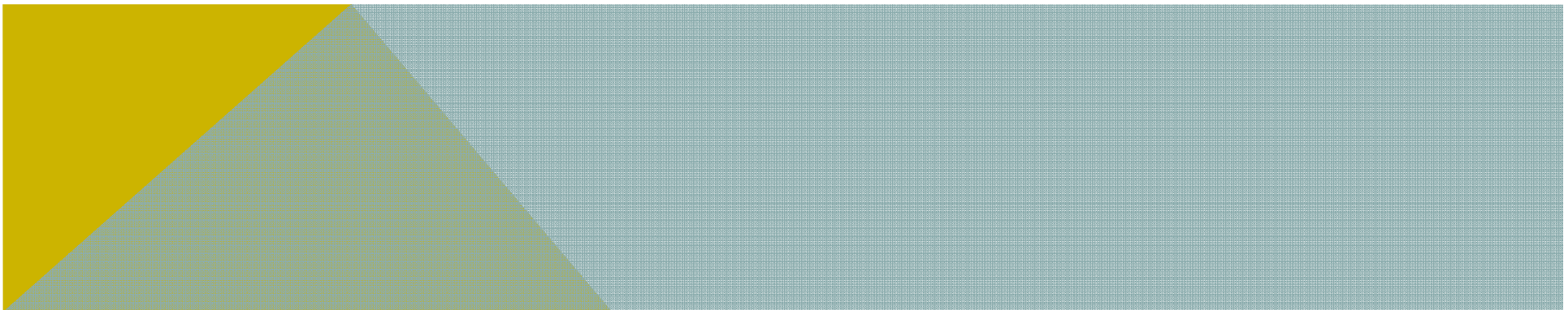


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SYMBIOS links up social inclusion policy to the entrepreneurship promotion -which promote local dynamism and inclusiveness, as well as to the measures fighting poverty and social exclusion in declining territories. Related to this, rural allocated services become relevant.

In that way, SYMBIOS connects both the DART Project and the Galician Social Inclusion Plan (2007-2013) in order to facilitate the decision making process towards the next European Union funding period.

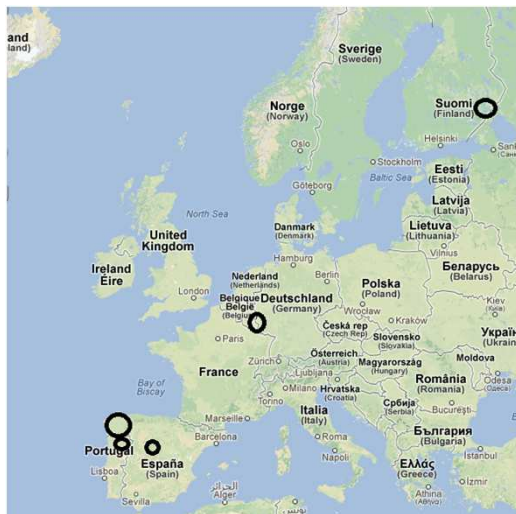
SYMBIOS may substantially improve the required knowledge to elaborate the III Galician Social Inclusion Plan -within the Galician Operational Programme for the funding period 2014- 2020-, taking into account two key references: the UE 2020 Strategy and the social effects of the demographic crisis.



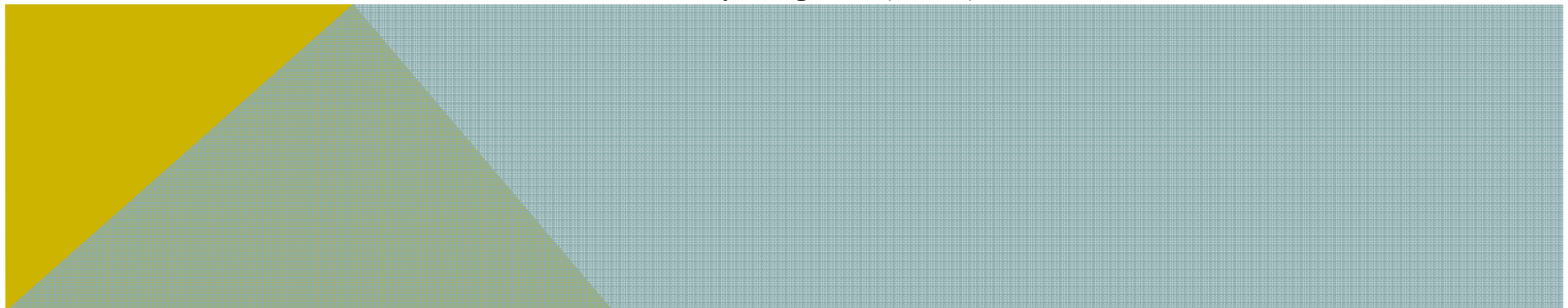
SYMBIOS focused on the social effects of demographic crisis, and specifically on their link to the social and territorial exclusion.

**Xunta de Galicia encourages** by means of the project a network at transnational, interregional and local level. The network will tackle ageing and the social effects of demographic crisis. In order to accomplish this aim, experiences and methodologies will be interchanged among partners.

Symbios Partners:



- Xunta de Galicia. Welfare & Labour Authority.
  - Instituto Galego de Estatística (*Galician Statistics Institute*)
  - Axencia Galega de Desenvolvemento Rural (*Government Agency for Rural development policies*)
- University of Santiago de Compostela- IDEGA
- Colexio Oficial de Traballadores Sociais de Galicia (*Galician social workers Association*)
- Confederación de Centros de Desarrollo Rural (COCEDER) *Rural development centres confederation*
- University of Tràs-os-Montes e alto Douro- CETRAD (Portugal)
- University of Zyud- CERST (The Neetherlands))
- Regional Council of North Karelia (Finlandia)
- University College Cork (Ireland)



In accordance with its aims, the SYMBIOS project

- Will identify and analyse experiences, in order to modelling social innovation and job creation\* initiatives which improve viability and sustainability of declining and ageing populations.
- Will facilitate recommendations and criteria to plan public services –namely inclusive social services- and the required innovation to provide excluded territories with quality and sufficient services.

The SYMBIOS project's period life covers from **1st July 2012** until **31st December 2015**, three basic activities will be developed:

- a. Academic exchange and discussion. Demographic trend Analysis, as well as, its social and territorial consequences and related policies.
- b. Identification and assessment of local experiences
- c. Bench learning of public policies

The project web site ([www.proxectosymbios.eu](http://www.proxectosymbios.eu)) will support discussing and academic exchange.

\* Linked to Eusumo Project promoted by General Directorate of Labour and Social Economy

## Meetings

Activity	Foreseen date	Place
Kick off meeting	June 2013	Galicia
Seminar: Demographic crisis, social exclusion and territorial exclusion	September 2013	Galicia
Seminar: Socio-territorial inclusion. Analysis of experiences toward inclusive, smart and sustainable territories	June 2014	Galicia
Final seminar	May 2015	Galicia

SYMBIOS Project is framed within Axis 4.80 of the Regional Operational Programme ESF-Galicia (2007-2013). The starting budget are 250.000 euros. 80% is financed by European Social Fund.

