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.

Contact

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<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:45-10:00</td>
<td>Registration <em>(please join the meeting 15 minutes before the start)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MODERATOR</strong></td>
<td>Alain Dupeyras, Head of Regional Development and Tourism Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD</td>
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**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** | 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 |
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