

STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE PLAN FOR RURAL DEPOPULATION IN ASTURIAS, CANTABRIA, CASTILLA Y LEÓN AND GALICIA (RESOE)

KICK-OFF EVENT

■ What is the issue?

The RESOE regions of Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla y León and Galicia in Spain have a high degree of rurality, and are facing challenges associated with population decline and ageing. The project *Strategic Governance Plan for Rural Depopulation in RESOE* aims at designing an action plan for each region and a common strategy for the four regions. This event marks the kick-off of this project.

■ When?

December 2nd 2020.

■ Where?

The event will be virtual (Zoom).

■ Objective

The kick-off event marks the start of the project and brings together policy makers from RESOE and other OECD regions, national and international experts, and analysts from the OECD and the European Commission to collect information and policy experiences, share knowledge and establish networks. It includes expert debates on four relevant topics to OECD rural regions facing depopulation: quality service provision, digitalisation, governance, and social entrepreneurship and innovation.

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Agenda

09:45-10:00	Registration <i>(please join the meeting 15 minutes before the start)</i>
MODERATOR	Alain Dupeyras , Head of Regional Development and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
Part 1	High level session: Strategies for depopulation (Open - with EN/ES interpretation)
10:00-10:10	Welcome remarks by representatives of Cantabria
SPEAKERS	Pablo Zuloaga , Vice-President and Councilor for Equality, Sport, Universities and Culture, Government of Cantabria María Sánchez , Councilor for Economy and Finance, Government of Cantabria
10:10-10:20	Video introduction
SPEAKERS	Dubravka Šuica , Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy and Demography (pre-recorded video)
10:20-10:45	Plenary session: How can policies help regions experiencing depopulation?
SPEAKERS	Mario Nava , Director-General of the Directorate-General Structural Reform Support (REFORM), European Commission Francesc Boya , Secretary General for the Demographic Challenge, Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge Nadim Ahmad , Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
10:45-10:55	Commentary from the representatives of the Autonomous Communities
SPEAKERS	Francisco Igea , Vice-President and Councilor for Transparency, Territorial Planning and External Action, Government of Castilla y León Fabiola García , Councilor for Social Policy, Government of Galicia Jaime Izquierdo , Commissioner for Demographic Challenge, Government of Asturias
10:55-11:00	End of Part 1 and transition to Part 2
Part 2	Parallel thematic sessions (Closed - in ES without EN interpretation)
11:00-11:45	Session 1: Quality service provision for rural communities
MODERATOR	Valentina Corsetti , Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO), European Commission
SPEAKER	Ana I. Moreno Monroy , Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
QUESTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What role should rural communities play in the provision of public services?2. What incentives work for attracting service professionals such as doctors and teachers to rural areas experiencing depopulation?3. What are the main barriers to distance learning and telehealth in rural areas?
11:00-11:45	Session 2: Digitalisation to boost rural development
MODERATOR	Raffaele Trapasso , Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
SPEAKER	Isidro Laso , Cabinet of Commissioner Gabriel for Innovation, Research, Education, Culture and Youth, European Commission

- QUESTIONS
1. What are the biggest bottlenecks to deploy quality broadband in rural areas?
 2. What strategies or investments are needed to make the most of benefits of digitalisation for rural areas?
 3. How can digitalisation help mitigate depopulation in rural areas?

11:00-11:45

Session 3: Governance, strategies and implementation for rural development

MODERATOR **Isidora Zapata**, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

SPEAKER **Nuno Oliveira Romão**, Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

- QUESTIONS
1. What mechanisms facilitate an efficient co-ordination of public services delivery and public investments in rural areas across the national government, autonomous communities, provinces and municipalities?
 2. What are the main challenges faced by local governments in rural areas to engage in inter-municipal cooperation and what innovative mechanisms can be put in place to face them?
 3. What measures can be taken to ensure that local governments have the sufficient technical, managerial and financial capacities to properly plan and execute public services and investments?

11:00-11:45

Session 4: Social entrepreneurship and innovation in rural places

MODERATOR **Yancy Vaillant**, TBS Business School, France

SPEAKER **Gorka Espiau**, Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies, Spain

- QUESTIONS
1. What is the best way to generate synergies between the public and private sectors to maintain a vibrant business fabric in rural areas?
 2. What are the main opportunities for and barriers to social innovation in rural areas?
 3. How can policies be used to encourage young people to live in and contribute to rural communities?

11:45-12:00

Break and transition to Part 3

Part 3

General discussion and closing remarks (Open - with EN/ES interpretation)

12:00-13:00

Report from parallel sessions and discussion

DESCRIPTION Outcome of each thematic session by the moderator and remarks from a representative from each RESOE regions, followed by an open discussion

13:00-13:15

Closing remarks

SPEAKERS **Jose Enrique Garcilazo**, Deputy Head of Regional Development and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Ignacio Molina, Advisor, Fourth Vice-Presidency of the Spanish Government and Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge