

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SOLIDARITY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

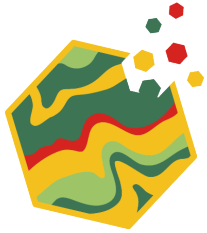


# Diving Deeper into Rural Diversity

James Hutton Institute and University of Gloucestershire



# LIVING LABS: EXAMPLE CHALLENGES



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## GRANULAR - Ourense, Spain,

- Depopulation, ageing, lack of a strong business sector, lack of economic innovation
- An exceptional concentration of hyperlongevos



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## RUSTIK - Nockregion - Oberkärnten, Austria

- Unbalanced job structure, strong deficits in job supply, negative demographic development
- Particular issues of out-migration of young people and women, aging and high commuter rates



## SHERPA –Rural Scotland, UK

- Governance of rural areas is multi-level, across topics, territories, specific topics and places
- Governance is overly complex



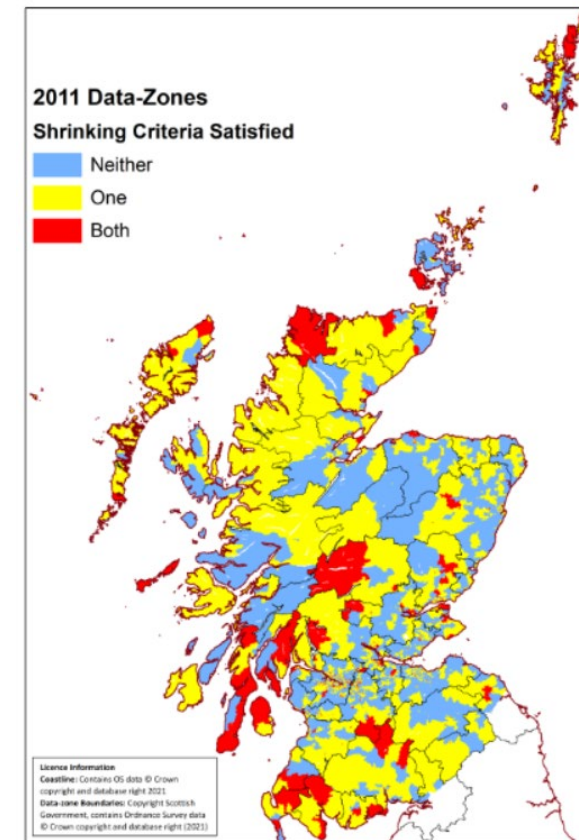
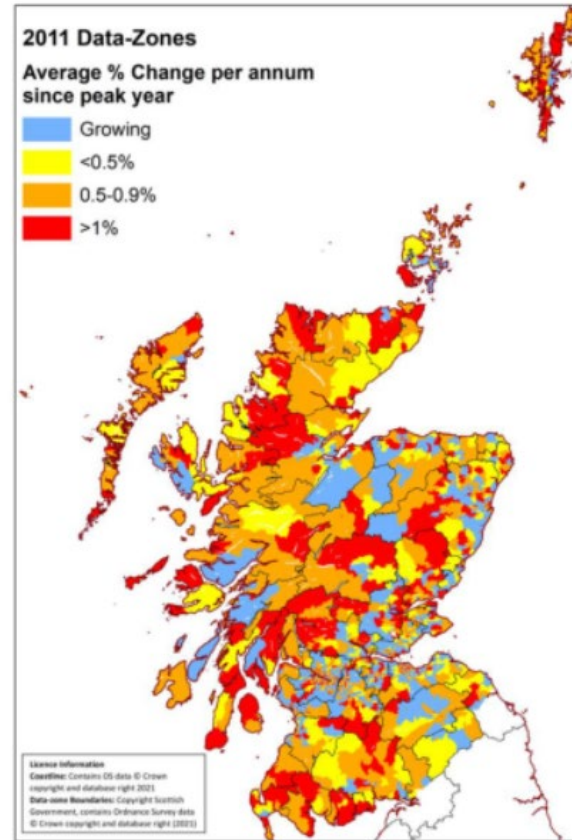
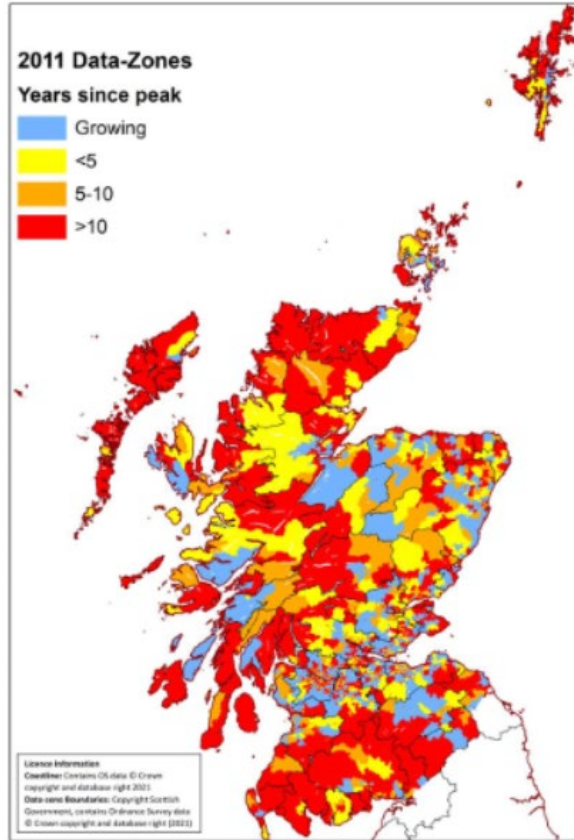
# CHALLENGE: SHRINKING AREAS

Example from Rural Scotland GRANULAR Living Lab, SHERPA Multi-Actor Platform

- 'Complex Shrinking' – economic and social processes underlying and resulting from population decline
- Loss of human and social capital, and reduced skill base

**Shrinking  
areas,  
Scotland,  
UK**

**Population  
Change  
Years since  
peak**



GRANULAR: Rural  
Scotland Living Lab;  
Scottish Government  
Place-based policy  
approaches to  
population challenges



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# CHALLENGE: SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS



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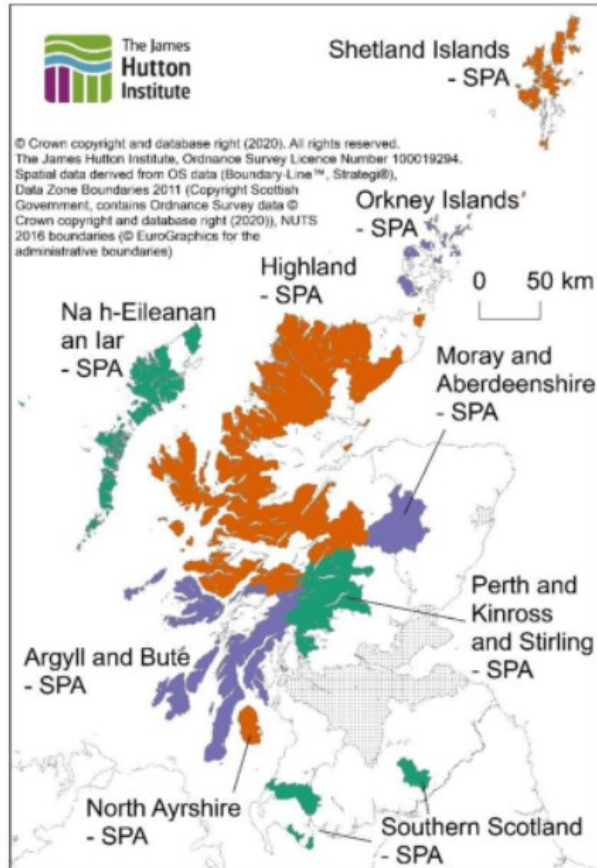


Example characteristic - percentage residents aged over 65

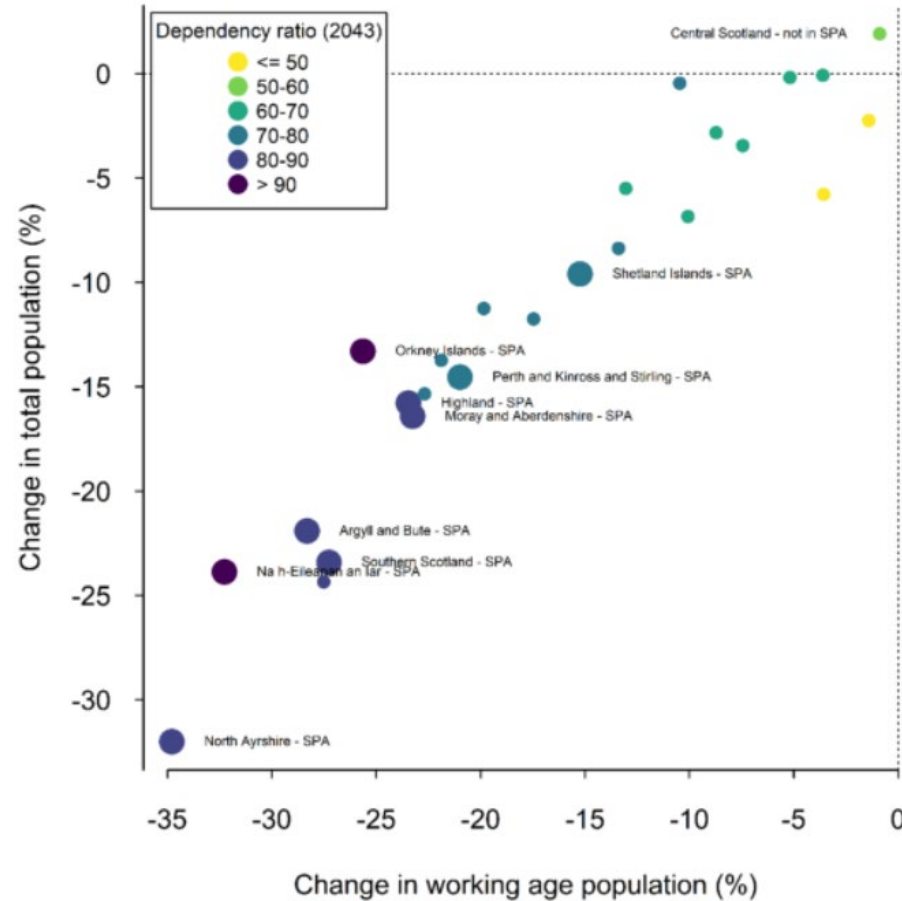
Sparsely populated areas - 27.3%

Urban areas - 17.2%

Map of  
Sparsely  
Populated  
Areas of  
Scotland,  
UK



## Projected Demographic Change 2018-43



- Shrinking working age populations are greatest in sparsely populated areas

### Dependency ratio

Number of children (0-14) and older residents (65 and over) per 100 people of working age



# LIVING LABS: MOBILISING ACTORS

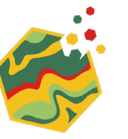


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- Reaching out to previously silent groups (young people, recent in-migrants, disengaged and the most deprived families/households)
- Involving more private actors, commercial entrepreneurs and communities as sources of knowledge/ideas and resources
- Increasing accessibility to information as a means to empower actors and increase the efficiency of actions and policies
- Help governments to better capture and appreciate different perspectives and potential contributions, top-down and bottom-up
- Improve stakeholder appreciation of systemic interlinkages between demographic, environmental, economic and social factors in place-based actions

# LIVING LABS: POLICY PROPOSALS



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## Objectives

- Wellbeing and nature positive economy – broader definition of economy, focusing on community well-being rather than demographic or economic growth
- Economic diversification – new income streams from community-led innovation

## Place-based focus

- Adopt the Place Principle, developing partnership working of citizens, businesses, civil society and policy for territories, emphasising social innovation

## Funding

- Ring-fence EU Cohesion Fund / national territorial funds to stimulate action  
Levies on large scale renewable energy developments in rural areas
- Impact investing and crowdfunding

# OPPORTUNITIES ALIGNED WITH LTVRA



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## Stronger rural areas



- **Flagship: Creating a stronger innovation ecosystem for rural areas**
- **Enhanced networking for LEADER and Smart Villages**

## EU policy areas:

**EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas; Cohesion Policy; Just Transition Fund**

## National policy areas:

**(Scotland) 3<sup>rd</sup> Land Use Strategy; Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund**

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