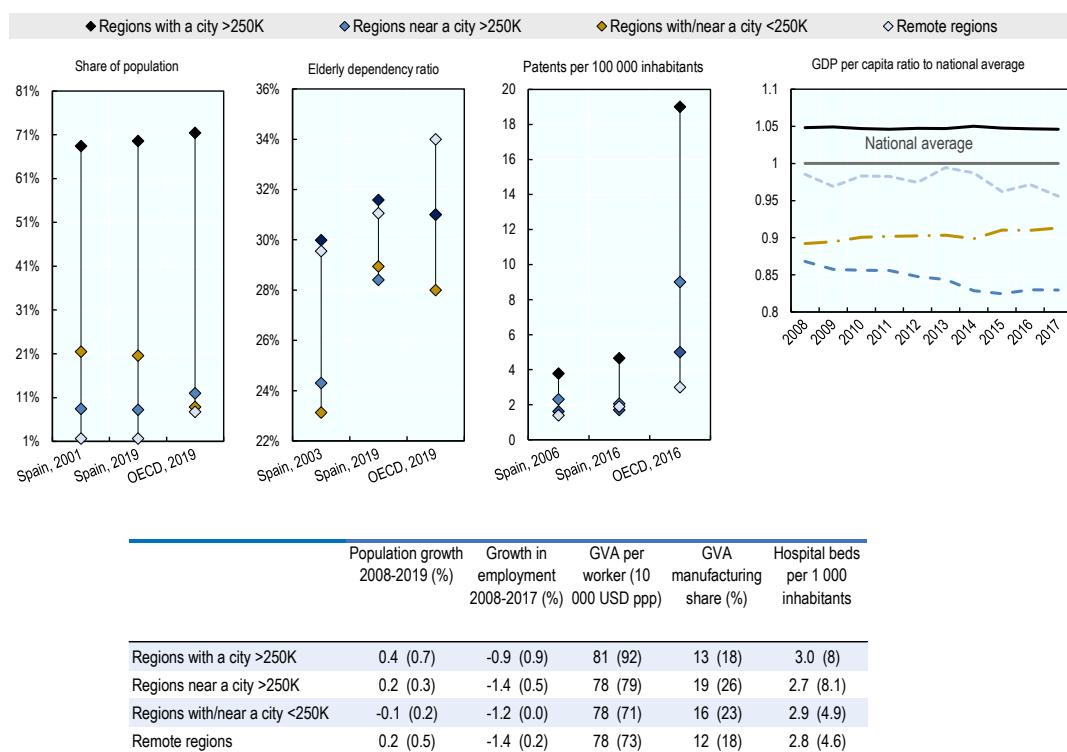


Rural Well-being: Geography of opportunities

Spain

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020^[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ Rural areas in Spain are defined by art. 3.a of the Spanish Law 45/2007. The definition encompasses local villages and towns with both a population lower than 30,000 inhabitants and a population density lower than 100 inhabitants per square kilometre. Overall, the

definition recognises mixed rural/urban areas (as intermediate regions), rural areas close to cities (as “zonas rurales periurbanas”) and remote rural areas (as rural areas to be revitalised “zonas durales de revitalizar”, which are areas with very low population density, lower income rate, geographical isolation and difficulties in terms of territorial cohesion)

National rural policy

- ❖ Spain does not have a single national rural policy. Instead, there are a number of Rural Development Programs 2014-2020. Spain is a highly devolved country in which Spanish regions (the so-called autonomous communities “Comunidades Autónomas”) are granted fully-fledged competences in broad areas including farming, rural development, rural planning, environment, forests and hunting. The Rural Development Programs are cofinanced by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Spanish national and regional budget.

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level

Ministries/Departments (most important first)	Role
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA). Directorate General for Rural Development, Innovation and Forest Policy (DGDRIPF).	Design and execute rural development-related policies to be promoted by the Spanish Government. Implement both pillars of the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP). MAPA serves as coordinating body of both Spanish Paying Agencies of CAP's payments and Managing Authorities of Rural Development Programs (RDPs). DGDRIPF is acting as Managing Authority of the Spanish National Program of Rural Development (NPRD) in the current programming period (2014-2020).
Spanish sectoral Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development	The highest level body to ensure the cooperation among Spanish administrations on sectoral issues, such as agriculture and rural development. This body is chaired by the Spanish minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and regional governments are represented by their ministers (“consejeros”). This conference meets once each quarter and within it relevant political agreements at national level are taken, such as: implementation of the CAP
Coordinating Committee of Spanish Managing Authorities of Rural Development Programs (RDPs)	Discuss and find a common understanding of those elements shared by Spanish RDPs in order for them to streamline their execution. It is chaired by the Director-General for Rural Development of the Spanish ministry and its members are managing authorities of Spanish RDPs. It usually meets four times a year.
Coordinating group of agricultural funds	Promote and, as appropriate, ensure a harmonised application among Spanish paying agencies of the European rules on CAP's agricultural funds (EAGF and EAFRD). It usually meets once every other month

Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level

Institutions	Role
Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development of Spanish regions (autonomous communities).	Each Spanish region has its own Department (“Consejerías”) dealing with farming, livestock, forestry and rural development issues. According to their basic legal frameworks (“Estatutos de autonomía”) deriving from the Spanish Constitution, Spanish regions have full discretion to regulate within their territories these issues. As a result, the majority of Spanish regions have adopted rules and regulations addressing rural development and rural planning issues.

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- Spain's rural development policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main priorities of its rural policy.
- The main delivery mechanisms to conduct implement rural policies are dedicated grants programmes.

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Social	30%	30%
Environment	30%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

Table 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	CAP Direct payments, market measures and certain rural development measures	EAGF (subsidies) and EAFRD (grants)
Environmental sustainability	CAP policy and national and regional rural planning policies and regulations	Loans, subsidies and grants.
Service delivery	CAP policy and national policies to promote access to basic services in rural areas.	Subsidies, grants and loans.
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	CAP policy and national policies to promote the uptake of broadband in rural areas	EAFRD, ERDF and national budget (subsidies, grants and loans).
Quality of life/well-being of rural residents	CAP policy and upcoming National Strategy for the demographic challenge drafted by the high commissioner of the Spanish Government for demographic issues	Subsidies, grants and loans to be launched by Spanish Administrations.
Ageing and outmigration	Upcoming National Strategy for the demographic challenge, drafted by the high commissioner of the Spanish Government for demographic issues	Subsidies, grants and loans to be launched by Spanish Administrations.
Innovation support to "rural" sectors	Within the EU EIP-Agri initiative, support for the setting up of operational groups and the execution of innovation projects through the cooperation measure of Spanish RDPs -15 out of 17 RDPs at regional level owns this measure. National Digital Strategy for the agrifood, forestry sectors and rural areas, adopted in March 2019	Grants (mostly by EAFRD) Grants, subsidies and loans. EAFRD and other EU and national funds, in coordination with Ministries involved in digitization policies
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	CAP policy and national policies to promote investments, job creation and support to private sector.	Grants, subsidies and loans
Capacity building	National Digital Strategy for the agrifood, forestry sectors and rural areas, adopted in March 2019	Grants, subsidies and loans
Facilitating the access to credit for relevant actors in rural areas	Setting-up a national financial instrument run by the Spanish Government with the support of Spanish regions –on a voluntary basis-, which grants guarantees for farm holders who take out a loan to invest in their holding	Loans and guarantees

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses. Spain rated all the above objectives as extremely important.

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".