

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SOLIDARITY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES



GRANULAR



Diving Deeper into Rural Diversity

James Hutton Institute and University of Gloucestershire



The James
Hutton
Institute



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Technical Workshop on Solidarity and
Rural Communities

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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



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



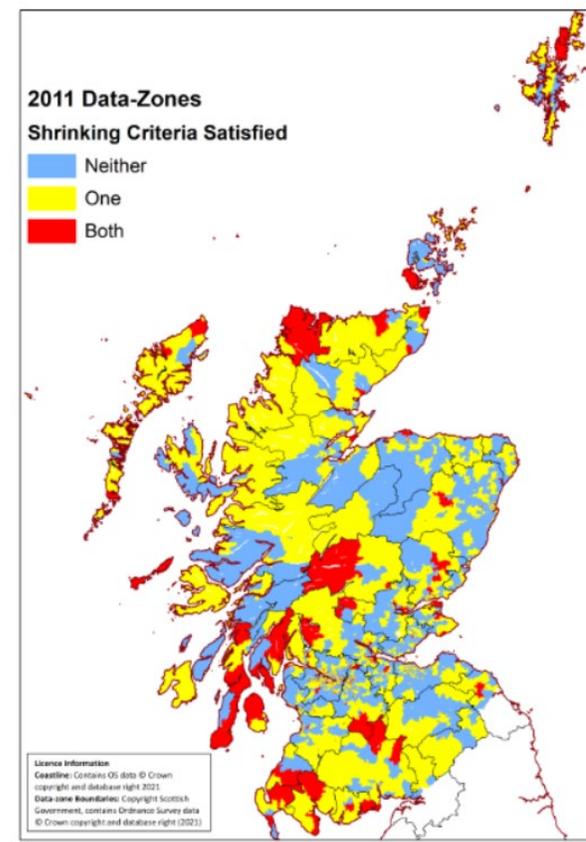
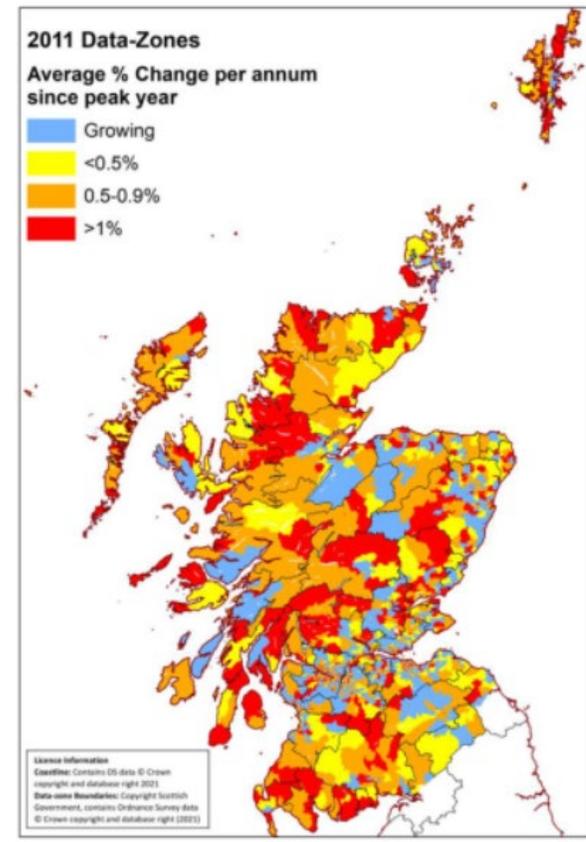
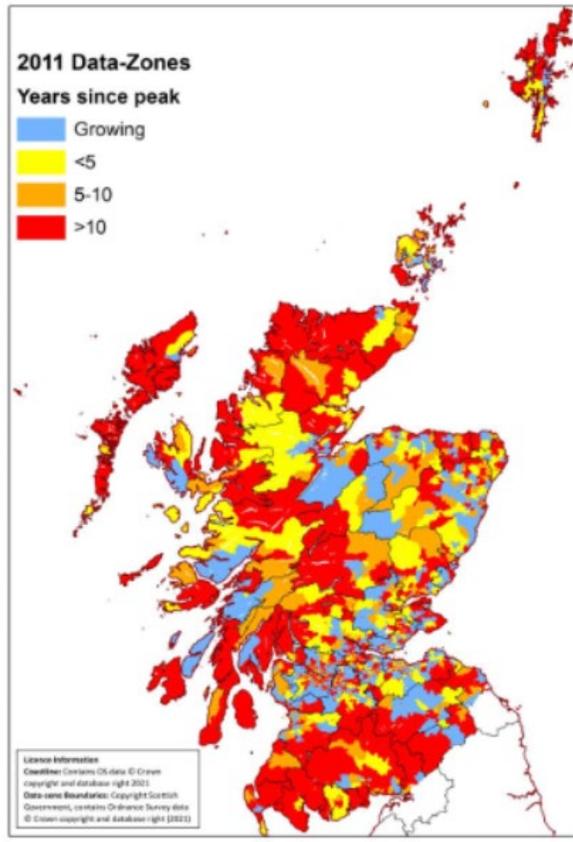
Example from Rural Scotland GRANULAR Living Lab, SHERPA Multi-Actor Platform

- ‘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

- 10+ yrs
- 5-9.9 yrs
- <5 yrs
- peak = 2020



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

CHALLENGE: SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS



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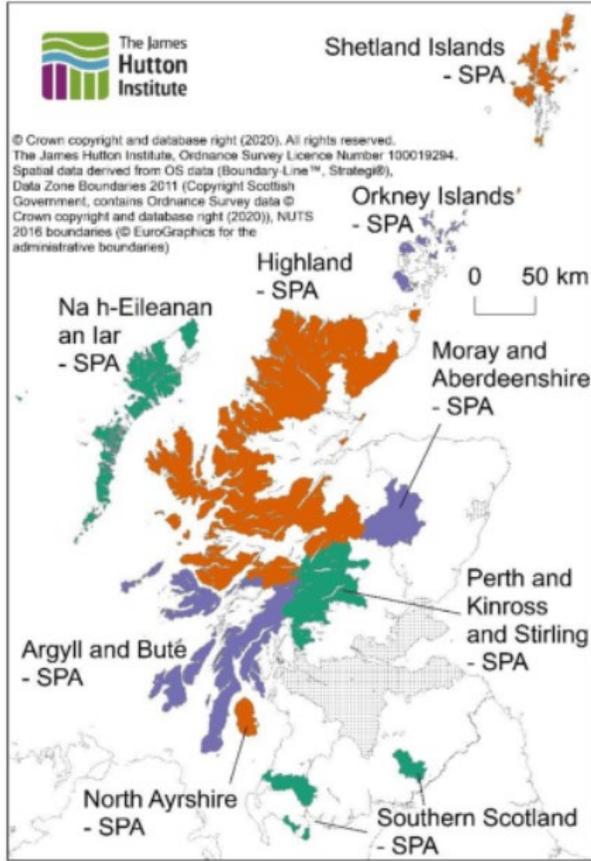


Example characteristic - percentage residents aged over 65

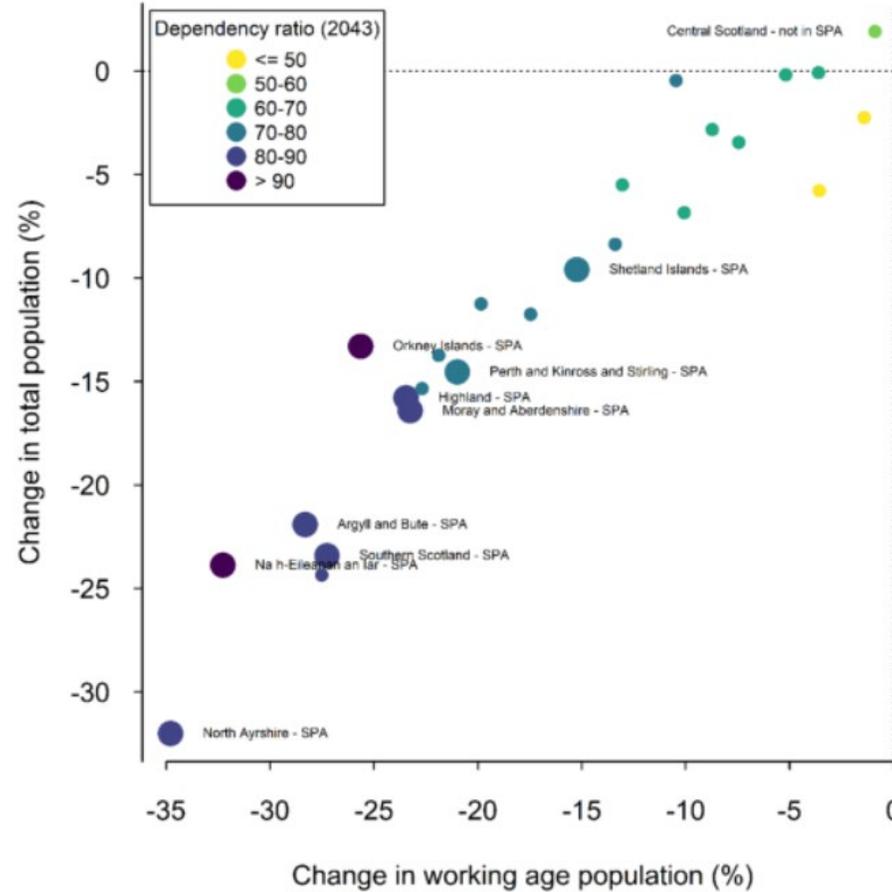
Sparsely populated areas - 27.3%

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

- 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



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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) 3rd Land Use Strategy; Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund

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