

Zaragoza, 14th July 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As Commissioner for the fight against the depopulation of Aragon, I am writing this letter to show my support for the application submitted by the Government of Aragon to form part of Open Government Partnership, the leading international organisation in the field of open government.

Aragon is one of the regions facing the greatest demographic challenges in Europe at present. Our population density in certain districts is a demographic desert with fewer than 10 inhabitants per square kilometre, and around 30% of our towns have fewer than 100 inhabitants. Adopting public policies that curb the depopulation phenomenon and strengthen the integration of the territory is therefore a priority in addition to being strategic for the wellbeing of Aragon and its inhabitants.

At the commission, we work towards ensuring that the policies drafted by each of our regional government's departments incorporate the viewpoint of the demographic challenge and the fight against depopulation. This work is showing results and gradually reducing the population gap in our territory. Similarly, together with other social actors, we promote a national strategy to tackle the demographic challenge, which includes financing, tools and activities that create new opportunities for the rural environment. To this end, it is extremely important to facilitate and guarantee citizen participation in local government decision-making processes. The inhabitants of these remote areas must share their extensive knowledge of the rural area by jointly developing public policies in this and many other fields.

The Government of Aragon is working intensively in this direction and aims to continue to make progress by fostering innovative tools and solutions. To this end, it is essential to train teams, learn about similar demographic experiences in other territories and form alliances with multiple economic and social actors. Similarly, we need to develop new digital governance tools that facilitate citizen participation at all levels. I would thus like to stress my support for this application, as I am convinced that forming part of this international network is crucial for the integration and development of open government principles in our region.

Yours faithfully,

Javier Allué
Commissioner for the fight against the depopulation of Aragon



