

Axencia Galega de Desenvolvemento Rural Regional Report Year 1

Environmental risks related with depopulation and ageing population in rural areas



Co-funded by the European Union

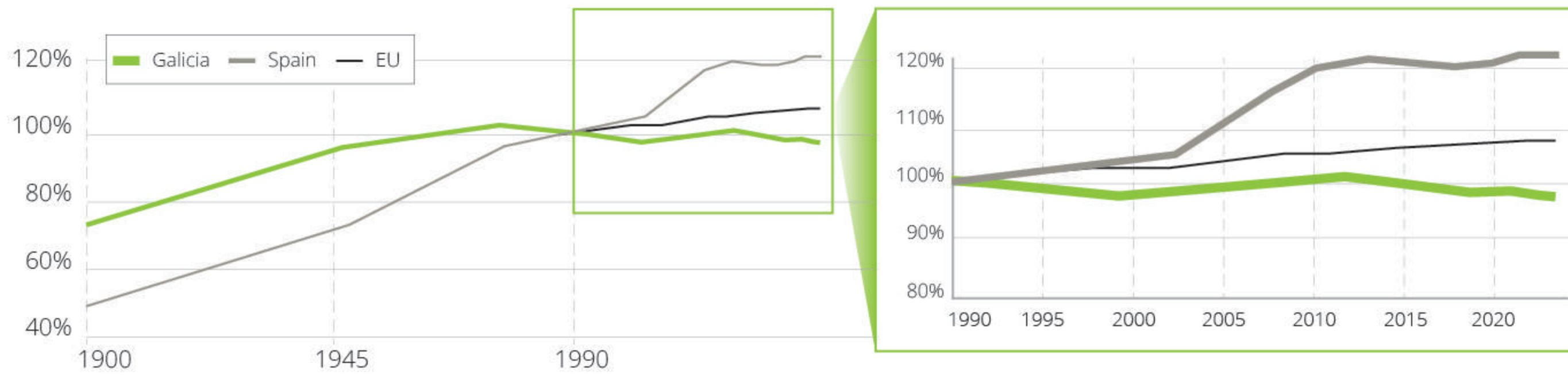
Down to Earth



AXENCIA GALEGA DE DESENVOLVEMENTO RURAL

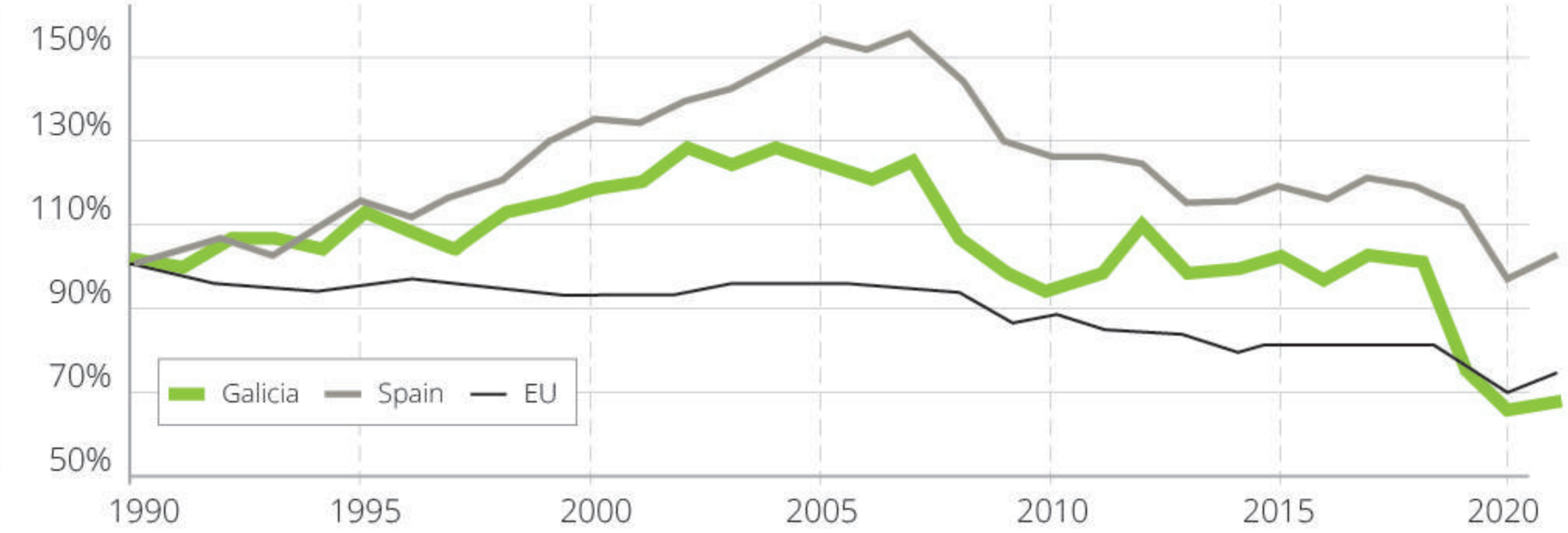
Demographic trends

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística & EUROSTAT



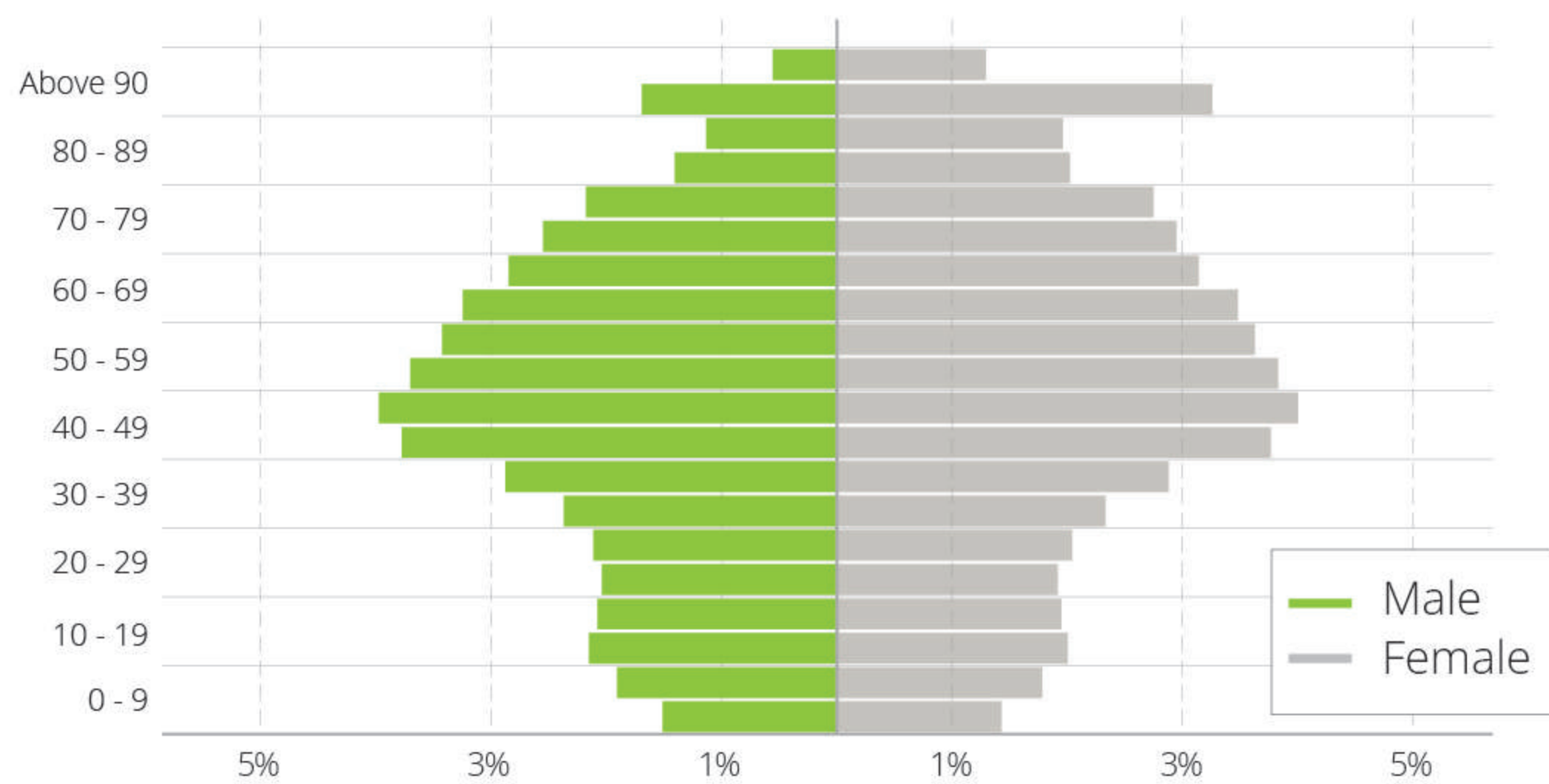
Regional GHG emissions

Source: Instituto Galego de Estadística & EUROSTAT

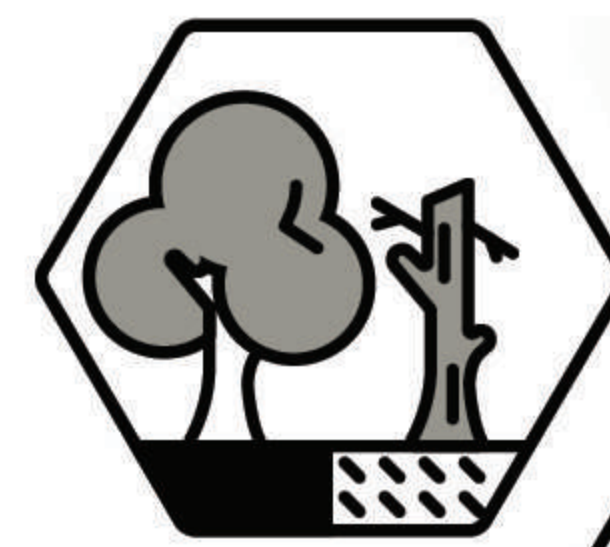


Population Pyramid

Total population: 2.831.638 inhabitants (EUROSTAT 2022)



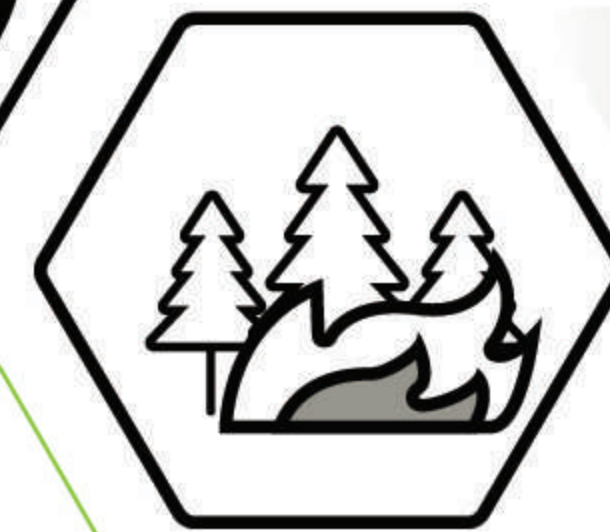
Environmental risks and effects of climate change



Forest degradation



Biodiversity loss



Wildfires

2021 Galician Agrarian Land Recovery Law

Policy Objective

Galician Climate Law: Carbon Neutrality by 2050



Strengths

- Demographic challenge acknowledgement
- Forests as carbon sink
- RE energy potential (wind)
- Diverse rural environment
- Making sustainability profitable and attractive
- Community-driven response to wildfires

Weaknesses

- Profitability hurdles
- Undefined rural areas
- Rural depopulation
- Regulatory complexities
- Housing accessibility
- Perception of climate change impact

Opportunities

- Market demand for sustainability
- Rewarding innovation
- Promoting sustainability
- Agriculture-tourism synergy
- Renewable energy transition
- Economic momentum through climate action
- Industrial decarbonisation

Threats

- Competing sectors (agriculture, tourism, etc.)
- Land ownership challenges
- Regulatory barriers
- Climate change uncertainty
- Local community conflicts
- Resource export vs. local impact
- Increased weather instability caused by climate change
- Economic sectors of significant vulnerability to climate change

Cases that address ageing, depopulation and related environmental risks



Daycare in rural Galicia: "Nest Homes" for childcare



Recovery of agricultural land: "Aldea de Penedo" Model Village

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