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COMISSÃO DE COORDENAÇÃO E
DESENVOLVIMENTO REGIONAL DO NORTE

Local and Regional cooperation for demographic change

Public services in demographically challenged areas

Carlos Neves

Vice-President CCDR-N
Norte Region of Portugal

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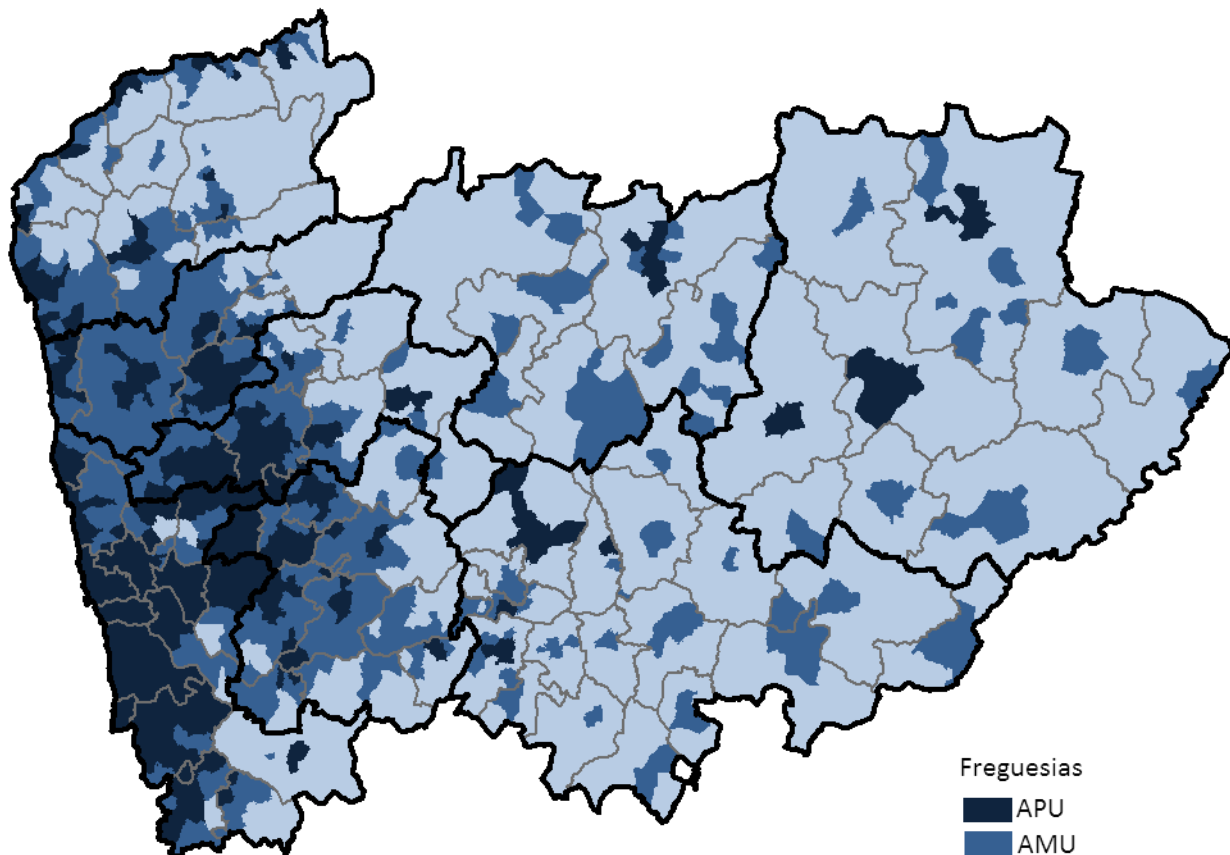
- 1. Urban and rural regions in the Norte Region of Portugal***
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- 1. Urban and rural regions in the Norte Region of Portugal***
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1. Urban VS Rural Regions



TIPAU 2014 (CAOP2013)

Freguesias

■ APU

■ AMU

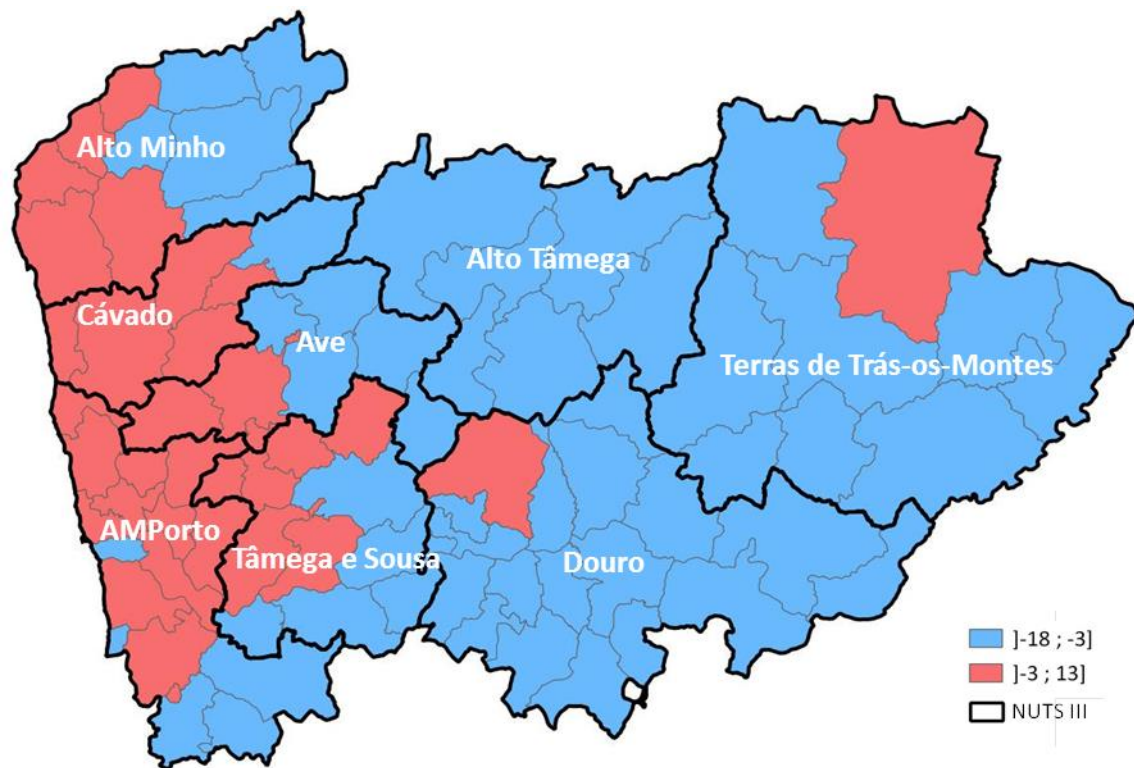
■ APR

■ NUTS III

■ Concelhos

- *Predominantly Rural Areas (APR) are in the interior;*
- *Predominantly Urban Areas (APU) along the coast;*
- *Some Medium Urban Areas (AMU) spread in the territory.*

1. Urban VS Rural Regions Norte



Territories in sharp demographic loss vs. expansion territories or nearly demographic stagnation in the Norte Region (Population change by Place of residence)

Source: INE, Censos 2001 and 2011

- *In the past decade Norte population stabilizes at 3.7 million inhabitants;*
- *However, under this apparent stability there was a population redistribution process: a population decline in the rural areas and the strengthening of **urbanization** phenomena, with **coastal** and **metropolitan** population concentration.*

1. Urban VS Rural Regions Norte

Population change by Place of residence (%)

NUTS II III	APU	AMU	APR	Total
Alto Minho	3,8	-4,1	-10,9	-2,2
Cávado	8,6	-2,3	-13,8	4,4
Ave	2,9	-4,1	-15,3	-0,2
AMP	2,4	-3,7	-10,2	1,7
Alto Tâmega	-1,7	-4,6	-17,8	-10,1
Tâmega e Sousa	4,6	-3,3	-11,1	-0,3
Douro	8,8	-5,7	-15,3	-7,0
Terras de Trás-os-Montes	6,3	-4,4	-16,7	-7,6
Região do Norte	3,5	-3,7	-14,2	0,1

Source: INE, Censos 2001 and 2011

- The **predominantly rural areas (APR)** loses population;
- The **predominantly urban areas (APU) increased** population ;
- But there are still **small and medium urban centers** in rural areas which allowed to stop the population decline those areas.

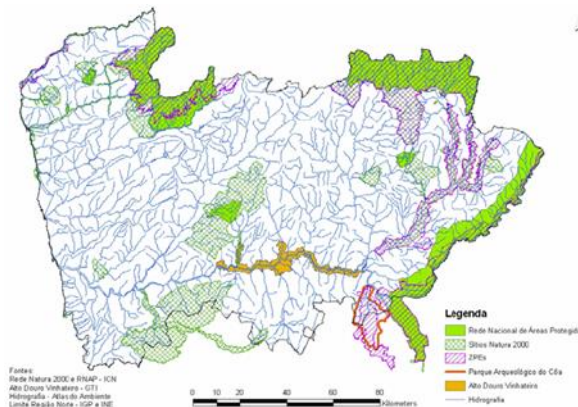


1. Urban VS Rural Regions

- The agriculture not only produces food and productive landscape. Simultaneously **produces symbolic and identity capital** responsible for the increase and diversification of new economic and social uses of the territory. **Brands are important both in domestic and international markets.** The **landscape** allows new economic and social uses of the territory, in particular linked to tourism.
- Tourism, in its various aspects (including hunting and fishing), allows local consumption experiences looking for authenticity generates loyalty of consumers and territorial promotion.
- Rural areas and low density of the Norte Region are holders of an important heritage (landscape, historical, cultural or natural) that must be preserved, promoted and highlighted.



The Alto Douro Wine Region was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001.



About ¼ of the regional territory corresponds to nuclear areas of conservation of nature and biodiversity which include the only National Park, four natural parks, several protected national and local landscapes, 19 Sites of Community Interest (SCI) and six special Protection Zones (SPA) integrated into the Natura 2000 network.

1. Urban VS Rural Regions

Some Conclusions

- Small and medium cities in the rural areas are essential to the structure of the **regional urban system**;
- The rural development can only be possible based on a **polycentric network of small and medium urban centers**; These urban centers are critical to provide services to citizens and businesses;
- Without them, it is not possible to generate virtuous circles of local development, that is, to promote sustainable consumption, income, savings and investment;
- But what happened before in this time is **unrepeatable**. Much of this development was **dependent on public investment**, on the extension of powers of municipalities, on central government functions decentralization (especially in education and health) and on redistributive policies;
- The **urban system in rural areas was disconnected** of their agricultural and rural environment and the productive activities.
- The public policy in rural areas needs to help rural regions to grow, raise employment and living standards through “**sustainable occupation of rural territories**”.

1. Urban VS Rural Regions

Some Conclusions

- The **main objectives should be**: (i) support enterprises in the agriculture industry , the agro-alimentary industry and the forestry industry; (ii) create new jobs opportunities outside the agriculture industry (for example in tourism); (iii) development of coordination and connections between urban and rural areas; (iv) circumscribe strictly the existing urban spaces, consolidating them and preventing their permanent territorial expansion and sparsely population;
- Given the present economical and social situation the **main challenge for rural areas is to promote their competitiveness**. This challenge needs public policies with a larger territorial scope;
- The **municipal level is not an optimal scale** for promoting job creating business investments, even if it is a suitable reference for the local supply of public goods and services. An optimal scale needs to be found for promoting these policies e adequate governance models. **Inter-municipal entities and Regional Development Agencies** operate on a privileged scale for promoting these policies;

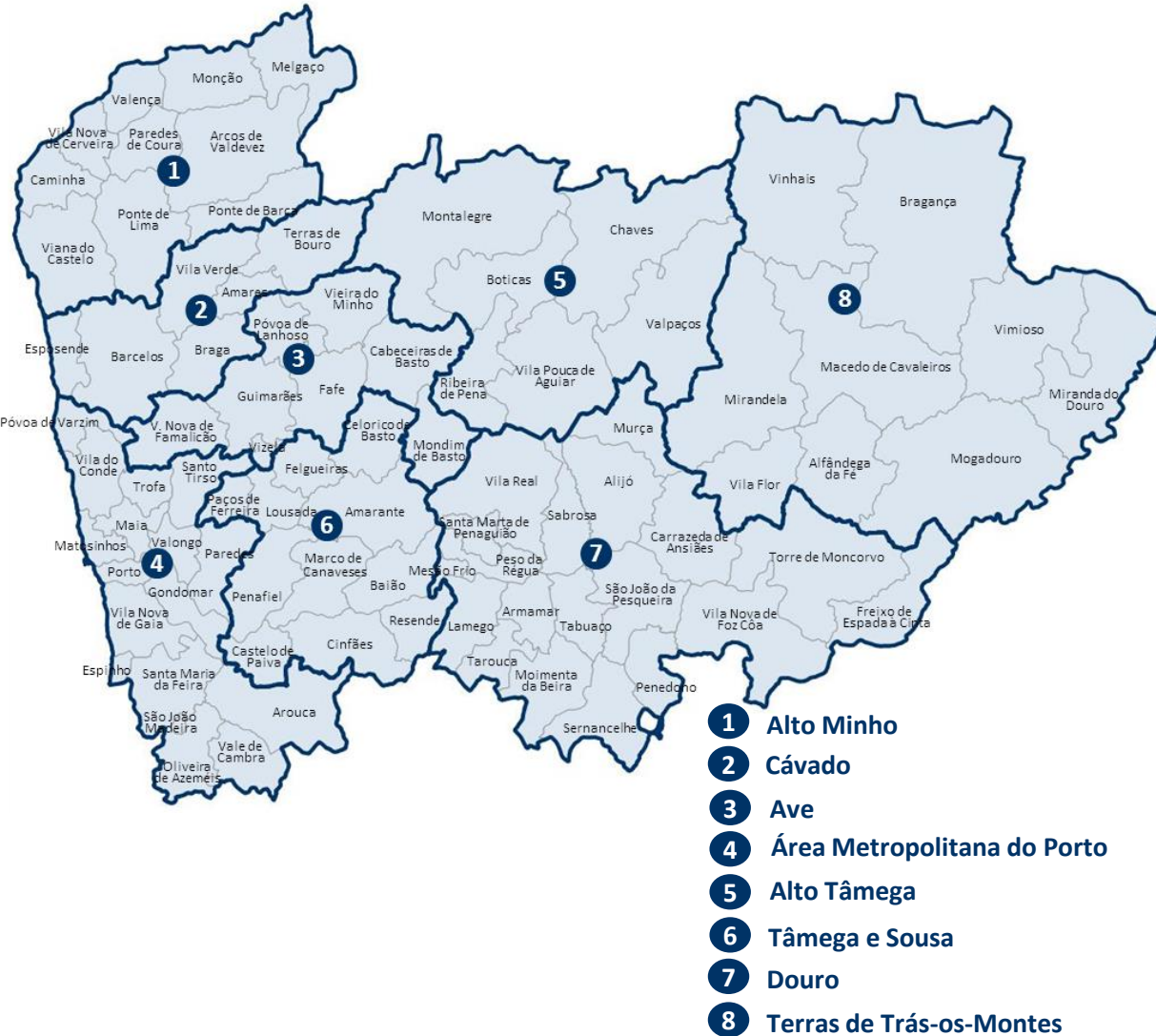
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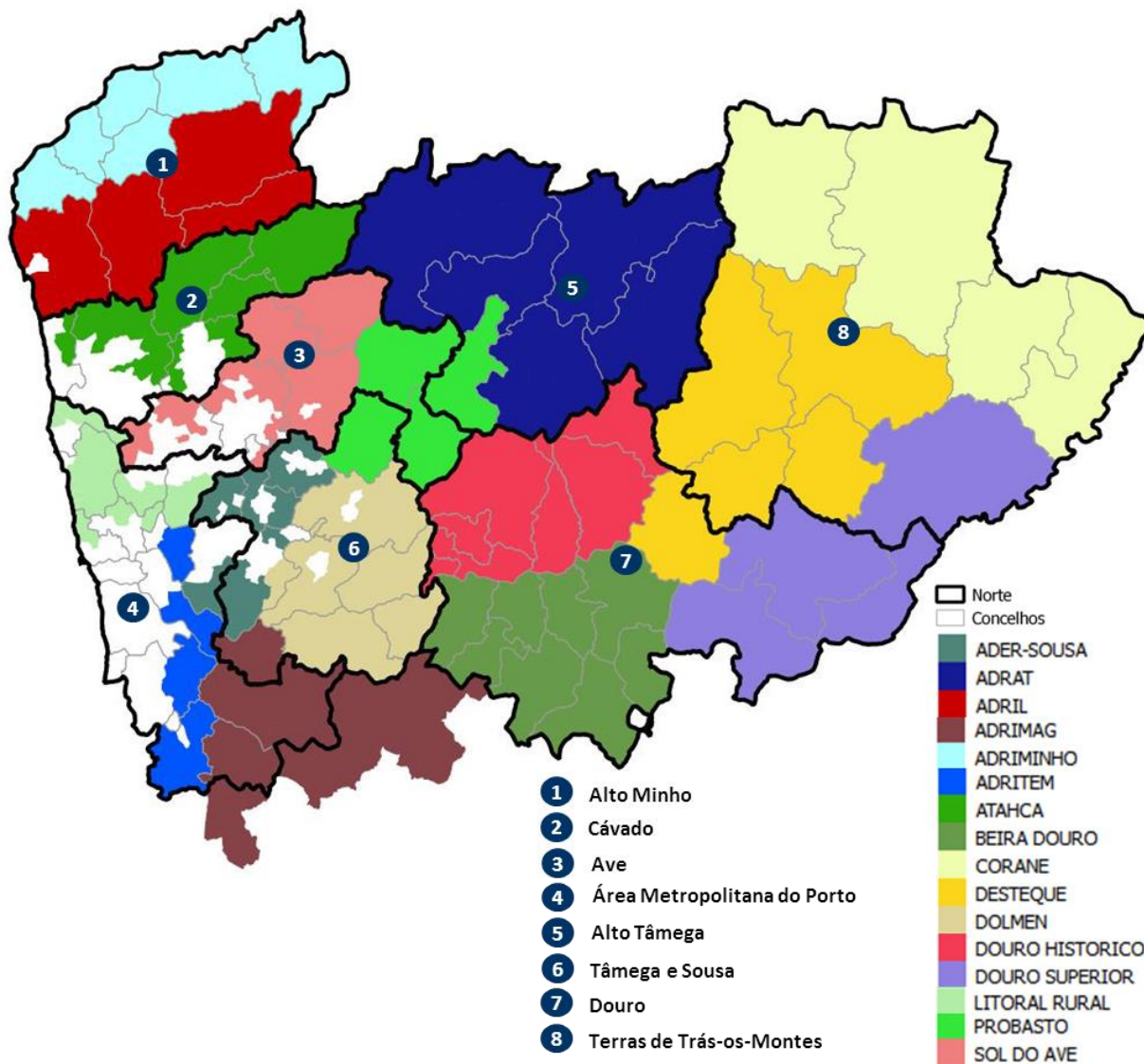
2. Public Policies for Rural development

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI):

- promote territorial dialogue, developing coordination and promoting partnership with territorial development stakeholders such as local governments, other public bodies, business, NGOs and representatives of local community groups;
- introducing a multilevel governance system;
- encouraging more effective management and implementation of public policies;
- building monitoring and evaluation capacity.



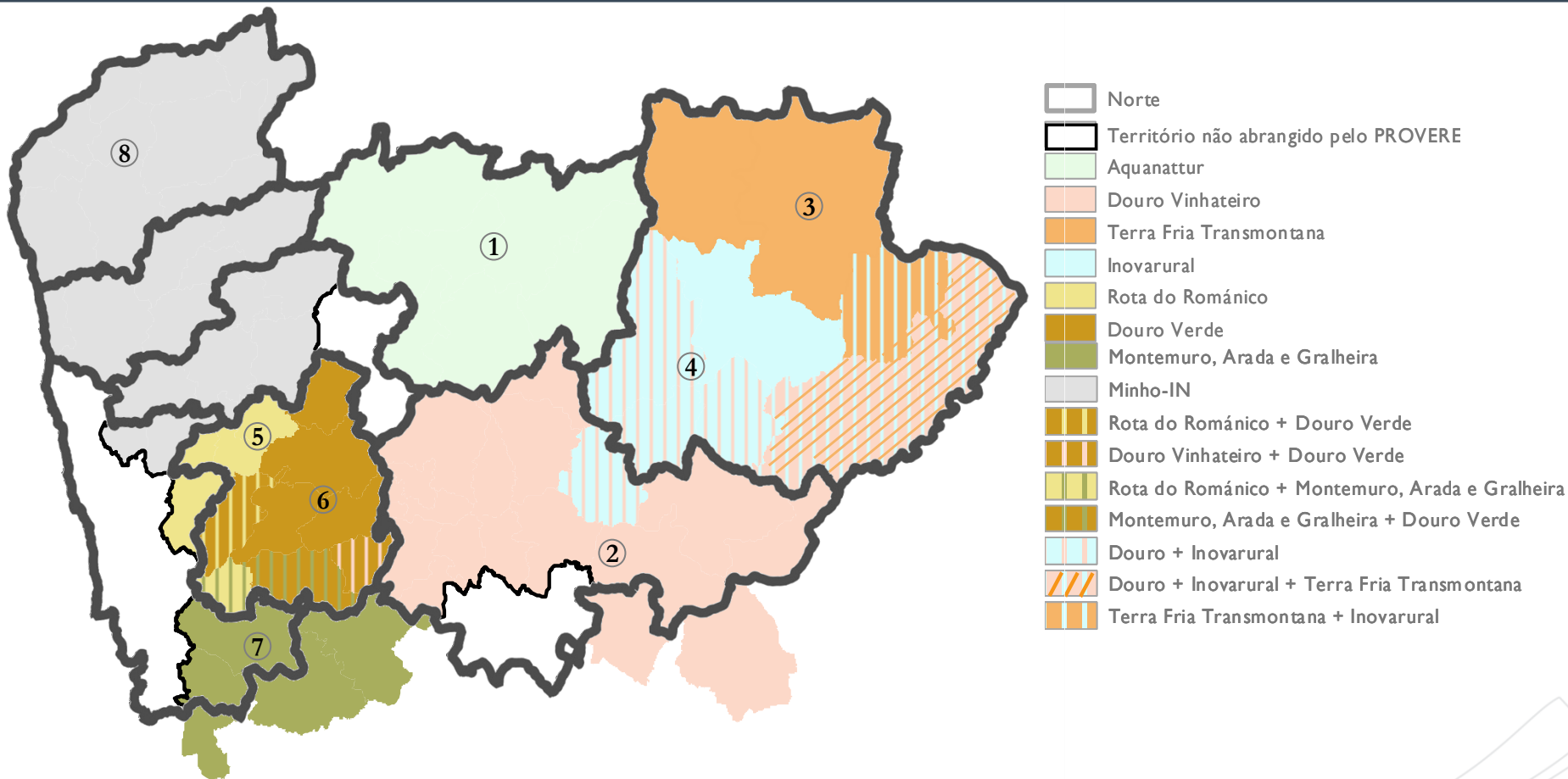
2. Public Policies for Rural development



CLDS

Community-led local development strategy : the Local action groups for rural development design and implement the local development strategies 2014-2020

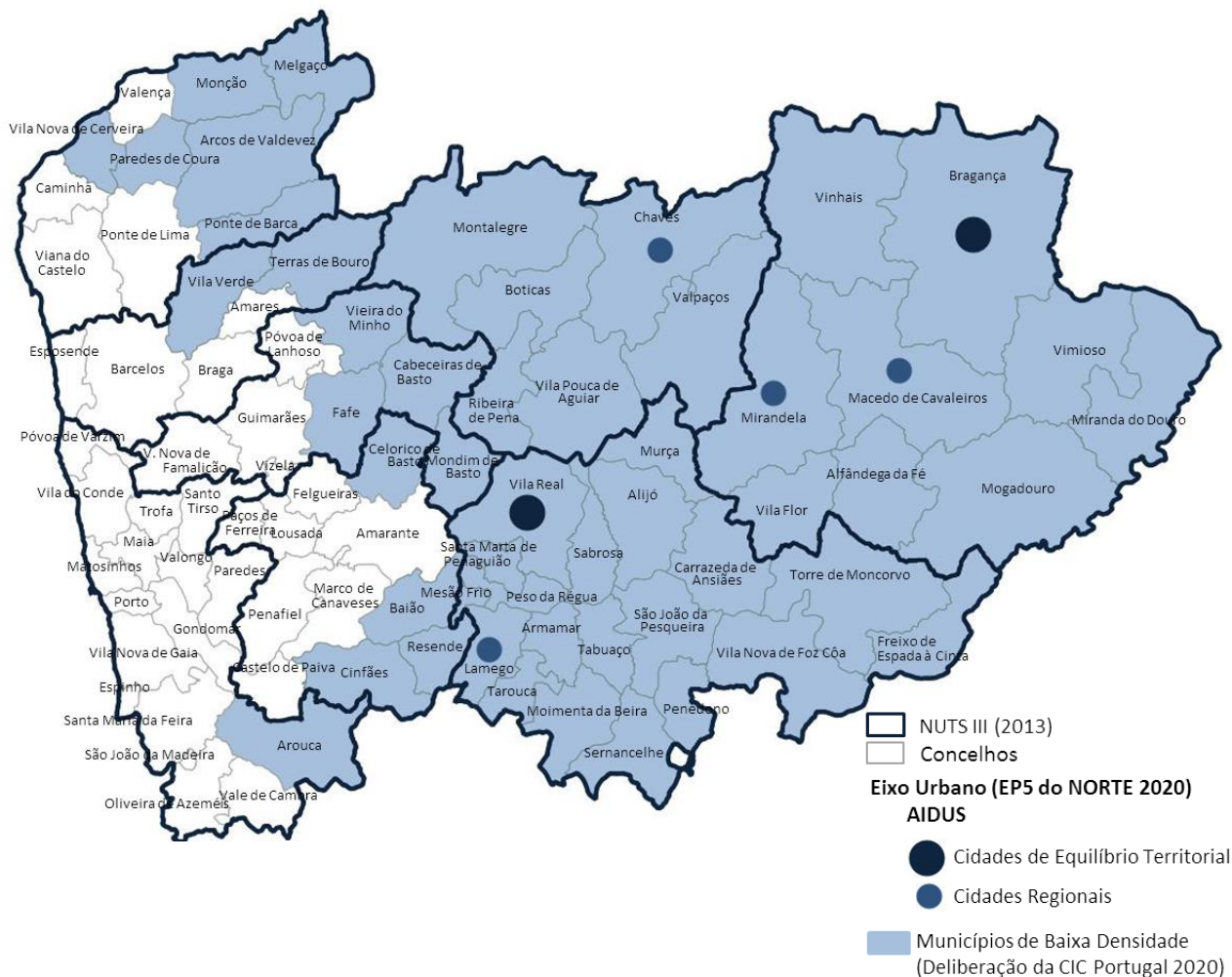
2. Public Policies for Rural development



The **PROVERE** initiative promotes **strategic partnerships** for the implementation of innovative **territorial development plans**. Designed to stimulate initiatives by economic, social and institutional agents, for the improvement of **territorial competitiveness based on endogenous resources** that are unique to a specific territory.

2. Public Policies for Rural development

Rural Areas (Low population density areas)



- The National and Regional Operational Programmes offer a positive discrimination for rural areas either through specific calls for tenders, **bonus rules** in project evaluation or **increasing the co-financing rate**;
- **Integrated Actions for Urban Sustainable Development (AIDUS)** in the main Urban Centres in rural areas.

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3. Conclusions

- The development of Rural Areas needs a **solid network of small and medium urban centres**. It is also necessary a greater coordination between urban centres and their agricultural and rural environment, valuating recourses and assets presents in the territory (culture, tourism, environment, etc.);
- Development problems are not only associated with the provision of local public goods and services. Development problems are particularly associated with **economic competitiveness problems** and **low levels of investments** that generates high income levels and employment, without both, people will continue to leave from rural areas;
- The economic competitiveness requires **public policies with a wider territorial scope and suitable governance models**. The Municipal level is not enough. Inter-municipal entities and Regional Development Agencies operate on a privileged scale for promoting these policies and needs to be involved;
- For the Programming Period 2014-2020 the development of rural areas depends not only on positive discrimination, but mainly on the **effectiveness an efficiency of public policies** that are persecuted with the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), Community-led Local Development (DLBC) and Integrated Actions for Urban Sustainable Development (AIDUS).

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Thank You

Carlos Neves

Vice-President CCDR-N
Norte Region of Portugal

carlos.neves@ccdr-n.pt