



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

Interview Report

Dear interviewer,

Please use this document to report on the expert interviews. Please do not summarize more than one interview per interview report. Wherever you have added questions, please add them also in this Interview Report. For any questions or concerns, please contact your local coordinator or logov@eurac.edu

Thank you very much!

Informed consent

See *informed consent sheet*

Can identifying information be shared with LoGov researchers?	[yes]
Use of real name for quotes?	[yes]
Archiving of non-anonymized audio-recording	[yes]
Archiving of the anonymized transcript of the recording	[yes]
Archiving of the anonymized interview report	[yes]

Basic information

Date of the interview	28/07/2021
Name of the interviewer	MÓNICA DOMÍNGUEZ MARTÍN
[Name of the expert, check consent above]	MARÍA DEL MAR ANGULO PÉREZ
Affiliation of the expert	Madrid Council
Position/Job description	Coordinator of Villa de Vallecas District (Madrid)
Gender	FEMALE
Years of experience	More than 20 years
Area of expertise	civil servant, legal expert
Rural and/or urban focus	URBAN



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

Part A: Introduction and General Questions

INTERPLAY BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS

1	In your opinion, what is the impact that increasing population movements from the countryside to cities have on local governments?
	No answer. It is not a problem for Madrid Council.
1.1	<p><i>Do you know any public policies or best practices regarding the changing urban-rural relationships? Please consider practices in the following five areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Local responsibilities and public services.</i> - <i>Local financial arrangements.</i> - <i>Structure of local government.</i> - <i>Intergovernmental relations of local governments.</i> - <i>People's participation in local decision-making.</i>
	No answer. It is not a problem for Madrid Council.
2	To retain and, where appropriate, attract population to rural municipalities, is it more important to invest in infrastructure or to improve (or at least maintain) the provision of public services?
	No answer. It is not a problem for Madrid Council.
3.	To retain and, where appropriate, attract population to rural municipalities, is it more important to invest in infrastructure or to improve (or at least maintain) the provision of public services?
	No answer. It is not a problem for Madrid Council.

Part B: Questions on Specific Practices

¹ This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823961.



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUB-MUNICIPAL UNITS

4.	Indicate some factors of success/ failure of the role of the sub-municipal government units in the Spanish local structure.
	<p>This is not a debate about the success or failure of districts. It is that they are absolutely necessary and essential. Madrid has a population of more than 4 million inhabitants and the districts are fundamental for citizens' access to the Administration. The smallest districts have more than 120,000 inhabitants. Even some Madrid district has more than 300,000 inhabitants.</p> <p>The districts constitute the fundamental point of reference for the citizen: the rescue table when they have a problem with the Administration and there are many areas of incidence in the life of the citizens. In addition, they serve to detect problems in order to prevent them. They are also essential due to management difficulties: deconcentration facilitates administrative management.</p> <p>A defining feature of Madrid's districts is their heterogeneity: there are 21 districts that respond to 21 different realities. Even within the districts, there are different "neighborhoods", with different needs and characteristics of a different population. The neighborhoods are pure administrative divisions, without further implications, which are included within the districts, but they do not have differentiation for the purposes of administrative management.</p>
5.	To what extent does the institution increase or decrease the decentralization/deconcentration of power?
	<p>The districts are territorial bodies of decentralized management. The political unit is the Municipality. Each government team that arrives at the City Council refers to the fact that they are going to give more prominence, more autonomy, to the districts. In reality, they have many competences on many subjects, but they do not have the competence fully assumed. That is why their performance is very limited and they do not have much autonomy, they depend a lot on the central government of the Madrid City Council.</p> <p>There cannot be 21 cities within the city of Madrid. For this reason, there is a predominance of centrality in the municipal government.</p>
6.	Do the sub-municipal units have implications (or even threaten) the legitimacy or autonomy of the municipalities?
	Not at all. Districts are an essential management aid. They are like the "executing arms" of the municipal government: necessary and complementary, but nothing more.

¹ This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823961.



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

7.	What impact do sub-municipal units have on the action of the municipalities, in the execution of powers by the municipalities?
	Referral to previous questions. They execute or run around 10% of the central budget.
8.	If you have experience in both areas, what is the contrast between sub-municipal units in large municipalities and small ones, especially in rural areas?
	The person interviewed has no experience in rural areas.
9.	How is the relationship between sub-municipal units with other public administrations?
	-Municipalities: there is a collaboration relationship and, above all, coordination from the central units of the City Council that is projected on all Districts, to achieve a unity of action of all the districts and the City Council, in general. -Province: in Madrid there is no province. -Autonomous Community: the connection with the Autonomous Community is carried out by the central services of the Madrid City Council. Sometimes there are informal contacts, faced with specific problems.
10.	To what extent does the sub-municipal unit facilitate and/or increase citizen participation?
	Districts are the key to articulate citizen participation, so that such participation exists. The participation of citizens in municipal life is channeled through the districts, through the plenary sessions of the districts, which are attended by citizens, neighborhood associations, various associations, etc. The existence of "local forums" has been extended: bodies for citizen participation that, as of September 2021, will be called "proximity councils". There will be one for each district, linked to the district. It is also made up of citizens who want to register / register, sector associations, neighborhood associations They can present proposals that are taken to the municipal plenary session. They work through 9 "tables", one for each area / municipal government material. In the districts there are also other institutionalized bodies for participation: The Commission for the Participation of Children and Adolescents (COPIA), which is articulated

¹ This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823961.



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

[H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961](#)

	through schools. They also have plenary sessions, simulations of municipal plenary sessions. The idea behind teaching and promoting citizen participation in children, from infancy.
--	--

¹ This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823961.