

Slow Tourism: Crossing Emigrants Perceptions with Land-Uses in Portugal Mainland

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Abstract: Local communities' expectations and perceptions provide fundamental directions for sustainability development. Bearing in mind the relevance of these premise, the current article intends to assess Portuguese emigrants' intentions in public policies' territorial growth of low-density territories. Contextually, this investigation has used direct and indirect research tools and methods as a questionnaire and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Throughout this research, it was possible to understand that public policies do not consider it in the most needed areas of Portugal's mainland since are more related to tourism development and a rural lifestyle.

Key-words: Return Migration; Spatial Analysis; Slow Tourism; Sustainable Development.

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1 Introduction

Recognizing that the expectations and perceptions of local communities provide essential directions for sustainable development, this study aims to analyze Portuguese emigrants' intentions of tourism development, in public policies territorial

development of low-density territories. Therefore, the study aims to answer the following research question: *Are the public policies considering the expectations and perceptions of the potential return emigrant populations towards the so-desired*

territorial development of sustainable tourism? In this regard, the most recent data has shown that Portuguese emigrants, with active age and a house in their place of origin, have expressed their intentions to return, invest and have a job in the tourism sector and, at the same time, have a rural lifestyle in Portugal.

In this scope, authors highlight that slow tourism is a new path for sustainable tourism development. This form of tourism was born in the 2000s and is inspired by the slow food movement, that can occur not only on the coast but also in inland rural and urban areas [1]. Facing the needs of the new tourist, the concept of holiday changes and the contact with the territory, the landscape, and the local communities are now the main benefits of the trip. "Slow tourism reinforces the local and the autochthonous culture; exchange with residents, with their roots, with their language and customs and lifestyle" [1]. Thus, this work will start by addressing the slow tourism movement and its relationship with sustainable tourism.

Nevertheless, the economic sustainability of slow tourism is an issue that generates some academic controversy. Thereby, the impact of return migration of Portuguese emigrants on their places of origin will be the discussion focus of the following section. Although literature has shown that return migration can contribute to sustainable development, this is not always the case. That is why this work consists of analyzing past and present public policies of territorial development in Portugal. Contextually, the relevance of research's methods chosen, through the application of a questionnaire to Portuguese emigrants, as well as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), will lead the discussion of section 5. The results and their consequent discussion and conclusions, as well as a closing chapter focusing on the study limitations and future research lines, will be addressed in the sections after.

2 Slow Tourism as a Path to Sustainable Tourism

Slow Food Movement was founded in 1989 as a protest to the proliferation of the fast-food industry invading Europe [2]. Slow Food is not anti-consumption or anti-capitalism and is predicated on ethical modes of production and consumption, or what its terms 'eco-gastronomy' and 'virtuous globalization' [3-4]. Slow Food has spurred many others, and their principles are the founder of all the

movements that arose subsequently [see, for example, 5-7]. One salient offshoot is the advocacy of slow travel as an alternative to mass tourism's fast-paced, escapist vacation. Embracing similar sentiments to slow food's culinary focus concentrates on the enjoyment of the journey rather than just physical travel as a mode of transport to a destination [8].

Since the 1980s, the traditional mass tourist has been increasingly replaced by post-modern tourists who, through their leisure and vacation, search for experience, diversity, and confirmation of their own identity [9]. In this context, Hernandez-Mogollón et al. [10] have argued that the traditional approach to travel experiences through mass tourism is unavoidably insufficient to fulfill the new expectations of tourism activities and to ensure the overall satisfaction of tourists. The growth of alternative forms of tourism confirms the importance of the dimension of consciousness, as knowledge of self and others and as awareness of the impact that the presence has on the environment [10]. In other words, the new tourism is a response to problems that have arisen from the previously predominant mass tourism. "They include environmental, social and cultural degradation, unequal distribution of financial benefits, the promotion of paternalistic attitudes, and even the spread of disease [3].

The potential for tourism to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development and its principles has been gaining momentum since the 1990s but not yet succeeded [11]. International organizations [11] suggest that there is still a misconception that only ecotourism can be considered sustainable tourism, when in fact all forms of tourism should move towards becoming more sustainable by focusing on the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and sociocultural. In this respect, much of the early focus on slow tourism has generally supported the concept with strong environmental arguments, defending slowness as a valuable opportunity to reduce the high pollution and carbon footprint of tourism. Instead, the tourism industry has mainly focused on the experiential and regenerative power of the slow tourism experience [12].

When slow tourism appears in the first decade of 2000, it takes advantage of two innovations produced a few years before. The first has to do with the effort made regarding coastal sustainability in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean area, as a result of its massive tourism development in the

1960s and 1970s [13-22]. Slow tourism movement is a type of special interest tourism that can occur in both rural and urban settings [2]. It is an outgrowth of the socio-political ideology and consumption practices of the Slow Food Movement. It has developed as an alternative to or push-back against the fast-paced, unhealthy, and unsustainable lifestyle of modern society. In other words, slow tourism is also a form of political consumption and a new form of sustainable tourism development that is based on the push-back from fast lifestyle, ideology and consumption practices and not as an alternative to mass tourism (e.g., the “soft/hard” dichotomy) [2].

The second innovation is based on the great advances made around the quality of services and the *Servqual* implantation [see, for example, 23-24]. Dickinson & Lumsdon and Miretpastor *et al.* [25-26] have established the difference between slow tourism and the traditional tourism model. According to them, slow tourism refers to: i) slower travel times; ii) a more comprehensive range of modes including bus and train; iii) slowness; iv) resource reduction; v) journey is the thing; vi) localness; vii) authenticity; viii) unique; ix) sensations; x) you make your journey; xi) vacation rentals; xii) committed to local culture and history; xiii) quiet; xiv) treat the tourist as a temporary resident; xv) joining; xvi) as best as possible; xvii) staying awhile; xviii) low carbon; xix) de-commodification; xx) slow food and beverages; and xxi) discover.

The same authors have also argued that the opposite of slow tourism is the standard model characterized as: i) speedy transit; ii) prevailing modes of the car and airline dominate; iii) immediacy; iv) resource-intensive; v) journey is a corridor; vi) consumption of many attractions; vii) standard; viii) replicable; ix) miles; x) you by the journey; xi) hotels, resorts; xii) indifferent to the local culture and history; xiii) stressful; xiv) treat the tourist as a visitor; xv) see as much as is possible; xvi) maximizing visits; xvii) high carbon; xviii) commoditization; xix) standardized hospitality dominates visit and xx) visit.

According to Folgado-Fernandez [27] there are three identifiable behavioral categories of what can be termed slow tourism. Firstly, some studies focus on modes of transport that have environmental impacts and less travel (alternatives to air and car travel). The second emphasizes better tourism experiences, where visitors engage in a more profound experience of place. The third focuses on

transport as a tourist experience. Others have argued that slow tourism is better seen attitudinally rather than as a category of behavior [10]. Fullagar *et al.* [13] argue that yet there is a tension that is not easily resolved within slow philosophies about the carbon footprint created by air or car travel. In this context, slow is not a simple answer to the broader issue of predicted growth in global travel and middle-class consumption in emerging economies [13].

[27] Molz argue that whether fast is seen as a valuable attribute of the productive citizen or slow is seen as a more centered or sustainable mode of travel has less to do with speed itself, and more to do with the way experiences and representations of pace are shaped by race, class, gender, and nationality. The author concludes that people “travel for” is not necessarily arrive at a particular destination, but to be on the road and in the world in a particular way. What matters is not how fast or how slow, but how we orient ourselves within the complex temporal landscapes of travel, and how we harness pace to make sense of ourselves, our travel companions, and the world. In this context, the slow tourists may choose a physically slower mode of transport to facilitate the necessary deceleration or may take solace in a flight that detaches them from the stresses and strains of daily life and instead offers an opportunity to become reconnected with their thoughts [28-29].

According to Hernández-Mogollón *et al.* [30] the critical question to pose is how slow tourism is economically viable. These author argues that the idea that consumers actively choose smaller producers, over more corporate entities, assumes the ability to afford the often-higher prices that local retailers may charge for goods/services due to their lack of economy of scale [10]. If we are what we eat, then the same could be said of our travel choices [31]. Slow tourism has inspired new ways of doing business. However, it is not easy to quantify the economic impact of this type of tourism since it is an emerging market [32]. In any case, Miretpastor *et al.* [32] argue that the numbers of slow movement members, its variety and its rapid international growth, does augur essential opportunities for the tourism supply seeking a position in this market.

3 Return Migration and Portugal's Sustainable Development

Recognizing that slow tourism's economic sustainability is an issue in the academic field, the

impact of return migration on sustainable development will focus on the present section regarding the Portuguese emigrants' case. Contextually, the factors that lead emigrants from rural areas become agents of innovation and promoters of the development of these regions, as well as the factors that, in the past, have prevented this development in Portugal will be discussed. In this scope, the geographic areas under study are emigrant's place of origin or rural areas. According to the metadata of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Portuguese Statistical Institute, rural areas are communities' areas with a population of 2000 inhabitants or less. However, considering that it is not the purpose of this study to differentiate rural areas' typologies, the administrative division of Portuguese territory that will be used is municipalities.

Thus, we will consider rural areas the Portuguese municipalities with less than 6000 inhabitants (see figure 1 in section 5.2). The economic decline, the massive increase in unemployment, emigration, desertification, adverse impacts of the restructuring of agriculture, and the loss of cultural identity are just some of the most common problems that those areas face at the international level [33-35]. In this scope, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [36] states that emigrants can bring with them training, work experience, financial capital, and entrepreneurship, and have social capital obtained during emigration. Though, the type of return migration addressed in this study refers to the permanent return of migrants and its impact on sustainable development.

In Portugal, the studies which have addressed this issue evidenced that rural development did not occur due to the lack of migration policy to take care of the human and professional enhancement of emigrants, return policy to report about the local socio-economic alternatives of rehabilitation, and a regional development policy that could stimulate them [37-39]. Besides, cautious risk management and the limited entrepreneurship capacity had constituted additional barriers [38-40]. As Neto & Neto [41] have already reported, most of the research on Portuguese emigrant's return impact on sustainable development is scarce and belongs to the 80's decade. In 2013, theoretical research conducted by Santos [42] addressed the impact of Portuguese emigrant's return on their places of origin by introducing a new variable, namely the development of sustainable tourism. In section 5.1, the results obtained will be fundamental to understand how

emigrants can impact the development of sustainable tourism in Portugal.

4 Materials and Methods

This investigation required several procedures and methods - involving direct and indirect research procedures and tools. Therefore, the authors dedicated much time and focused on the design of a methodological section. The methodological section was divided into two main sub-sections: (i) the return migration impact on the development of sustainable tourism; and (ii) defining the demographic distribution of Portuguese population by municipalities and the evolution of land uses determined by the Corine Land Cover (CLC). We were finalizing with the crossing of public territorial policies, Land-Uses, and the perceptions of the potential return emigrant populations on territorial sustainable tourism development. Within these two main sections other points were also analyzed - i.e., the thematic literature review, the case study area, among several others.

The authors collected the data by reviewing previous studies [42-44], and former analysis was also carried out over the selected territory. Moreover, GIS tools were applied allowing to get all the land-use changes in Portugal mainland from the period 1990-2018.

4.1 Return Migration and Tourism Development in Portugal

In April 2008 a study has begun in Portugal, funded by the National Foundation for Science and Technology, in order to assess the expectations and perceptions of Portuguese emigrants on the development of tourism in their places of origin [42]. The process of data collection had started in the 1st July 2011 and ended on 31st October of the same year, totalling at the end 5,157 filled and valid questionnaires (view features of Portuguese emigrants of the sample in Table 1). For the preparation of the questionnaire, nominal scales, checklists and ratio scales were used. Data analysis was carried out by means of a quantitative descriptive analysis (frequencies and crossings) and tests of correlation of variables, as well as a qualitative analysis through the application of Student's t-tests and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) tests (Kruskal Wallis and Mann Whitney) [42].

During the first two months - July and August, the questionnaire was administered by post, internet and the social network of Facebook. From the two months immediately after - September and October, the administration strategy of the questionnaire was extended to creation and promotion of the study Facebook Page (available at www.facebook.com/emigrantesportugueses) [42]. The Page was disclosed, several times a day, through International and Africa channels of Portuguese media, namely radio and television [43]. In addition, the disclosure was also possible through regional and international newspapers and through e-mails sent to the General Director of Consular Affairs and Portuguese Communities, Consulates/Embassies, as well as associations and football houses abroad [42].

Table 1. Features of the Emigration Sample

Year of Emigration	No.	%
Until 1974	741	14.4
1975-1984	516	10.0
1985-1994	769	14.9
1995-2004	1054	20.4
2005-2011	1997	38.7
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	80	1.6
Continent of Emigration		
Europe	3919	76.0
America	664	12.9
Africa	374	7.3
Asia	142	2.8
Oceania	30	0.6
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	28	0.5
Length of Stay in the Country of Emigration		
Less than 1 year	814	15.8
1-4 years	1451	28.1
5-9 years	797	15.5
10-14 years	403	7.8
15-19 years	275	5.3
20-24 years	328	6.4
25-29 years	222	4.3
30 or more years	819	15.9
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	48	0.9
Place of Origin		
Municipality with highest centrality index	2466	47.8
Municipality with smallest index of centrality	2575	49.9
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	116	2.2
Country of Origin (Luso-descendants)		
France	86	26.1

Angola	77	23.3
Mozambique	44	13.3
Switzerland	26	7.9
Germany	18	5.5
South Africa	12	3.6
Remaining Countries	65	19.7
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	2	0.6

Source: Santos, 2013

4.2 The use of Geographical Information Systems

Several tools, such as the CORINE LAND COVER Land Use Database (CLC), are used to carry out the work. The Corine program was launched in 1985 when the European Community Council decided to start "a pilot project for data collection, coordination, and homogenization of information on the state of the environment and the natural resources of the community." This program includes the LAND COVER project, which was designed to provide regular and homogeneous geo-referenced information on land use in each member state of the European Community.

Beyond the elaboration of a map of land occupation for a given moment, the objective of this work is to establish a permanent inventory of data, numerical and cartographic, that provide information regarding the territory's uses and characteristics. Over time, to adapt to circumstances, some updates occurred in the years 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012, and 2018. It can now be defined as an up-to-date European database providing information on land use and cover, with 44 different classes. Thereby, firstly, the continental Portuguese area was used to clip the CLC Land uses, and after that, by means selection queries, every land use was selected using the class code. Secondly, the area by every land use was calculated by using the geometry of each representing polygon of each land use. After, the land used was summarized. Thus, the area for every land use was possible to be determined.

5 Empirical Findings

The present section shows the results obtained from the analysis of the survey directed to the impact of returning Portuguese emigrants on sustainable tourism development in their places of origin (section 5.1), and the outcomes of the land-use changes in Portugal mainland and the demographic distribution of Portuguese population by municipalities (section 5.2).

5.1 Return Migration and the Development of Sustainable Tourism in Portugal

In section 2, it was emphasized that slow tourism is a path to sustainable tourism development. Nevertheless, despite its low environmental and socio-cultural impact on territories and communities, economic sustainability is also crucial (sections 2 and 3). Thus, in this section, it is argued that the return of Portuguese emigrants can be a vehicle to slow tourism economic viability, since to the impact on consumption it is joined the impact on production because are locals who return and not just their savings and consumption models. Additionally, the opening of business is very dependent on external funds (Jenkins & Hall, 1998), and the potential return of emigrants can also contribute positively to entrepreneurship in rural areas. A study conducted in Portugal, through the application of an inquiry to 5157 Portuguese emigrants, testifies this argument [42].

In this regard, the respective results evidence that Portuguese emigrants (of the younger half of working-age) can become the promoters of sustainable tourism development in their places of origin. They were thereby ensuring that the impacts produced can improve their quality of life [42]. The related evidence also shows the intention of those Portuguese emigrants, aged between 29-39 years and with a house in a rural area of Portugal, to return to their places of origin, invest and have employment in the area of tourism (see tables 2-5).

Table 4. Municipality of house in Portugal vs. Most important factors for returning and settle in Portugal

%	P22 If you decide to return to Portugal, what could be more important to you?								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Highest centrality index	18.2%	19.4%	16.3%	18.6%	17.1%	10.5%	15.5%	16.0%	16.0%
Smallest centrality index	81.0%	79.9%	83.7%	80.9%	81.3%	82.3%	89.3%	83.8%	84.0%
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	0.7%	-

The same Portuguese emigrants would like to have a rural lifestyle on their return to Portugal (Table 4) and have enough capital to invest in a business in Portugal (Table 6). Besides, we can conclude that after 2013, no other study evaluated the impact of Portuguese return migration on “rural” development. For this reason, data of this study remains current and valid [43].

Table 2. Municipality of house in Portugal

Municipality of house	No.	%
Highest centrality index	1,109	21.5
Smallest index of centrality	3,989	77.4
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	59	1.1
Total	5,157	100.0

Source: Authors, 2013

Table 3. The Pearson correlation test

		P7 Municipality of house in Portugal
No.		690
P21 Desire to return and settle in Portugal	Pearson Correlation	-0.007
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.710
No.		2,806
P28 Desire to have a job in the tourism sector in Portugal	Pearson Correlation	-0.037
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.050
No.		2,806
P49 Have sufficient capital to invest in a business in Portugal	Pearson Correlation	0.059**
No.		5,157

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Authors, 2013
A: Have a job opportunity; B: Have income opportunities; C: Have a rural lifestyle; D: Live near my family of Portugal; E: Exist infrastructures for living and investing in a business at the place of origin; F: Exist infrastructures for living and investing in a business at the place of origin; G: Have a house in the place of origin; H: Be able to exercise a paid activity, on their own, in the tourism sector; I: None

Source: Authors, 2013

Table 5. Municipality of house in Portugal vs. area/s where emigrants would like to invest in Portugal

		Highest centrality index	Smallest centrality index	Doesn't Know Doesn't Answer
P26 Area/s where emigrants would like to invest in Portugal	a) Agriculture	18.1%	81.2%	0.7%
	b) Forestry (forest)	16.6%	82.9%	0.6%
	c) Fisheries	20.2%	78.8%	1.0%
	d) Livestock	15.6%	84.4%	-
	e) Hunting	26.3%	73.7%	-
	f) Extractive industry (mining, oil, wood and paper)	23.2%	75.9%	0.9%
	g) Manufacturing	18.2%	81.0%	0.9%
	h) Construction	20.7%	78.7%	0.6%
	i) Energy production	18.8%	80.8%	0.4%
	j) Trade	18.2%	81.2%	0.5%
	l) Tourism (hotels, restaurants, transportation, cultural services, etc.)	15.5%	83.9%	0.6%
	m) Transport	14.7%	84.9%	0.4%
	n) Financial Activities	20.2%	78.5%	1.4%
	o) Other	17.6%	82.4%	-

Source: Authors, 2013

Table 6. Municipality of house in Portugal vs. Sufficient capital to invest in a business in Portugal

%	P49 Have sufficient capital to invest in a business in Portugal				Total
	Yes	Maybe	No	Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	
Highest centrality index	4.2%	7.2%	5.4%	4.7%	21.5%
Smallest centrality index	12.9%	24.4%	28.7%	11.3%	77.4%
Doesn't Know/ Doesn't Answer	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	1.1%
Total	17.2%	31.9%	34.3%	16.6%	100.0%

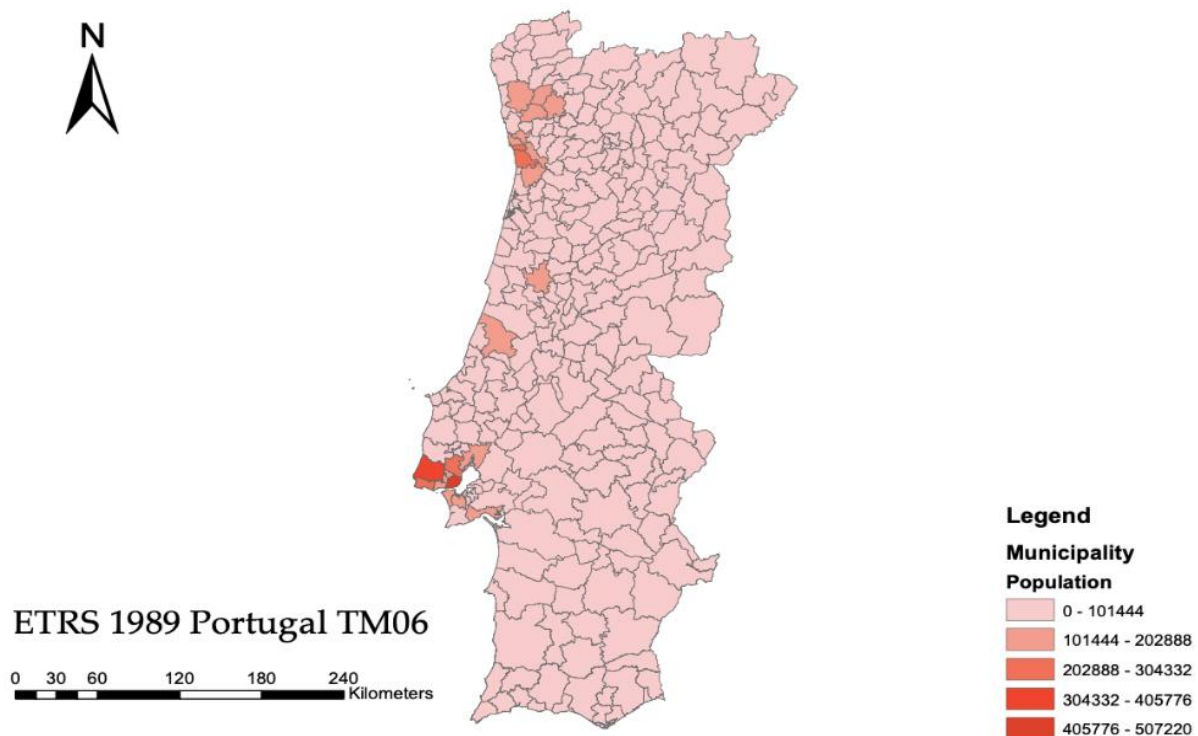
Source: (Authors, 2013)

Given the fact past evidence of the Portuguese emigrant's return on sustainable development did not occur (see section 3), the aim of the next sections will consist of analyzing public policies considering the expectations and perceptions of Portuguese emigrants towards the so-desired territorial sustainable tourism development. The Geographic Information Systems will be the privileged method to support it.

5.2 The Land-Use Changes in Portugal mainland in the Period 1990-2018, and the demographic distribution of Portuguese population by municipalities using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based on CORINE Data

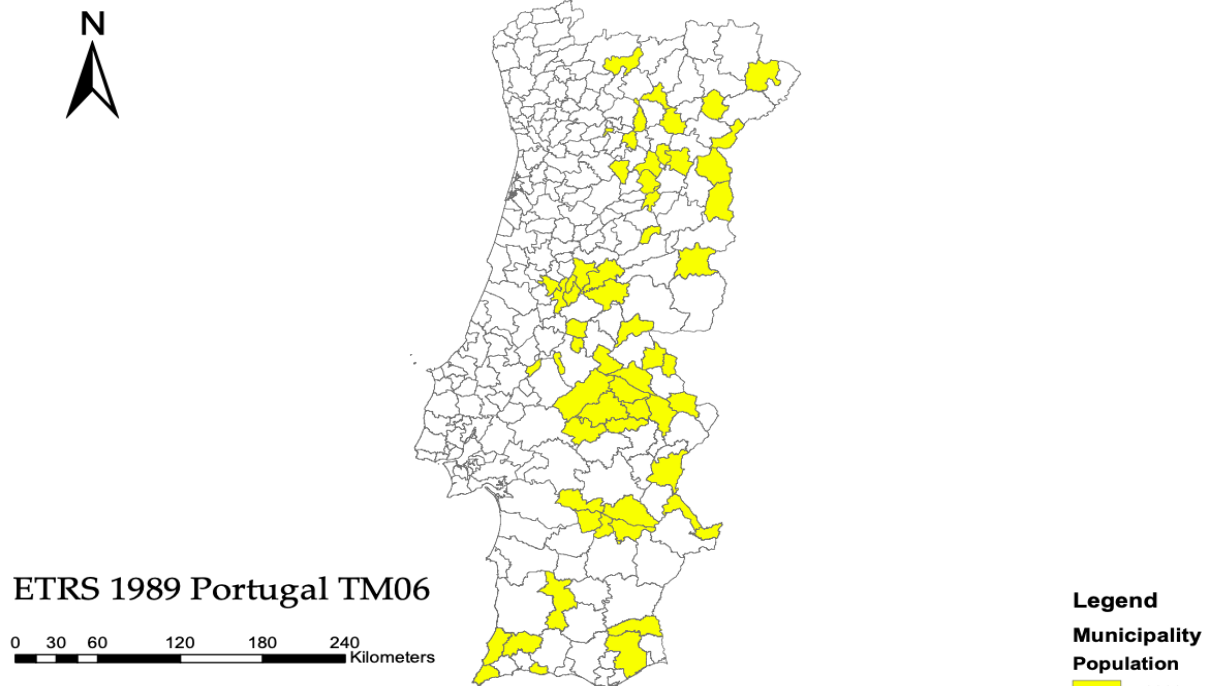
This section explains the demographic distribution of Portuguese population by municipalities (Figures 1 and 2) and the evolution of land uses determined by the Corine Land Cover (CLC) (Table 7) for the Portugal Mainland in the period 1990-2018 (Tables 8 to 10). Therefore, to obtain valuable data for this typology of research, through the use of GIS tools, the authors developed the cartographic maps regarding the demographic distribution of the Portuguese population by municipalities (Figure 1). In figure 1, it is possible to understand the few municipalities that have overpopulation, and they are solely located in the regions of the two major Portuguese cities: Lisboa (Portuguese Capital City) and surroundings; and Oporto and surroundings.

Fig. 1: Demographic distribution of the Portuguese population by municipalities



Source: Authors

Fig. 2: Portuguese municipalities with less than 6000 inhabitants



Source: Authors

Table 7. CLC nomenclature Source

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1 Artificial surfaces	11 Urban fabric	111 Continuous urban fabric
		112 Discontinuous urban fabric
	12 Industrial, commercial and transport units	121 Industrial or commercial units
		122 Road and rail networks and associated land
		123 Port areas
		124 Airports
	13 Mine, dump and construction sites	131 Mineral extraction sites
		132 Dump sites
		133 Construction sites
	14 Artificial, non-agricultural vegetated areas	141 Green urban areas
		142 Sport and leisure facilities
2 Agricultural areas	21 Arable land	211 Non-irrigated arable land
		212 Permanently irrigated land
		213 Rice fields
	22 Permanent crops	221 Vineyards
		222 Fruit trees and berry plantations
		223 Olive groves
	23 Pastures	231 Pastures
	24 Heterogeneous agricultural areas	241 Annual crops associated with permanent crops
		242 Complex cultivation patterns
		243 Land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation
		244 Agro-forestry areas
3 Forest and semi-natural areas	31 Forests	311 Broad-leaved forest
		312 Coniferous forest
		313 Mixed forest
	32 Scrub and/or herbaceous vegetation associations	321 Natural grasslands
		322 Moors and heathland
		323 Sclerophyllous vegetation
		324 Transitional woodland-shrub
	33 Open spaces with little or no vegetation	331 Beaches, dunes, sands
		332 Bare rocks
		333 Sparsely vegetated areas
		334 Burnt areas
		335 Glaciers and perpetual snow

Source: Authors

Table 8 is shown the analysis of the behavior of artificial surfaces. In general, artificial surfaces mainly the land uses: 111 - Continuous urban fabric; 121 Industrial or commercial units; 122 - Road and rail networks and associated land; 124 Airports; 131 Mineral extraction sites and 142 - Sport and leisure facilities, increased. Regarding the land uses that shown a decrease, 112 (Discontinuous urban fabric) is the one that decreased with more evidence.

Table 8. Percentage of artificial surfaces according to Corine land cover nomenclature for Portugal Mainland in 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2018

Code	1990	2000	2006	2012	2018
111	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09
112	0,33	0,47	0,57	0,57	0,48
121	0,02	0,05	0,06	0,07	0,08
122	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,02
123	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
124	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01
131	0,01	0,02	0,03	0,03	0,04
132	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
133	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01
141	0,03	0,10	0,09	0,09	0,09
142	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,09

The highest values found are in bold.

Source: Authors

If we focus on Table 9, it is possible to verify that the land uses related to agricultural areas have increased the uses: 212 - Permanently irrigated land; 221 - Vineyards; 223 - Olive groves; 231 - Pastures; 242 - Complex cultivation patterns; 244 - Agro-forestry areas. The more significant decrease was identified in land uses 211 - Non-irrigated arable land; 241- Annual crops associated with permanent crops and 243 - Land principally occupied by agriculture, with significant areas of natural vegetation.

Table 9. Percentage of agricultural areas according to Corine land cover nomenclature for Portugal Mainland in 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2018

Code	1990	2000	2006	2012	2018
211	15,47	13,80	12,00	11,58	7,97
212	0,66	1,59	1,58	1,55	1,76
213	0,19	0,13	0,07	0,07	0,06
221	1,49	1,63	1,66	1,68	1,69
222	1,21	1,31	0,70	0,71	0,88
223	3,74	3,59	4,05	4,44	4,60
231	0,26	0,28	0,92	0,95	4,59
241	2,35	2,22	1,47	1,46	1,27
242	4,32	4,10	4,27	4,27	4,38
243	7,90	7,38	8,08	8,05	7,45
244	10,36	11,53	11,58	11,56	13,26

The highest values found are in bold.

Source: Authors

Regarding forest and semi-natural areas (Table 10), we only observe increases in the land uses: 334 Burnt areas - a very pessimistic indicator in the authors' opinion. All the other land uses related to forest and semi-natural areas decreased in the period 1990-2018; mainly the land uses: 311 - Broad-leaved forest; 312 Coniferous forest; 313 Mixed forest; 321 Natural grasslands; 322 - Moors and heathland; 323 Sclerophyllous vegetation - (which is another concerning indicator from an ecological and environmental perspective).

Table 10. Percentage of forest and semi-natural areas according to Corine land cover nomenclature for Portugal Mainland in 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2018

Code	1990	2000	2006	2012	2018
311	15,24	15,67	13,05	13,49	9,74
312	6,95	6,70	4,05	4,08	3,26
313	3,32	3,35	3,14	3,18	2,43
321	2,02	1,85	0,80	0,79	0,43
322	5,61	3,79	3,88	3,89	5,08
323	5,16	4,98	4,54	4,51	4,83
324	10,58	12,96	21,02	20,53	20,97
331	0,06	0,05	0,05	0,05	0,05
332	0,14	0,09	0,01	0,01	0,01
333	0,83	0,94	0,63	0,63	0,39
334	0,88	0,48	0,18	0,17	2,50

The highest values found are in bold.

Source: Authors

6 Discussion and Conclusions

The empirical study presented in this article is quite illustrative that, despite the actual expectations and perceptions of Portuguese emigrants regarding sustainable territorial development in their places of origin, the evolution of land-use changes (between 1990 and 2018) has shown that public policies are not considering it in the most needed areas of Portugal. In fact, the analysis of Portugal's mainland's demographic distribution has shown a considerable disparity of territorial development between coast and inland. In contrast, the most recent and related data evidence that Portuguese emigrant's expectations and perceptions are more related to tourism development and a rural lifestyle in their places of origin that are, at the same time, the rural areas or peripheral territories of Portugal.

Even if the land-use changes (between 1990 and 2018) reveal a continuous increase of artificial surfaces, especially related to the continuous urban fabric, industrial or commercial units, and a more significant decrease of land principally occupied by agriculture, in a decrease of significant areas of natural vegetation. Moreover, during the same period, data also evidenced a decrease regarding forest and semi-natural areas, especially due to the increase of burnt areas.

The traditional and social metamorphosis that Portuguese mainland territories have felt through time should also be considered for the obtained results. Simultaneously, the land use, changes, and regional landscapes, urban and rural, result from policies and administrative actions leading to strengthening urban settlements giving them the flexibility that they grant as a consequence of territorial strategies. Even if all the above premises are correct, the territorial management and governance should be rethought from a multivariate perspective to plan the territories according to the actual necessities and at the same time move towards sustainable regional development.

7 Study Limitations and Future Research Lines

Even if this research extends our understanding and knowledge concerning the most prominent insights provided by the local communities' expectations

and perceptions that should be considered to achieve the so-desired regional sustainable development from a spatial socio-economic and political- strategic perspective, significant prospects of future research are yet required.

Issues as the ones covered in this article as emigrant fluxes, their perceptions, expectations as well as the territorial dynamics itself are evolving all the time [44-47]. Hence, a close monitoring process should be conducted, especially in some insular territories where tourism is already in development, so we can learn even more insights concerning this problem.

Besides, if more advanced statistics were used, the results could be even more reliable. In this regard, also the comparison with the Spanish territories could be seen as interesting study to obtain even more outcomes about this topic.

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Conflicts of Interest

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