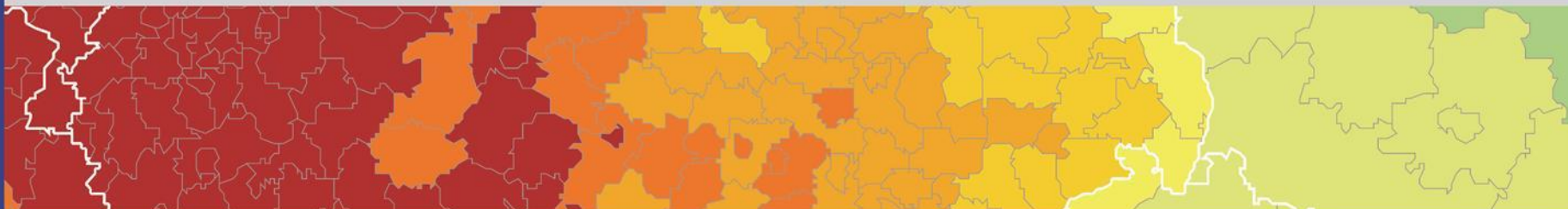


ESPON



EUROPEAN UNION

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European Shrinking Rural Areas: Challenges, Actions and Perspectives for Territorial Governance

ESCAPE

Andrew Copus (James Hutton Institute),
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ENRD Workshop:

Combatting Rural Depopulation:

Creating new opportunities for vibrant rural areas

Brussels - 21 May 2019



Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

Simple or Complex Shrinkage?

“a region that is ‘shrinking’ is a region that is losing a significant proportion of its population over a period greater than or equal to one generation”

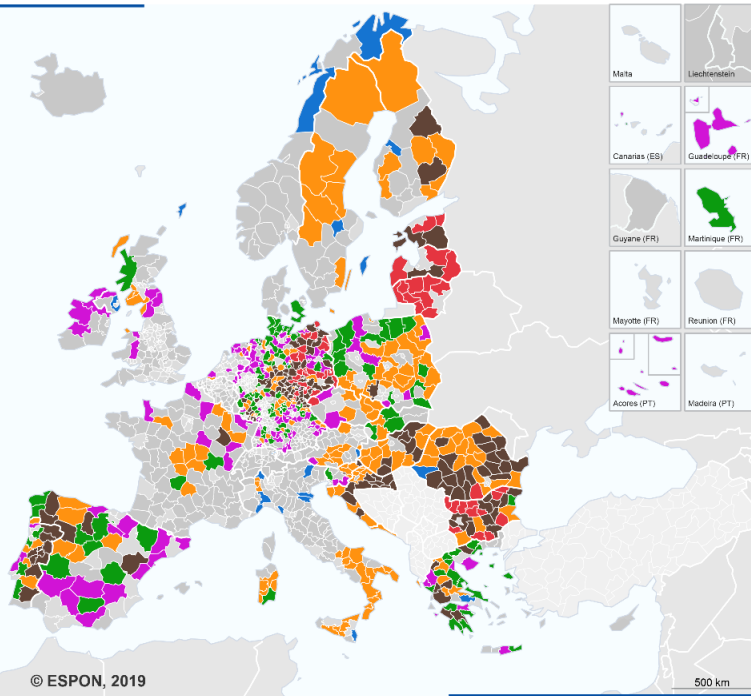
Grasland, C., et al. (2008) *Shrinking Regions: A Paradigm Shift in Demography and Territorial Development*. Study for Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union, Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policy, European Parliament. Brussels: European Parliament.

“Regional shrinkage is a simultaneously demographic and economic process – demography and economy in combination are potential drivers of shrinking”.

Sepp, V., and Veemaa, J. (2017) *Shrinking regions and innovative solutions: entrepreneurship, employment and the accessibility of services*. Study report was commissioned by the Estonian Ministry of Finance, Department of Regional Development, Tartu.

Where is Rural Shrinking taking place?

Typology of simple shrinkage



“Rural” = NUTS 3 PR+Intermediate

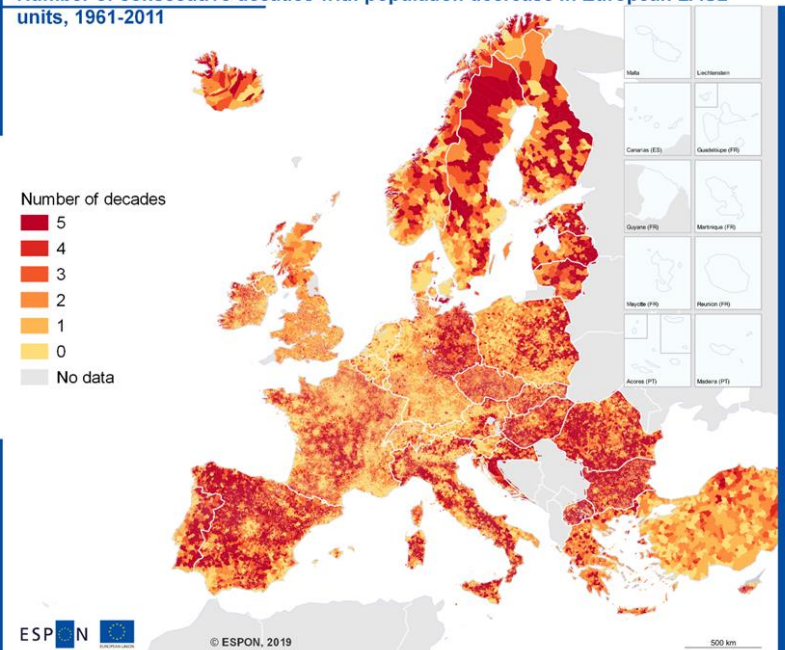
64% of rural regions are, have been, or will be shrinking.

59% of rural population in shrinking regions.

60% of rural area in shrinking regions

LAU 2 map shows many smaller “enclaves” of shrinkage

Number of consecutive decades with population decrease in European LAU2 units, 1961-2011



Intermediate and rural regions with population decrease in the period 1993-2033

- Experiencing population decrease in both periods 1993-2013 and 2013-2033 at important annual average shrinking rates (<-1)
- Experiencing population decrease in both periods 1993-2013 and 2013-2033 at moderate annual average shrinking rate (-1 to -0,5)
- Experiencing most of the population decrease in the period 1993-2013 at modest shrinking rate (>-0,5)
- Experiencing population decrease in the period 2013-2033 at slow shrinking rates (>-0,5)

Intermediate and rural regions with population increase in the period 1993-2033

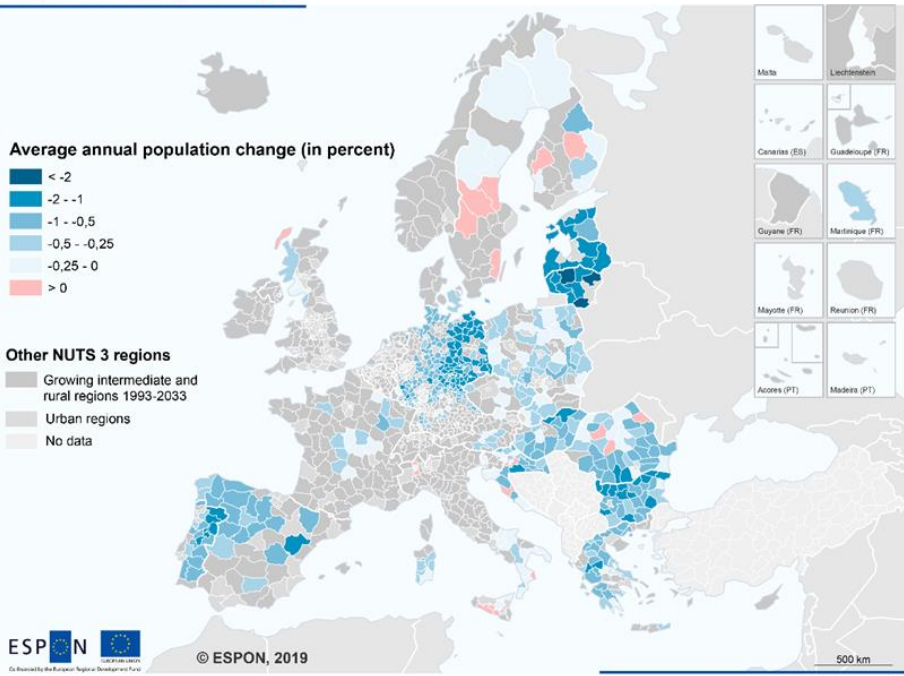
- Experiencing population increase in the period 1993-2013
- Experiencing population decrease in the period 2013-2033

Other regions

- Growing intermediate and rural regions in the period 1993-2033 without any 20-year period of population decrease
- Urban regions
- No data

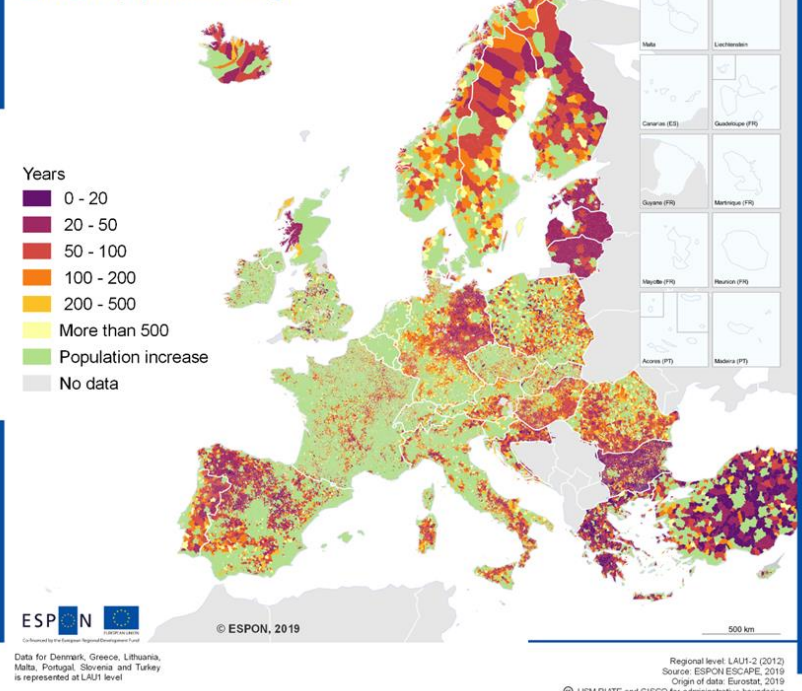
What are the prospects for the future?

Population change 2013-2033



Projections based on past trends...
 Continuity in Baltics and SE Europe
 Intensifying in Poland E Germany,
 Iberia, Greece etc...

Estimated halving time of population in European LAU2 units, based on 2001-2011 population change



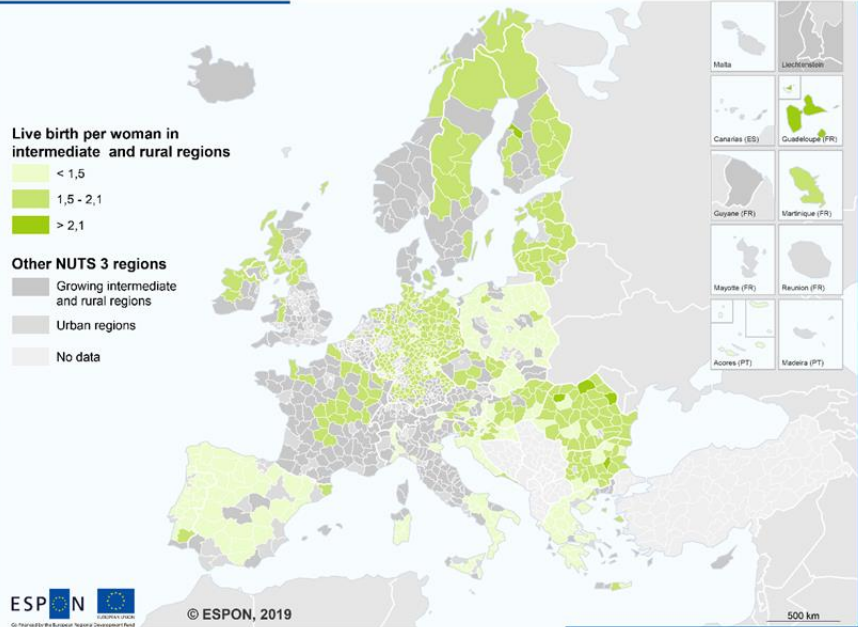
At worst pop. halved within 20 or 50 yrs...
 But much diversity between rural areas...
 Many rural areas growing, especially in
 FR, UK, NL, DE (W/N), IT (N)...

Data for Denmark, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Turkey is represented at LAU1 level

Regional level LAU2 (2012)
 Source: ESPON ESCAPE, 2019
 Origin of data: Eurostat, 2019
 © USM RIATE and GISCO for administrative boundaries

What drives rural shrinking?

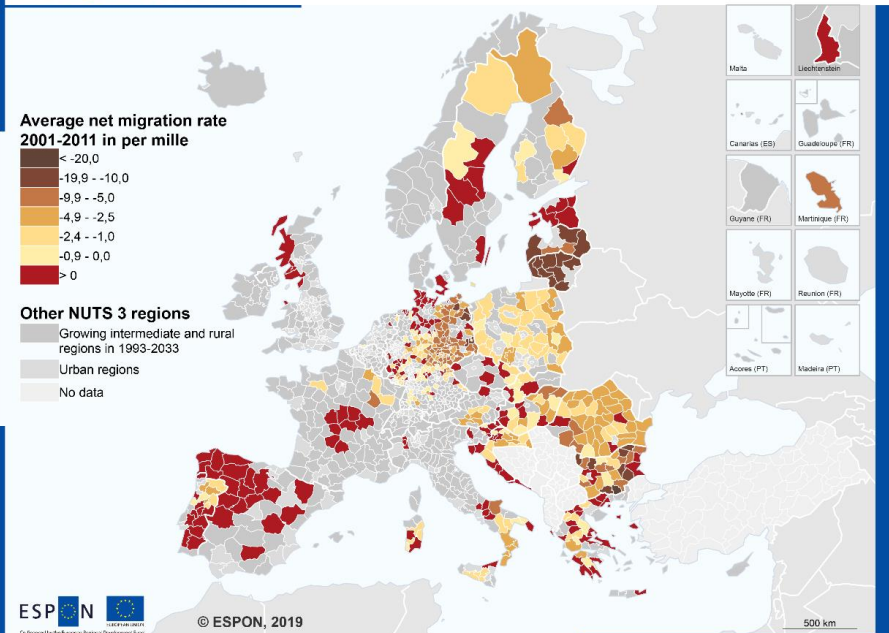
Fertility rate 2016



Natural Change:

Total fert. Rate < 2.1 unsustainable
< 1.5 "point of no return"
Fert./mort. rates per 1,000
(affected by age structure)

Net migration 2001-2011



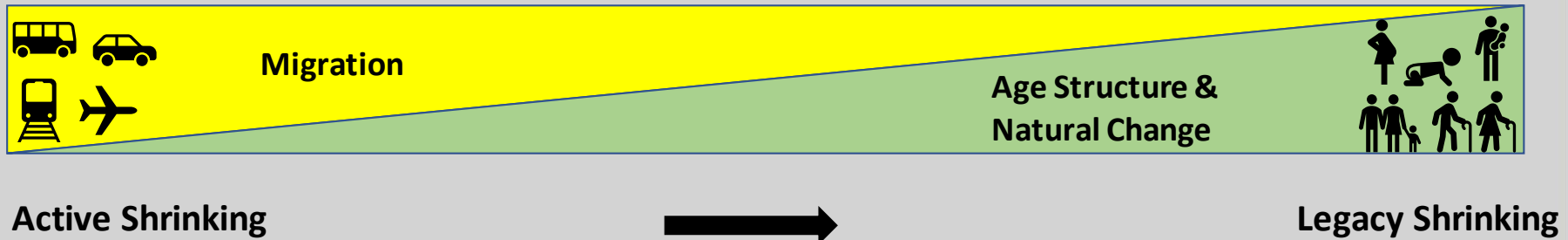
Migration flows

Urbanisation – long established in NW, more recent in S

Accession adjustments – CEECs since 2004 enlargement

Counter-urbanisation – last 20 years in N/W

Different kinds of shrinking?

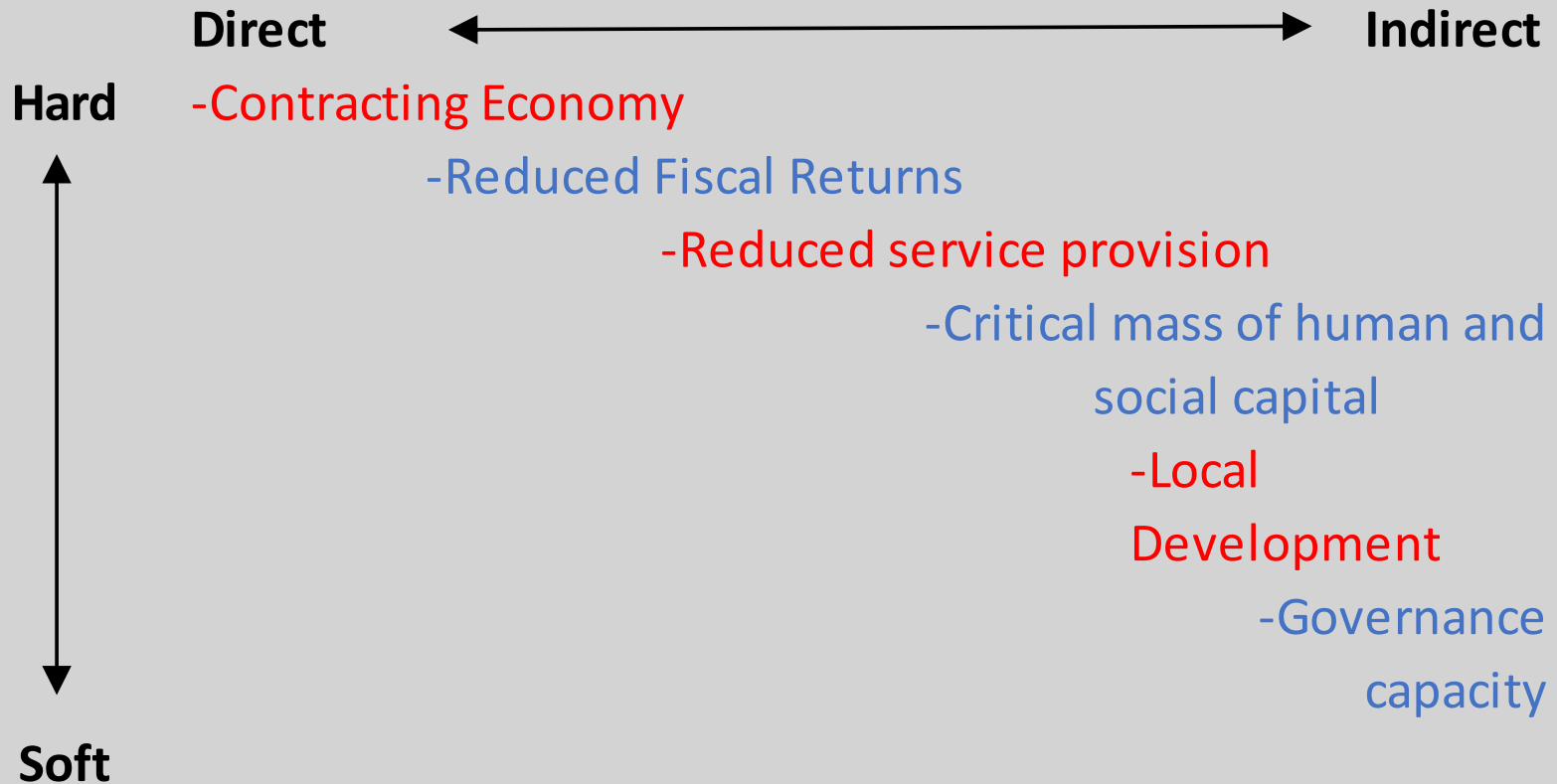


Active Shrinking – driven by migration - typical of CEECs and Southern Europe

Legacy shrinking – driven by distorted age structures which reflect migration processes of the past – more typical of the fringes of Western Europe

Most shrinking rural areas of Europe (including the N Periphery, lie somewhere between these extremes – shrinking is driven both by legacy age structure effects and by continuing out-migration

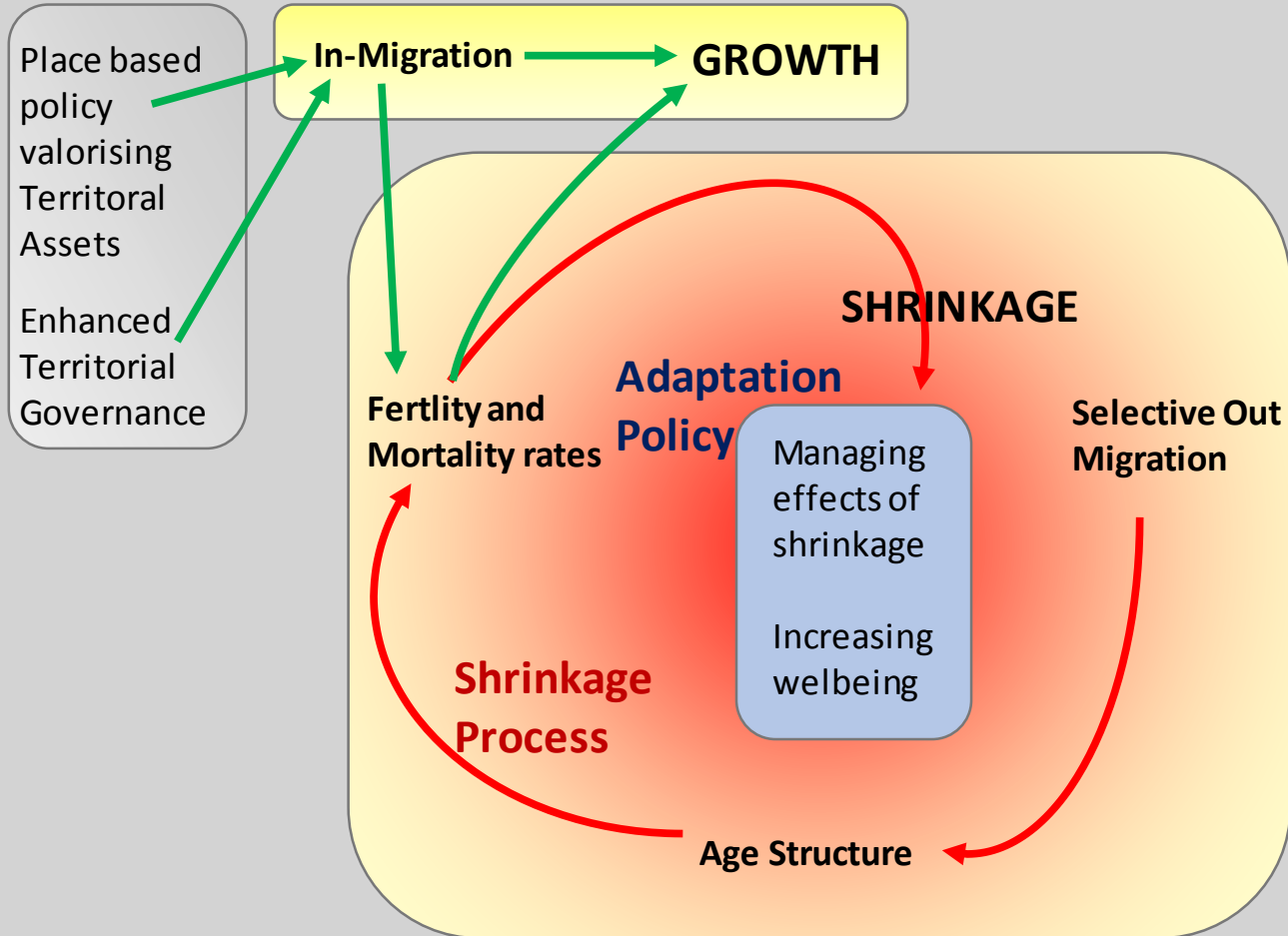
What are the effects of shrinking?



Many feed-back loops → vicious cycles/cumulative causation (Complex shrinking)

Different responses....

Mitigation Policy



Thank you for your attention...



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