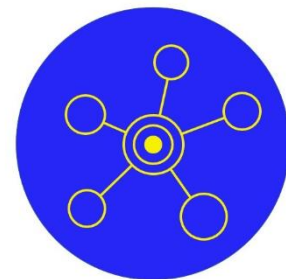


# SETTLE - Population imbalances in Europe: challenges of urban concentration versus rural depopulation

Newsletter 4 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021

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: Infrastructure to fix the population

Transport infrastructures are essential for economic development, not only do they favor the mobility of individuals throughout the territory, promoting the diversity of goods that can be acquired, but trade is also boosted thanks to a considerable reduction in costs.

The lower costs of freight transport increase the competitiveness of companies, enhancing the welfare of the population. The greater benefits of these - caused by the reduction of costs, the increase in income because of an increase in demand and, ultimately, economies of scale - promote an increase in employment and production, but also in the disposable income which, together with the price decrease, reduce the cost of living and, consequently, improve the quality of life.

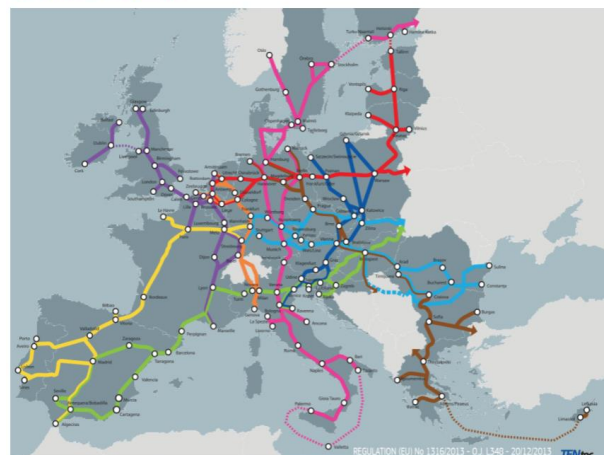
One indicator that may be a consequence of this improvement and the economic development of a region is population, since a higher income, accompanied by a lower cost of living, allows the number of people residing in each area to increase.

In Spain, the work of Pérez Esparcia (1988) that circumscribes his study to the period 1960-1985 shows the close relationship between the development of the provinces of Spain and the extension of the road and rail network, within the processes the transfer of population from the countryside to the city and the late industrialization that occurred in that period.

Pérez Esparcia, J. (1988). Infraestructuras de transporte y su relación con los cambios demográficos y el desarrollo económico en España (1960-1985). *Estudios geográficos*, 49(192), 381.

Recent works emphasize the importance of the accessibility of municipalities to the road network for their development and the population dynamics.

TEN-T core network corridors



To give an impetus to the development of EU transport, in 2013 a Regulation on trans-European transport network (TEN-T) was adopted, which introduced the concepts of TEN-T "comprehensive" and "core" networks. The comprehensive network, to be finished by 2050, aims to ensure the accessibility and connectivity of all EU regions. The core network to be finished by 2030, consists of those parts of the comprehensive network which are of the highest strategic importance for achieving the TEN-T objectives. To help Member States, develop their part of the TEN-T, in the 2007-2020 period the EU allocated approximately €78 billion for roads, out of which around €40 billion for TEN-T roads.

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## TOPICS for the CONFERENCE PAPERS

Due to the pandemic situation and after consultations with the Erasmus + Agency, we must tell you that the Conference was postponed and is going to be **27th, 28th and 29th April 2022**. Those who have sent abstracts will receive an evaluation of the Scientific Committee by mid May 2021, as it was first forecasted, so that you can keep on working on your papers for an extended time.

Paper proposals consisting of a summary of around 100 words must be submitted before **28th January, 2022**. Accepted languages for papers writing and presentations are Spanish, English and French. Writing font is Calibri 11, 1.15 pp. Papers will be circumscribed geographically to **Europe-27 and neighbor countries** (though others can be included if they have an influence in the European region or can be compared to it in terms of population subjects).



- 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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## NEWS

### Moldova facing Europe's worst demographic crisis

According to an analysis by the Chisinau-based Institute for Development and Social Initiative (IDIS) Viitorul, from 1991 the population of the Republic of Moldova has decreased by almost 1.5 million people. The number of Moldovan citizens is now at 2.9 million. The findings show that Moldova is nearing its population level of 1950. For the trend to change, Moldova needs an overhaul of its governance and a break with past oligarch practices.

[Read more](#)

### Four Spanish provinces will have the highest average age in Europe by 2050

According to Eurostat, Zamora will top the list of 1,216 regions, with the mean projected to rise to 62.7, while León, Asturias and Ourense will come in fourth, ninth and 10th place, respectively. The number of people aged 65 and over living in the 31 countries analyzed – the EU plus Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Iceland – will increase by more than 40 million, from 93 million to 134.5 million.

[Read more](#)

## ARTICLES

### ICT-based public policies and depopulation in hollowed-out Spain

Drawing on the findings of a survey administered to 514 inhabitants of the so-called hollowed-out Spain this study provides a basis for assessing the effectiveness and impact of ICT-based public policies. The study facilitates so-called Rural Proofing, identifying the weaknesses on which the administration can focus to improve living conditions and so prevent the exodus from rural areas. The existence of a digital divide was corroborated.

[Read more](#)

### Cities in a post-COVID world

This paper examines the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related economic, fiscal, social and political fallout on cities and metropolitan regions. We assess the effect of the pandemic on urban economic geography at the intra- and inter-regional geographic scales. At the macrogeographic scale, they argue the pandemic is unlikely to significantly alter the winner-take-all economic geography and spatial inequality of the global city system.

[Read more](#)

## WHO is WHO in POPULATION?

### Max Plank Institute for Demographic Research

The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock investigates the structure and dynamics of populations. The Institute's researchers explore issues of political relevance, such as demographic change, aging, fertility, and the redistribution of work over the life course.

<https://www.demogr.mpg.de/en>



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE

### Population Research Centre

The Population Research Centre is part of the University of Groningen (Netherlands). They study population phenomena with a background of the socio-cultural and spatial context.

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



Population  
Research  
Centre

### Institut National d'Études Démographiques

The French Institute for Demographic Studies or INED is a public research institute specialized in population studies that works in partnership with the academic and research communities at national and international levels.

<https://www.ined.fr/en/>



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