

Law 2/2021 of Economic, Social and Tax Measures Against Depopulation and for the Development of the Rural Areas in Castilla- La Mancha

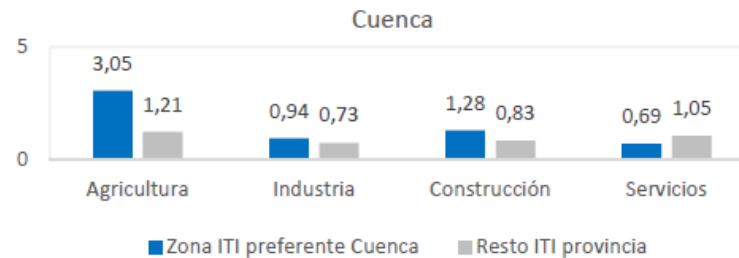
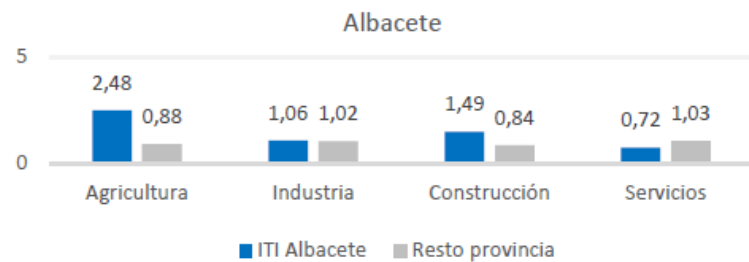


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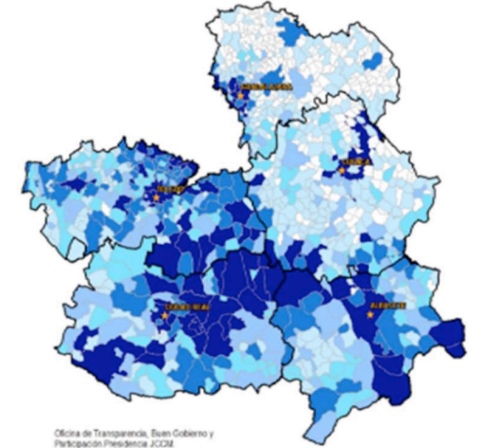
Castilla-La Mancha is a region of central Spain where:

- The average density is <math><26 \text{ people/km}^2</math>, up to - 620 villages have $<12.5 \text{ people/km}^2</math>, which the EU determines as areas with very low population density. Cuenca (NUTS 3) has a density of $11.4 \text{ people/km}^2</math>$$
- Only 12 of the 919 municipalities have more than 30,000 people (1%). 99% of our town are rural.

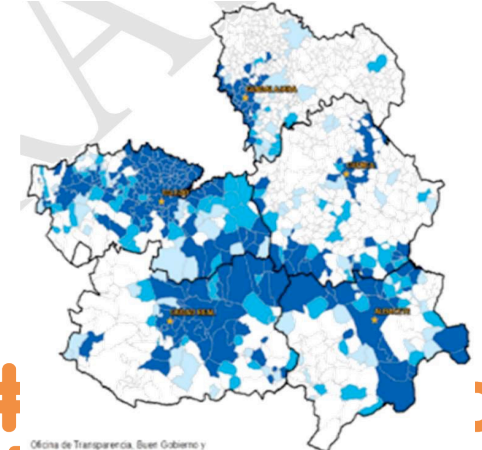
- The main sector in the rural economy is agriculture. In two provinces:



People



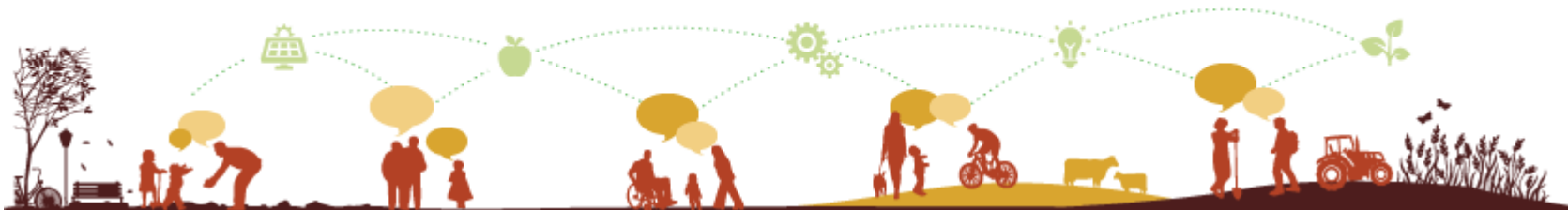
Density of people



BACKGROUND

Castilla-La Mancha has been a pioneer in facing the challenge of depopulation with actions such as:

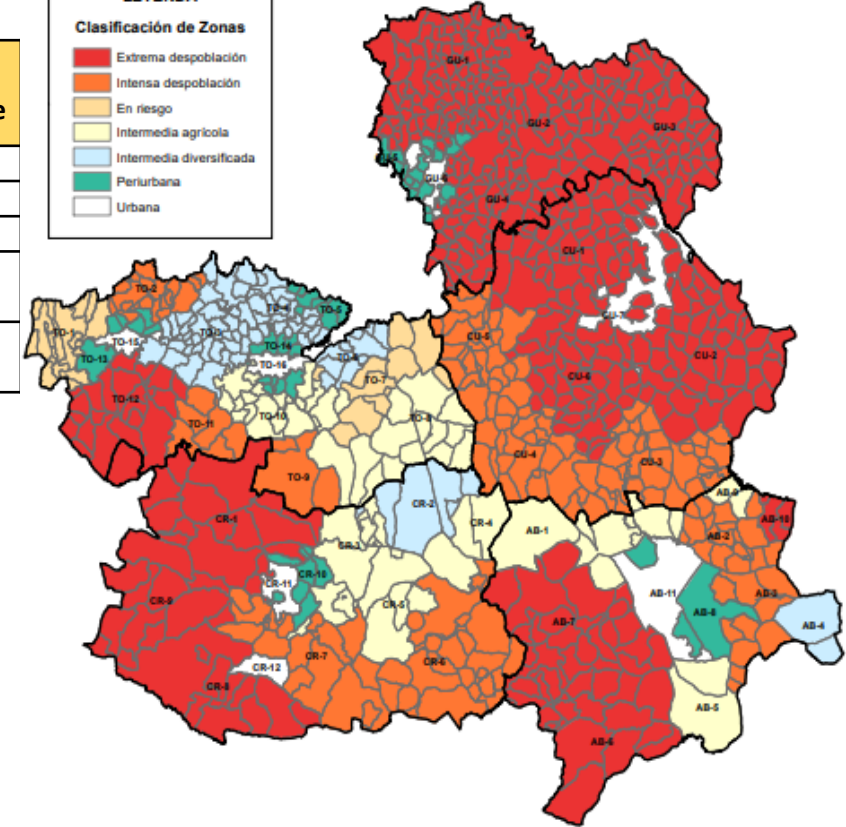
1. The launch in 2016 of the **Integrated Territorial Investment Strategy (ITI) 2014-2020**, which defines 5 geographic areas with specific development needs. This strategy is making it possible to gather both own funds and European Structural and Investment Funds (EFSI). Its central objective is the sociodemographic recovery through three vectors: digitization of the territory, promotion of economic activity and sustainable use of available resources.
2. Signing of the **Cohesion and Regional Development Agreement of Castilla-La Mancha**, to address the phenomenon of depopulation, initiated in February 2020 together with the representatives of CECAM, CCOO, UGT, RECAMDER and FEMP –CLM.
3. **Framework Collaboration Agreement with Correos (Public Post enterprise) for the joint Development of Activities in the Rural areas**, initiated on April 14, 2020.



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(1) CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

AREAS		Population density (people/Km ²)	Aging according to the mean CLM	Population	Relationship with municipalities >30.000 people	In municipalities <2.000 people	Agrarian weight	Forest surface
Rural peri-urban		>50	↓	↑	↑			
Rural intermediate		20-50	→	↗	→	>75%	↗	↗
At risk of depopulation		12,5-20	↑	↓	↘	>75%	↑	↑
Sparsely populated	Intense depopulation	8-12	↑	↓	↓		↑	↑
	Extremely depopulated	<8	↑	↓	↓		↑	↑



NAME	Area	Villages	Population 2020	Surface
Urban	7	7	1%	608.026 30%
Rural peri-urban	6	51	6%	314.729 15%
Rural intermediate - Diversified	5	78	8%	284.704 14%
Rural intermediate - Agrarian	8	62	7%	399.738 20%
At risk of depopulation	2	25	3%	31.693 2%
Intense depopulation	10	173	19%	208.569 10%
Extremely depopulated	14	523	57%	197.762 10%
TOTAL	52	919		2.045.221
				79.361



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(3) GOVERNANCE

The law creates the **Regional Council for Rural Development and Depopulation** with the following goals:

- Promote collaboration and the exchange of information among administrations.
- Promote the mechanisms of cooperation and collaboration of the territorial administrations, in the design and development of public policies, as well as for the provision of services in rural areas.
- Promote the participation of social and economic actors in the configuration of policies that affect the rural world.

(4) FINANCING

1. The **Structural and Investment Funds** and other financial instruments of the EU.
2. The **EAFRD** will give priority to the lines of action linked to sparsely populated areas and at risk of depopulation.



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(5) OTHER ASPECTS

ECONOMIC COHESION

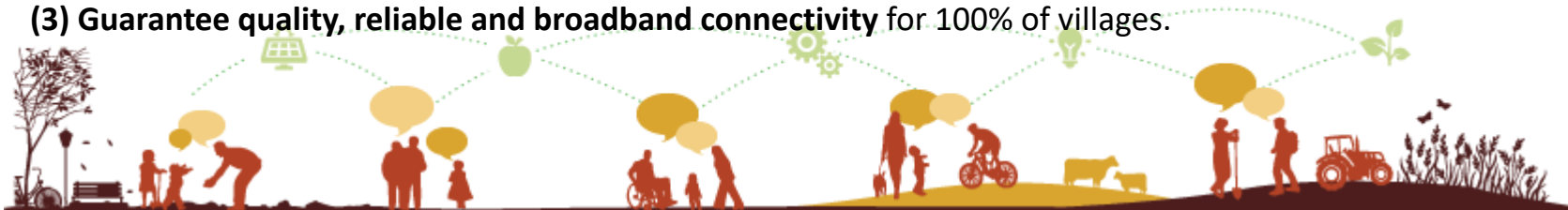
- (1) **Creation and Maintenance of Employment in Rural Areas** with the "Return of International Talent" program.
- (2) **Support for economic and business promotion in rural areas.**
- (3) **Support to the agricultural, livestock and forestry sector.**
- (4) **Support for the region's demand for agro-ecological products of differentiated quality**, as well as the creation of consumer groups in the field of collaborative, inclusive, social and supportive consumption.

SOCIAL COHESION

- (1) **Mark compatible work and family life.**
- (2) **Childcare and Family Support.** Promote access to remote work.
- (3) **Housing.** Creation of an Office for the promotion of rural housing with a Rural Housing Exchange.
- (4) **Promotion of Culture.**

TERRITORIAL COHESION

- (1) Promotion of **renewable energies**, taking advantage of resources from the agricultural and forestry sector and the production of biofuels.
- (2) Efficiency in **water consumption**.
- (3) **Guarantee quality, reliable and broadband connectivity** for 100% of villages.



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(6) GUARANTEE OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

- (1) **Access to the Public Educational Service.** School canteens and morning classrooms and Rural Schools with ≥ 4 students.
- (2) **Access to Public Health.** Guarantee in primary care and access to emergency services. Coordination of schedules with public transport services.
- (3) **Public Access to the Social Services System and Attention to Dependency and equality services.**
- (4) **Access to Public Transport in Rural Areas.** The implementation of a pre-contracting technological and telephone system will be promoted.



(7) TAXES

Tax benefits are established for people living in these areas:

- (1) **Priority projects in sparsely populated areas or areas at risk of depopulation.** The projects will be considered as a special contribution to the reactivation of economic activity.
- (2) **Creation of an Investment Fund to Support Business Projects in Sparsely Populated Areas or at Risk of Depopulation** with an initial amount of € 10 millions, which may be supplemented with contributions from financial entities.
- (3) **Modification of Law 8/2013, of November 21, on CLM Tax Measures:**
 - Taxes deduction for **people living** in rural areas of up to 25% in extremely depopulated areas.
 - Taxes deduction for the **acquisition or rehabilitation of houses** in rural areas: 15% of the total autonomous fee, up to € 12,000 per year.
 - Taxes deduction for **transfer of habitual residence** of up to € 500.
 - Bonuses of the tax quota for **instruments in industrial and tertiary surfaces** of up to 95% in areas of extreme depopulation.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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<https://www.castillalamancha.es/gobierno/agriaguaydesrur>

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