

- **March 23rd, 2023** -

- **Addressing the demographic challenge : Better Cohesion for Rural Areas**
 - *Opportunities and challenges for less densely populated areas*

Chapel room of the Museum of Contemporary Art 'Esteban Vicente'
(Pl. Bellas Artes, S/N, 41001 Segovia)

Following the adoption of the new Cohesion Alliance, Partenalia wishes to shed light on the crucial significance of allowing the Cohesion and NEXTGeneration funds to reach less densely populated areas if the EU is to reach the lofty and ambitious goal of “not leaving anyone behind”. Indeed, the cohesive and balanced development of European territories is key to ensuring both a shared prosperity and the positive outlook of citizens on the European project/future of the EU.

The recent sanitary crisis has accelerated the trend of moving back to such areas. Modern TIC have fortunately made it possible to live and thrive professionally in rural areas thanks to the EU’s commitment to ensuring the installation and maintenance of quality TIC infrastructures. Facilitating the access to Cohesion funds for local SMEs, entrepreneurs and Local Intermediate Authorities with their proven capacity to see to it that EU funds are adequately allocated to ensure their most efficient possible use remains instrumental in achieving the goals set out in the Cohesion Policy.

Attracting tourists to these areas can also pave the way for more sustainable tourism practices and help in the deseasonalisation process aimed both at stabilising the influx of tourists even during the low seasons and thus maintain the need for employment throughout the year and at mitigating the effects of mass tourism on urban centers and coastal areas.

Indeed, these areas are often home to some of our most precious patrimony and keepers of European multisecular traditions and ways of living that represent an undeniable touristic appeal.

Finally, the agricultural sector is in dire need of not only financial means to lead the way towards more sustainable practices via the successful implementation of the “farm to the fork” strategy but also of recognition as the backbone of a healthy European society that places the well-being of its citizens at the top of its priority list.

Presidents of Local Intermediate Authorities from the various Member States, stakeholders involved in the revitalisation of less densely populated areas, regional presidents and high representatives of the European Institutions will share their visions and debate on how to guarantee the cohesive development of less densely populated areas.



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10:00 – 14:00

Welcome (09:45-10:00)

Opening (10:00-10:20)

Miguel Ángel de Vicente Martín – President of the Provincial Council of Segovia

José Manuel Baltar Blanco – President of Partenalia – President of the Provincial Council of Ourense –
President of the EHTTA – Vice President of CEPLI

Panel 1 - European Perspective (10:20 - 11:30)

Krzysztof Hetman – Vice-President of the Committee on Regional Development of the European
Parliament (*video*)

Nicolas Reynès – Coordinator of Partenalia

Gérard Peltre – President of RED and the European Rurality Movement

Grzegorz Kubalski – Deputy Director of the Association of Polish Provinces (ZPP)

Andrzej PŁONKA – President of the Association of Polish Provinces (ZPP) – Starost (president) of the
Powiat of Bielsko(*video*)

Nicolas Rossignol –Deputy Director of Research and Policy ESPON

Questions and answers

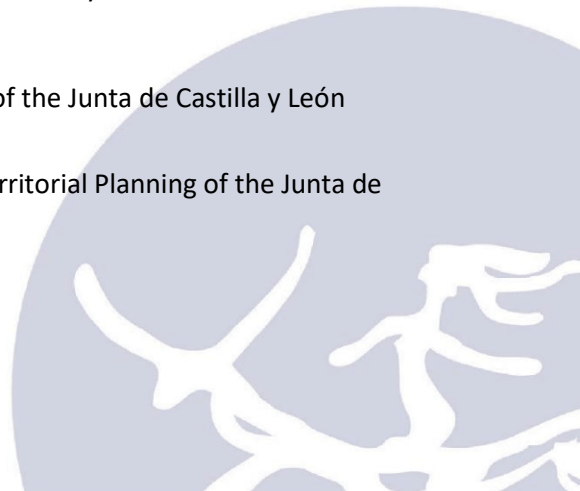
****Pause****

Panel 2 - Success stories and projects to address the demographic situation (11:30–13:00)

Noemí Otero – Deputy for Employment, Provincial Promotion and Sustainability of the Provincial Council
of Segovia

Jorge Llorente Cachorro – Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of the Junta de Castilla y León

Rubén Rodríguez Lucas - Deputy Minister for the Environment and Territorial Planning of the Junta de
Castilla y León (pending confirmation)





Miguel Angel Perez Grande – Advisory Member of the Cabinet of the General Secretariat for the Demographic Challenge (MITECO)

----- (change of speakers) -----

Local Action Groups (4 speakers)

Questions and answers

Panel 3 – Good practices to face the demographic challenge (13:00-14:00)

Magdalena Rodríguez – Deputy of Prodestur of the Provincial Council of Segovia

José Cabanes – President of the Mancomunitat de l'Horta Sud

Ramón Ropero Mancera – Third Vice President Delegate for International Development Cooperation and Bullfighting of the Badajoz Provincial Council

Representative of the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) (pending confirmation)

President of the Judet of Maramureş and/or Timiş (Romania) (pending confirmation - video)

Avelina Vidal García – Deputy for rural development of the Provincial Council of León (remote)

Questions and answers

Conclusion: signing and adhesion of Partenia to the Alliance for Cohesion 2.0

Networking lunch : 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Moderation: **Nicolas Reynès** – Coordinator of Partenia

Interpretation : EN - SP

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