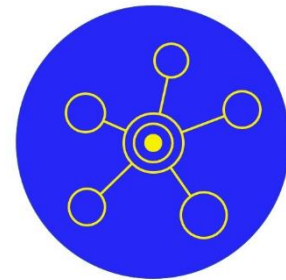


# SETTLE - Population imbalances in Europe: challenges of urban concentration versus rural depopulation

Newsletter 1 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020

This project studies population imbalances in Europe, their challenges, and opportunities, by contrasting two different territorial subjects: rural areas suffering from depopulation versus growing urbanization areas with a high concentration of population

The objectives of this analysis are to describe the settlement paths of population in Europe and their growth dynamics; to detect through economic and social models the factors conditioning these dynamics; to know the socioeconomic challenges in terms of services and infrastructure as well as the opportunities for a better cohesion between these two territorial realities; and to describe relations between rural areas and cities.



## SETTLE

Erasmus + Project



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

## Main facts of population in Europe: The most depopulated region

In Spain, like in many other countries the rural population as decreased greatly in the last century. Population now concentrates in the coast and in metropolitan areas. This process still takes place today and is due to a mix of factors such as lack of communications, network effects, availability of employment both in manufactures and services.

This long-lasting process is a complex phenomenon and to be stopped, or reverted, would require a multidisciplinary approach.

The rural depopulation of some regions is largely due to emigration from less developed areas to more developed ones, but there is also migration within the same province from rural areas to larger municipalities. Thus, the loss of population due to a lower level of development led to lower growth and the perpetuation of this dynamic.

Differences in salaries and employment levels are the main determinants that explain migration between 1950s and 1970s of the twentieth century. From that moment on, long-distance migrations decrease and there is a tendency to migrate to shorter distances. These decisions are more motivated by factors related to quality of life.

The region called Serranía Celtiberica (see map) includes the entire province of Soria, most of the provinces of Guadalajara, Teruel and Cuenca and part of La Rioja, Burgos, Segovia, Zaragoza, Valencia and Castellón. This region has the lowest population density in the European Union, and it is at the same level as the Arctic zone of the Scandinavian countries. In addition, it is the area with the greatest aging in Europe and the lowest birth rate, which will cause depopulation to be even further in the coming decades and a large part of the villages and town will disappear.



Source: Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Serranía Celtibérica

## TOPICS for the CONFERENCE PAPERS

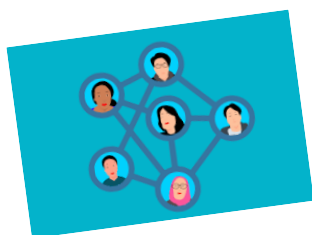
We will announce soon the dates of the conference to be held in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid) and we will have a call for papers so you can know all the information to submit your work. In the meantime, we let you know the topics to be included in the conference and we are in touch to potential submissions in our e-mail.

- Regional policy design for a balanced population
- Depopulation
- Rural-urban proximity
- Services infrastructure and welfare for population in cities and rural areas
- Population imbalances and migration
- Entrepreneurship and university talent attraction leading to urban concentration
- Environmental and legal aspects of sustainability in smart cities and depopulated areas
- Systemic transformation and influence on population
- Population statistics advances
- Others related to population imbalances (to be evaluated by the Scientific Committee)



## The SETTLE network

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Prof. M. Teresa Fernández Fernández (Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain)  
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[www.iaes.es/settle-2020.html](http://www.iaes.es/settle-2020.html)

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## NEWS

### Rural Areas Face Unique Threat From COVID-19

Urban areas have seen a higher rate of mortality from COVID-19 than rural areas. However, in high-infection places where the virus is surging, the story is much different, according to a recent study by geographers at the University of Cincinnati working in the Health Geography and Disease Modeling Lab.

In fact, rural areas have higher mortality rates from COVID-19 compared to their metro counterparts. This is related to higher rates of poverty and vulnerability in rural areas.

[Read more](#)

### On World Cities Day UN-Habitat Releases 2020 Report on The Value of Sustainable Urbanization

UN-Habitat has released its World Cities Report 2020 on the value of sustainable urbanization, focusing on the most up-to-date and pressing topics.

Analyzing the intrinsic value of cities in generating economic prosperity, mitigating environmental degradation, reducing social inequality, and building stronger institutions, the report highlights how together these can drive transformative change with appropriate policies and supportive frameworks.

[Read more](#)

## ARTICLES

### A Proposed Framework for Rural Resilience – How can peripheral village communities in Europe shape change?

Rural communities and villages across Europe currently face great challenges imposed by the social, economic and ecological transformations. Despite this, some of them successfully adapt to processes of change and develop.

[Read more](#)

### The peri-urbanization of Europe: A systematic review of a multifaceted process

Urbanisation patterns in Europe since the 1950s have resulted in a swath of low-density discontinuous development, commonly called peri-urban areas. This paper presents a systematic review of the literature on changes in peri-urban areas in Europe.

[Read more](#)

### Local governments and the communication of demographic decline in Sweden and Germany: who, what and why?

Many planners and politicians still employ growth-oriented policies even when they must manage decline. Transmitting the consequences of demographic decline can be something commendable but also impair the image of a place.

[Read more](#)

## WHO is WHO in POPULATION?

### United Nations Population Fund

It is a UN agency aimed at improving reproductive and maternal health worldwide. Its work includes developing national healthcare strategies and protocols, increasing access to birth control, and leading campaigns against child marriage and gender-based violence. UNFPA is present in over 150 countries and offers a program to voluntarily plan and have the number of children they desire and to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)



### United Nations Population Fund

The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, non-governmental organization established in 1952. They publish the journal [Population and Development Review](#), which reports scientific research on the interrelationships between population and socioeconomic development. It also provides a forum for discussion on related issues of public policy and Studies in Family Planning

[www.popcouncil.org](http://www.popcouncil.org)



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