

XIII European Mountain Convention

Shaping the future of mountain economies

15 - 18 October 2024 | Puigcerdà - Catalonia

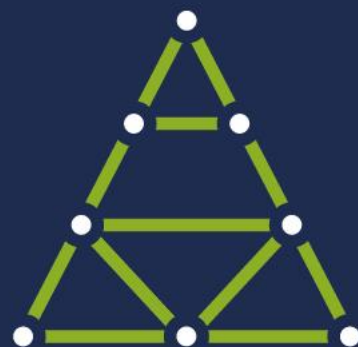
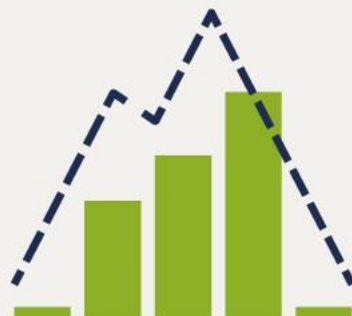
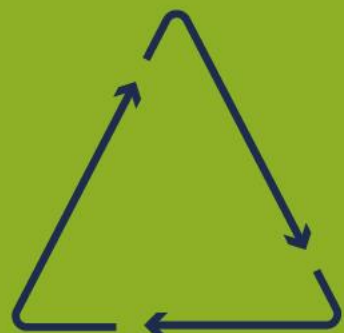


Kjell Overvåg

Professor

Inland Norway University of
Applied Sciences

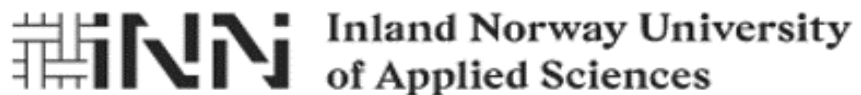
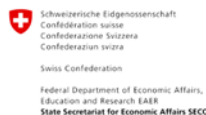
RURALPLAN- Innovative planning in shrinking societies



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The RURALPLAN project team



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Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete
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Project leader



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Line Tholstrup, researcher and facilitator



Trude Hella Eide, researcher and facilitator

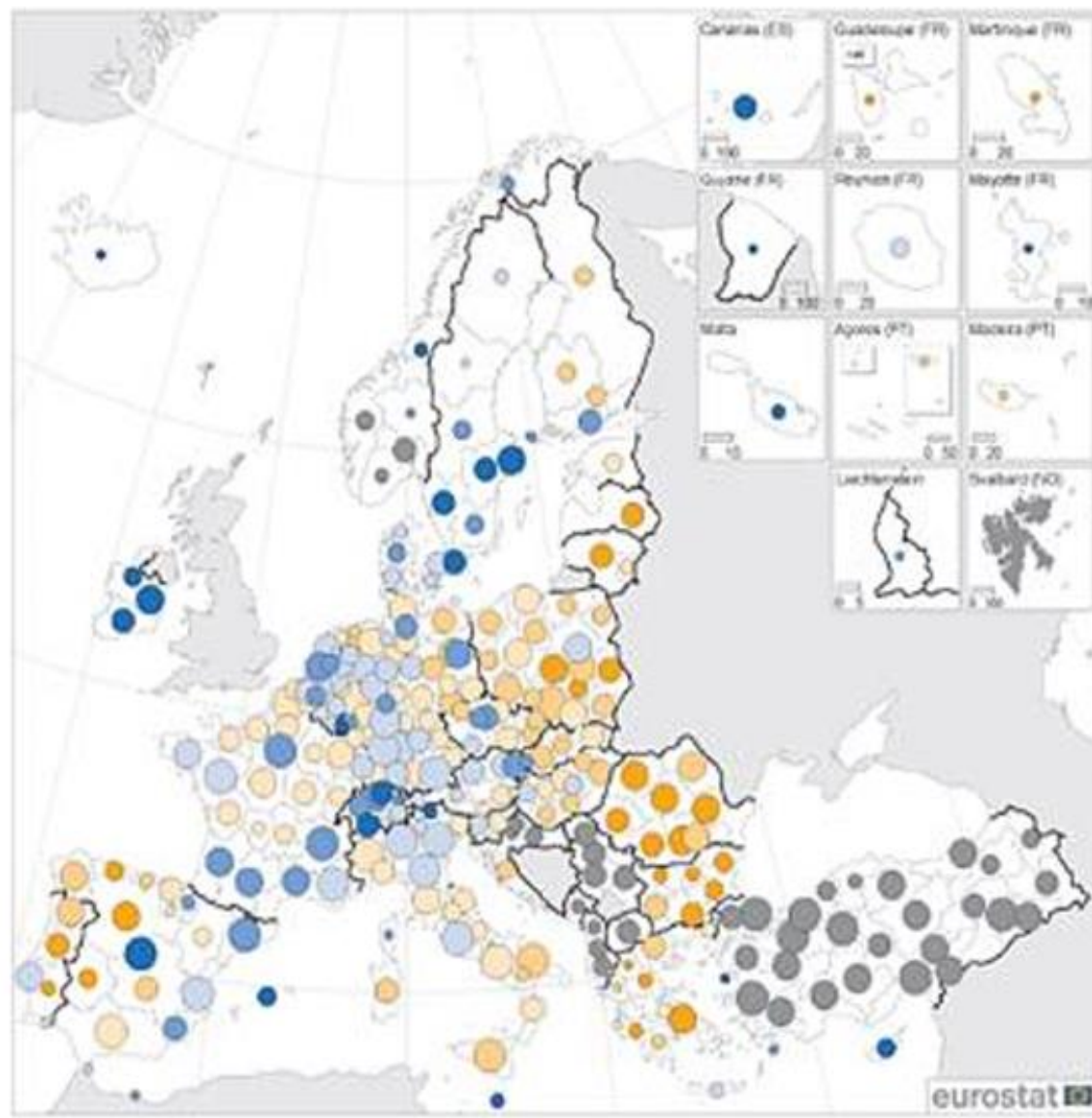


Aleksander Bern, researcher and GIS-expert



Windy Kester Moe, communicator





Projected change
2021- 2050
(per1000persons)

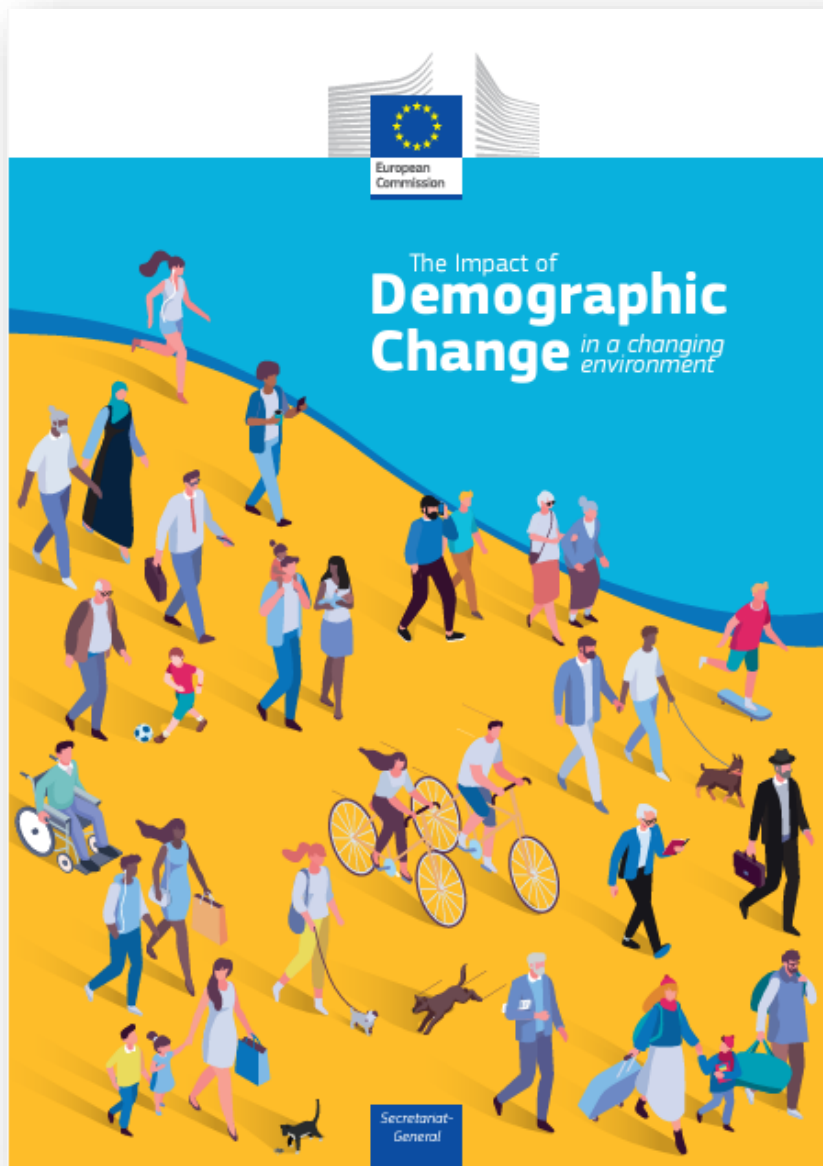
2021 (million persons)
EU = 447.2

- ≥ 150
- $75 - < 150$
- $0 - < 75$
- $-75 - < 0$
- $-75 - < -150$
- < -150
- Data not available

- ≥ 3.75
- $2.25 - < 3.75$
- $1.40 - < 2.25$
- $0.85 - < 1.40$
- $0.45 - < 0.85$
- < 0.45

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Cartography Eurostat — GISCO, 09/2022
Source Eurostat (demo_r_pjanrp3, proj_19rp3, demo_pjan, proj_19rp)





OECD

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OECD > Topics > Demographic change in regions and cities

Demographic change in regions and cities


Many places in the OECD face declining and ageing populations. This trend will continue. 14 OECD countries are expecting to lose population by 2040. In some regions this trend will be lasting and strong, with some projected to lose 20% or more of their population by 2050. Strong population shrinkage brings challenges that are best addressed at the regional and local level. For example, the costs of services and infrastructure provision rise per person, while quality and access risks declining. Affected regions typically struggle with labour and skill shortages, deteriorating real estate values, eroding tax bases and vacant buildings. The effects vary across regions: while people often migrate from rural to urban regions, some cities and towns are also affected by population decline. Local policies, delivered with national support, are necessary to foster well-being, economic and environmental sustainability. They need to cover government finances, infrastructure and service provision as well as multilevel governance.

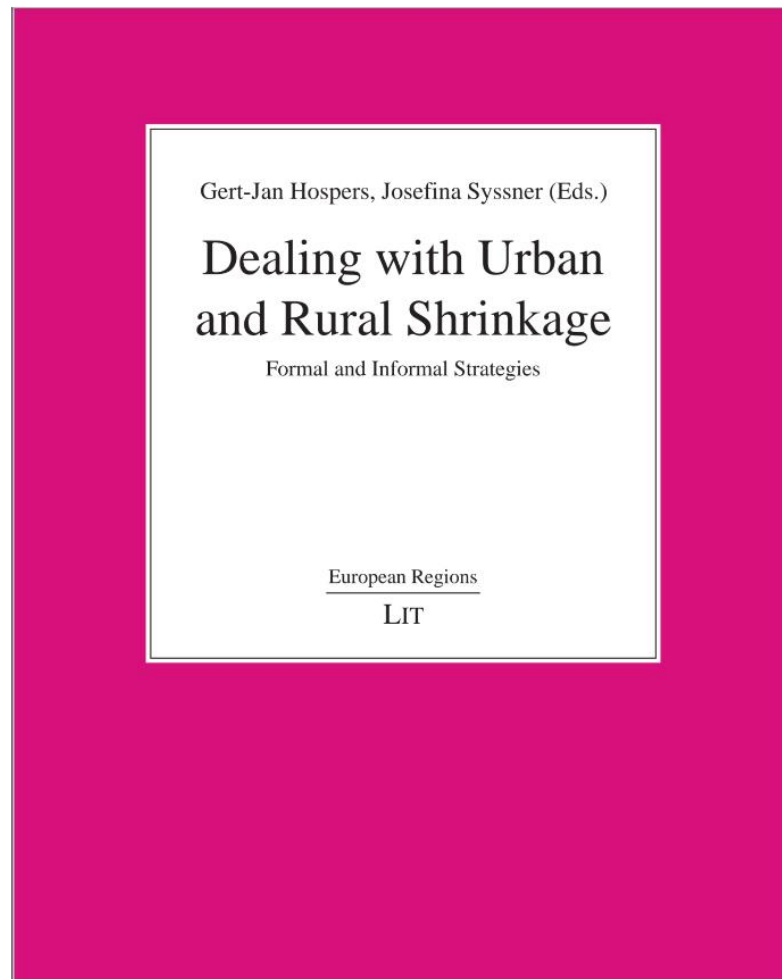
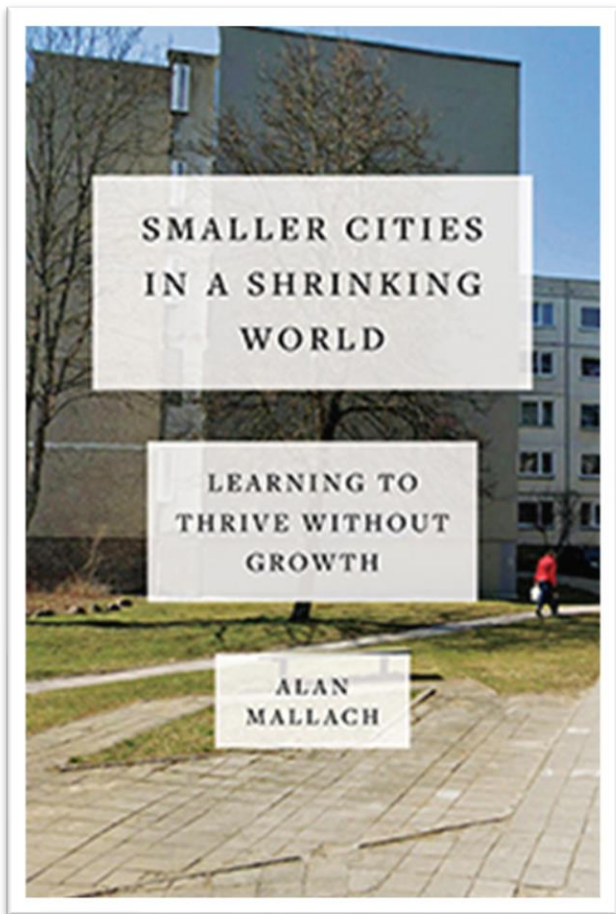
Policy sub-issue

Key links

[Shrinking Smartly and Sustainably Flyer](#) >

[Shrinking Smartly in Estonia](#) >





RUSTIK

Rural Sustainability
Transitions through
Integration of Knowledge for
improved policy processes




CASPER

Citizen Activation in Shifting
rural areas for Place-based
policies to Enhance Resilience

ESPON  **Co-funded by the European Union**
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RURALPLAN - Innovative planning in shrinking societies

Perspective for all people and places · [Projects](#)

Lifetime **December 2023 – November 2024** Budget **EUR 249,994.00**



Responses to shrinking in planning and policy

- Trivialising – unwillingness to face shrinking
- Countering – goal of resuming population growth
- Accepting and adapting
- Utilizing shrinking

A stigma which is at odds with the ideals of decision-makers



Recommendations from earlier projects and research:

- Accept the demographic changes – include it as a central part of the planning process at all levels ("realistic planning")
- Decouple shrinkage from failure
- Development and "success" - more than population growth (quality of life, inclusion, natural environment, entrepreneurs, etc.). New types of goals/strategies?
- Citizen involvement important
- Cooperation between sectors, levels etc.

A need to develop knowledge-based and innovative theories, models and practices that can meet the complex challenges of this development.



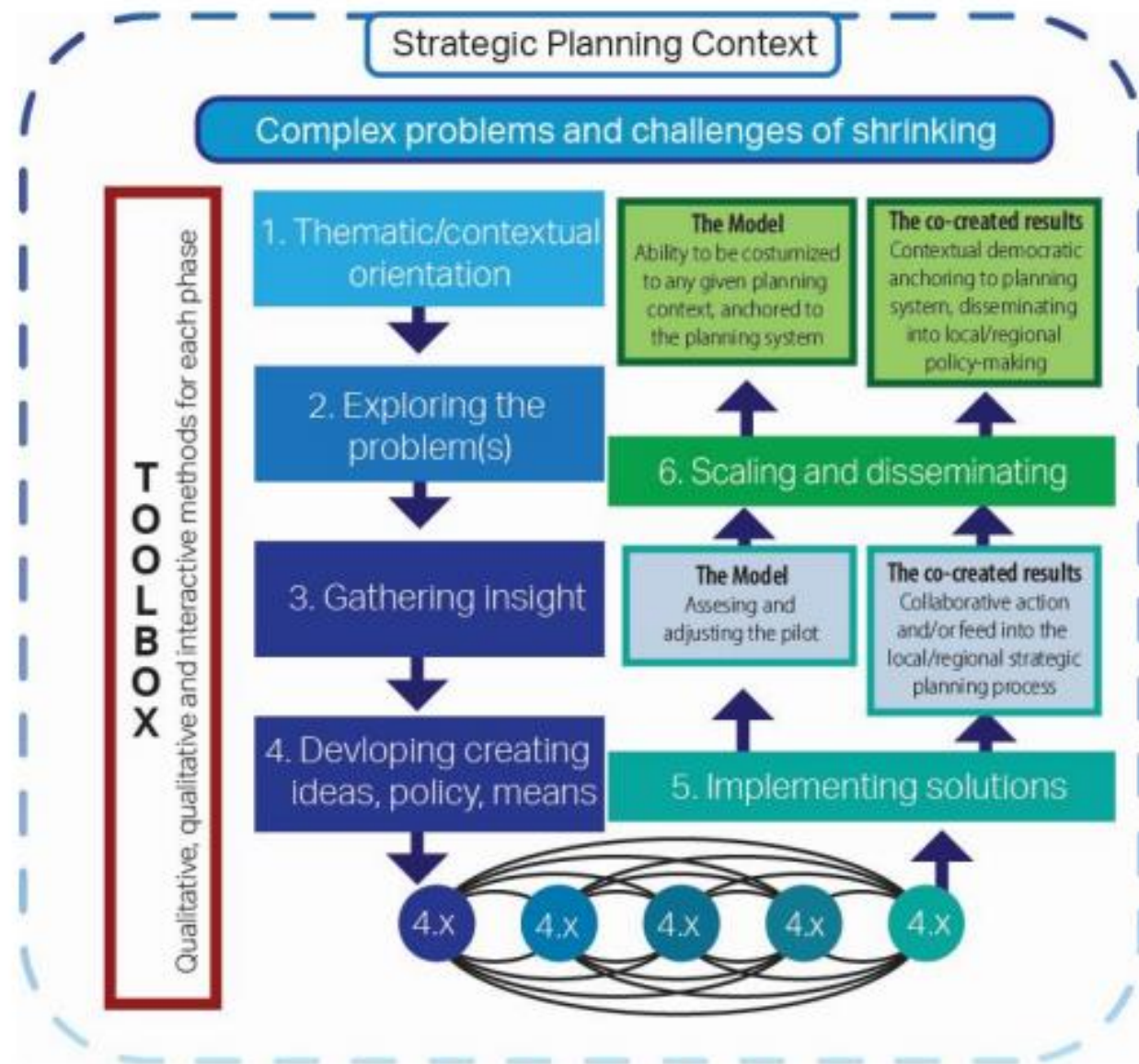
RURALPLAN

1. Take the recommendations as a starting point: accept/adapt to demographic changes, disconnect shrinking from failure etc. («contextual orientation»)
2. Implement and test a model for innovative planning (RUPIL). (model known from innovation-processes – but here implemented in and adapted to societal planning)



RUPIL

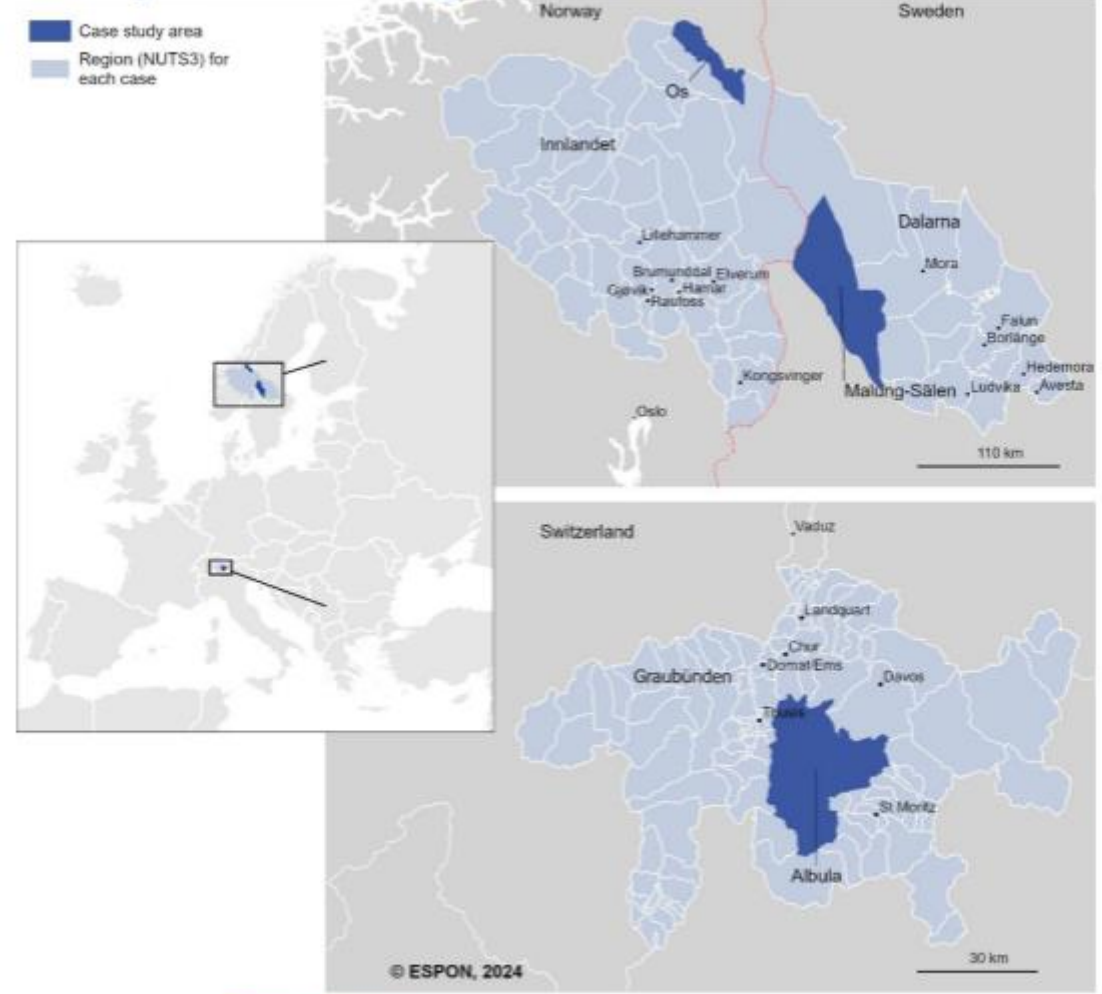
The Rural
Planning and
Innovation Lab



Map 2.1

Case study areas in Switzerland (Albula), Sweden (Malung-Sälen) and Norway (Os)

Case-study areas in their NUTS3 regions



ESPON Co-funded by the European Union

Territorial level: LAU (2021)
 ESPON project: RURALPLAN
 Origin of data: Eurostat (2024)
 © EuroGeographics for administrative boundaries

Source: Authors own elaboration



The pilot cases

Malung-Sälen
municipality,
Dalarna
Sweden



The Albula region, Graubünden,
Switzerland



Os municipality, Innlandet, Norway



Experiences so far

- Starting point («contextual orientation») well received among actors involved
- Seems to influence what kind of goals, strategies and measures are selected/worked upon (innovation?)
- RUPIL is adaptable to these different contexts – modifications are under consideration

Final reports in December 2024



Gràcies
Gracias
Thank you
Merci

