

# SYMBIOS PROJECT

DEMOGRAPHIC CRISES, LIVABLE  
TERRITORIES AND INCLUSION

A socio-territorial perspective of the Europe 2020 Strategy



*Transnational working programme*



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND  
*"Investing in Your Future"*

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## 1.- Project summary

Demographic change is increasingly affecting European regions and should be considered a common risk and challenge. The particular features and intensities differ from one region to another and produce a diverse impact in territories and people's quality of life.

Territorial exclusion of some particular areas –as depopulation and ageing intensify-, actually evolve into social and personal exclusion of their remaining inhabitants, as they are not able to undertake and develop any longer a project of life with basic even standards and opportunities than any other part of the affected region. The lack of opportunities for a decent life intensifies the exodus –especially of youngsters and women-, speeding up the whole process. Consequences are not just social, but economical and ecological. Facts and figures claim a cross-sectorial policy which fits into and contribute to the broader framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and should therefore be consistent with fostering smart, sustainable and inclusive territories.

In relation to the above the project sets up and develops a cooperation network –transnational and interregional- with Galicia and other European regions (mainly universities and public bodies) in order to exchange and analyse experiences, approaches and methodologies focused on how to tackle the socio-territorial exclusion as an effect of demographic change, mainly in rural and peripheral areas. This analysis will conclude on a proposal to incorporate and improve Galician Public Policies with regard to the abovementioned territories.

At the same time the project will be taken as an opportunity to promote technical forums and networking, focussed on exploring, identifying and modelling, with public support, strategic planning, community based experiences and entrepreneurship in excluded territories.

SYMBIOS will emphasize the importance of hybridizing public and social, community-based, initiatives.

Summarizing, Symbios Project will explore the relation between demographic crisis and social and territorial exclusion; it will identify innovative experiences which make a difference in terms of social inclusion, job creation and services delivering in the affected territories.

Furthermore, Symbios will produce criteria to improve the welfare services planning, and, in addition, the required innovation in order to ensure quality services within the vulnerable territories. All those are key elements to a smart, sustainable and inclusive territorial design.

The Symbios Project is tightly related to the already completed DART Project (INTERRG-IV-C). Xunta de Galicia and some other participants within the Symbios Network were partners to this project, which focussed on the impact of the demographic change in thirteen European Regions. Symbios will disseminate, apply and adapt some of the key criteria raised during the implementation of the DART Project, stressing the impact of that change in the rural and/or peripheral areas, and will bring in the debate the social and territorial consequences of the demographic crisis and the challenges that these issues pose on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

## 2.- Duration

<b>Starting time:</b> 01/07/2012	<b>Ending:</b> 31/12/2015
<b>42 months</b>	

## 3.- Budget

Overall budget is 250.000 €.

Symbios Project is framed in Axis 4.80 within the Regional Operational Programme-ESF Galicia (2007-2013). 80% is financed by European Social Fund.

## 4.- Objectives

### **Main objective**

To facilitate, by means of networking, the bench learning and the formulation of new proposals in order to tackle the impact of demographic change in the quality of life of those people living in vulnerable or excluded territories, in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy towards a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

### **Operational objectives**

- To build up a network –regional, trans-regional and transnational- in order to exchange knowledge, as well as transferrable experiences and methodologies, focusing on an integrated approach to the social effects of ageing and demographic decline.
- To make a significant input to the European debate on demographic crisis, territorial exclusion and their effects on the social policy, emphasizing the link with dispersion, ageing and liveability of territories.
- To make a positive contribution in terms of social&territorial inclusion linked to new job opportunities creation, social entrepreneurship and innovation in social services.
- To research, identify and analyse experiences which promote local dynamism and inclusiveness, in order to be used as a role model against territorial exclusion.

- To facilitate tools to plan public services –namely inclusive social services- taking into account the current demographic trends and the Europe 2020 Strategy.
- To test and foster a new cooperation models amongst public policies, ONGs and new entrepreneurship, in fighting the effects of ageing and territorial exclusion.

## 5.- Partnership information

The Symbios network is intended to be composed by a number of Universities, regional governments, regional public agencies, ONGs and professional organizations.

At its starting point, the Symbios Network is made up by the following partners:

Two regional governments:

- **Xunta de Galicia**, who acts as the promotor and coordinator
- **Regional Council of North Karelia** (Finland)

Three Universities (associated research institutions):

- *Centro de Estudos Transdisciplinares para o Desenvolvimento* (CETRAD), from the **University of Tràs-os-Montes e Alto Douro** - Tràs-os-Montes. Portugal.
- *Instituto Universitario de Estudos e Desenvolvimento* (IDEGA), from the **University of Santiago de Compostela**, Galicia. Spain. Acting as scientific advisor to the Project
- *Comparative European Social Research and Theory* (CERST), from the **Zuyd University** (**Maastricht**. The Netherlands)

Two Government Agencies from Galicia:

- *Axencia Galega de Desenvolvemento Rural (AGADER)*, Government Agency for Rural development policies
- *Instituto Galego de Estatística (IGE)*, Government Agency for statistics

A ONGs network:

- *Confederación de Centros de Desenvolvemento Rural (COCEDER)*, Rural Development Centres confederation

A professional organization:

- *Colexio Oficial de Traballadores Sociais de Galicia (COTSG)*. Galician Social Workers Organization.

## 6.- Project coordination

Xunta de Galicia is responsible for the management and coordination of the Project. This coordination will be made by the Directorate General for Family and Inclusion and includes the whole project cycle and its linked operations.

Being the core issue of the project about networking, knowledge sharing and gaining insight on the demographic change and its social and territorial consequences, active participation of partners and other actors will be promoted and organised. The starting network membership was finalised at the onset of the project and a collaboration protocol was signed by each partner accordingly. This protocol set up the basic Symbios Network regulations. Late applications to sign the protocol might be consider taking into account their possible added value to the Project.

In relation to the different topics and activities, the management of the project could also invite no-members organizations provided they may produce a significant input in any specific issue.

## **7.- Methodology**

In order to fulfil its objectives, Symbios will develop three basic action lines:

- 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

Xunta de Galicia will coordinate each action line (group of activity) and will foster the active involvement of relevant actors (public bodies, academic institutions, social or economic stakeholders). Xunta de Galicia is committed, as well, to facilitate methods of social dialogue and exchanging of the diversity of prospective contributions and points of view. And finally, Xunta de Galicia will systematize and disseminate the conclusions and criteria to be taken into consideration for policy making within the framework of a territorial approach to the new European 2020 Strategy: moving forward to smarter, more sustainable and inclusive territories.

## **8.- Transnational cooperation activities**

The Network activities are coherent with the project objectives.

The following activities are scheduled:



## Preliminary phase

Kick-off workshop		
Format description	Face-to-face	
Content. Project lines developed	To contrast and discuss the diversity and possibilities of the network partnership. To share the state of the question in each context and the different concerns and perspectives. To proceed with the first exchange of information on strategic approaches. Open ideas on enhancing specific aspects of the project activities.	
Participant	All Network partners	
Timing		June 2013
Activity goals	To meet and know one another To specify the project development details To make clear what is expected from whom	
Performance indicators	N° of participants	25
	N° of organizations	10

## First phase: State of the question & Experiences identification

1st Virtual Forum: Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion		
Activity format	Web forum (web page internal section)	
Content. Project lines developed	Academic discussion & exchange. Demographic trends analysis. Social and territorial Effects. Strategic advances analysis: trials & errors	
Participants	Universities institutions involved within the Network Invited experts	
Timing		1st Semester 2013
Activity goals	To Exchange scientific analysis in different contexts To reach a shared common glossary on the matter. To prepare a common output on the matter.	
Performance indicators	N° of Participants	3 universities / 3-5 experts
	N° of inputs	3 per participant

1st Seminar: Demographic crisis, social exclusion , territorial exclusion	
Activity format	Face to face  This seminar will try to move forward in answering key questions: What is the meaning of what is happening? What social and territorial consequences are already experiencing – and might experience in the medium and long term- the different territories? What the cost of non-action may be? What can/must/should be done? This seminar will have an special input from the Galician Statistical Institute (IGE) with occasion of 2013 “International Statistical Year”
Content. Project lines developed	Discussion with academic/scientific support: demographic trends, social impact, territorial planning.  Macro level: Strategic analysis. Public Policies and public funded projects. Micro level: Possible action criteria in local projects.
Participants	Symbios Project partners Instituto Galego de Estatística (IGE) Other invited actors
Timing	September 2013
Activity goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange of analysis.</li> <li>• Build up a shared vision.</li> <li>• Produce a set of common principles on how to deal with social&amp;territorial exclusion created by the demographic change.</li> </ul>
Performance indicators	Nº de participantes 15 Institucións / 45 persoas

## Second Phase: Assessment of experiences and modelling of good practices

Study visits	
Activity format	Face to face Technical study visits to local/community/entrepreneurial experiences which promote smart, sustainable and inclusive development of excluded territories in European places (other than Galicia).
Content. Project lines developed	Exchange of practical knowledge and strategies (from small scale to public policies) Assesment of experiences.
Participants	Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Traballo e Benestar Symbios Network Partners. Other interested partners
Timing	June 2013 June 2014
Activity goals	To enhance the regional scope with other's achievements To compile, study and asses foreign good practices and its key elements.
Performance indicators	Number of study visits 4

**2º Virtual Forum: Experiences analysis**

<b>Activity format</b>	Web forum (project intranet)	
<b>Content. Project lines developed</b>	Identification of practices of interest. SWOT Analysis. Impact assessment in terms of key features/achievements: job creation, social inclusion, demographic change adjustment, intergenerational solidarity, welfare sustainability, innovation, etc....	
<b>Participants</b>	Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Traballo e Benestar	
<b>Timing</b>	2nd Semester 2013	1st Semester 2014
<b>Activity goals</b>	To make available a catalogue of assessed practices To make possible a debate on the selected practices. To anticipate criteria for final conclusions and recommendations.	
<b>Performance indicators</b>	Nº of participants	30 participants

**2nd Seminar: Social & territorial inclusion. Analysis and discussion on experiences promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive territories**

<b>Activity format</b>	Face to face	
<b>Content. Project lines developed</b>	Analysis, discussions and experienced-based proposals.	
<b>Participants</b>	Symbios network partners Virtual forum participans Selected experiences representatives.	
<b>Timing</b>	June 2014	
<b>Activity goals</b>	To assess good practices To facilitate a bench learning meeting space To identify key success factors To model best practices' features	
<b>Performance indicators</b>	Nº of participants: 20 organizations/ 60 people	

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase: Conclusions; strategic proposals and action lines.

3rd Virtual Forum: Recommendations on strategies and methodologies		
Activity format	Web page forum	
Content. Project lines developed	Exchange of policy views. Exchange of local projects developed with public support. Common criteria for policy design.	
Participants	Consellería de traballo e Benestar Municipalities of Galicia Social Organizations	
Timing	January 2015	June 2015
Activity goals	Common criteria for policy design at the local level in declining/ageing areas	
Performance indicators	Nº of participans	20
	Nº of inputs	1 per participant

Final recommendations		
Activity format	PDF multilingual document edition	
Content. Project lines developed	The result of the academic discussion and the experiences exchange and assesment in compiled as a final strategic document of recommendation	
Participants	Consellería de Traballo e Benestar (Coord.) Symbios Network partners Other participants.	
Timing		1st semester de 2015
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To compile and edit the final recommendations</li> <li>To disseminate the results and debates.</li> </ul>	
Performance indicators	Final document edited	Yes/Not

## Partners' collaboration in transnacional activities

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Preliminary phase</b>									
Kick-off workshop									
<b>First phase: State of the question and experiencies identification</b>									
First Virtual Forum: Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion									
First Seminar: Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion									
<b>Second phase: Assesment of experiences and modelling of good practices</b>									
Study visits									
Second Virtual Forum: Experiences analysis									
Second Seminar: Social and Territorial inclusion. Analysis and discussion on experiences promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive territories									
<b>Third phase: Conclusions; Strategic proposals and action lines</b>									
Third Virtual Forum: Recommendations on strategies and methodologies									
Final recommendations									
<b>Cross- actions</b>									
Web page									
Scientific advising									

1	Xunta de Galicia
2	Regional Council of North Karelia
3	University of Tràs-os-Montes e Alto Douro
4	Univerity of Santiago de Compostela
5	Zuyd University- CERST
6	AGADER
7	Instituto Galego de Estatística (IGE)
8	COCEDER
9	Colexio Oficial de Traballo Social de Galicia

## Time plan

	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Preliminary phase</b>																														
Kick-off workshop																														
<b>First phase: State of the question &amp; Experiences identification</b>																														
First Virtual Forum: Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion																														
First Seminar: Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion																														
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Final recommendations																														
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Web page																														
Scientific advising																														

On line/ process	
Product	
Seminar/ face to face activity	

## 9.- Travel and accommodation costs

Xunta de Galicia will bear all eligible Symbios Network working/functioning expenditures. This includes:

- Management related expenditure
- Events organization
- Partners hosting
- Partners travel expenditure
- Publishing, web dissemination and similar

Any Symbios network partner can be invited to attend some of the three face-to-face events to be held in Galicia:

1. Kick-off workshop. June 2013.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Transnational Seminar: *Demographic crisis, social exclusion, territorial exclusion*. September 2013.
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Transnational Seminar: *Social & territorial inclusion. Analysis and discussion on experiences promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive territories*. June 2014.

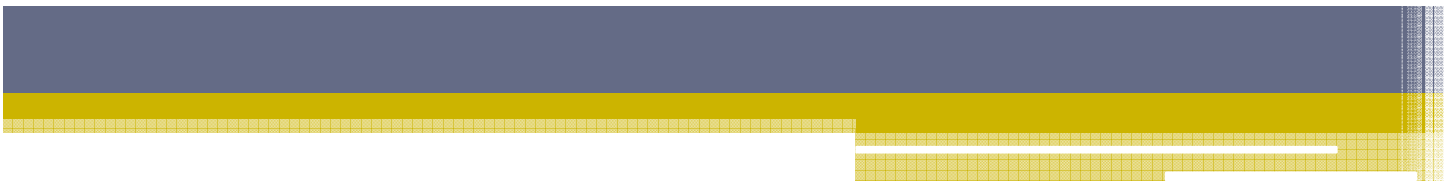
Xunta de Galicia will pay the expenditures incurred in attending the meetings in accordance to the following specifications:

### **Transport**

At least two months prior to the event, Xunta de Galicia will confirm the invitation to the concerned partner.

As a general rule, Xunta de Galicia will pay for a maximum of two people per partner to attend the above mentioned meetings. Exceptions can only be accepted in duly justified cases for the benefit of the meeting outputs.

In due date –as specified within the invitation- the concerned partner will communicate to Xunta de Galicia the participants' names, as well as other particulars, as required for the trip and meeting organization.



The travel dates will be agreed by the concerned partner and Xunta de Galicia. Xunta de Galicia will look for the best options, taking into account itineraries and fares. If several eligible choices are available, final decision will be made by the concerned partner.

Xunta de Galicia will book online and purchase the flight tickets in advance, and will send them in electronic format to the concerned partner.

Once the trip is finalised each traveller will send Xunta de Galicia all the relevant documents of proof. This will include the boarding passes, as well as any invoice and/or transport tickets - other than flight tickets- related to eligible travel expenditure incurred, jointly with the reimbursement form.

All the eligible trip expenditure incurred will be paid by Xunta de Galicia once the Reimbursement Form and the documents of proof (invoices and tickets) are received.

Private vehicle travel expenditure will be paid 0,19€ per kilometre up to a maximum of a corresponding train ticket cost per person. Departure and arrival point of the relevant itinerary will be clearly identified.

### **Hosting**

Partners participants accommodation will be booked and paid by Xunta de Galicia, in accordance to the eligible period and expenditure.

As a general rule, standard individual rooms will be booked and paid by the organizer, including the breakfast. Any change of the booking implying an additional cost will be paid by the participant.

Prior the departure Xunta de Galicia will facilitate the concerned partner the necessary information and vouchers related to the hotel reservation.

### **Meals**

Breakfast is already included in the hotel booking.

The rest of meals expenses –other than those served by organizers- will be eligible and can be paid by Xunta de Galicia. For this purpose, documents of proof – invoices or receipts- must be collected and sent attached to the final reimbursement form.

Notwithstanding the limit for meals payments will be 53,34 euros per person per day. Any exception will be duly justified and approved in written by Xunta de Galicia.

### **Eligible travel expenditure period**

For expenditure made in the town where the meeting is held, eligible period criteria is limited as follows: From 24 hours prior to the meeting starting time up to 24 hours after the meeting closing time.

### **Reimbursement Form**

In the term of ten working days, once the trip is finalised, the participant partners will complete, sign and send the reimbursement form to the following address:

*Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Traballo e Benestar  
Dirección Xeral de Familia e Inclusión  
San Caetano s/n  
15781 Santiago de Compostela. Galicia  
Spain*

The form will include some personal information as required by the normal public payment procedures (Name and surnames, bank data, postal address, ...)

All the eligible expenditure supported by a document of proof will be properly written down within this form. The relevant documents of proof –invoices and receipts- will be stapled to the reimbursement form.

In addition, the following documents are required:

- copy of de passport or ID document of the participant
- bank account ownership certificate (or document where the link between the account owner and the account number is properly proved).