

## Peer Review

# Review of: "The Mediterranean Islands: Demographic Convergences and Divergences, 1995–2021"

Salvatore Lampreu<sup>1</sup>

1. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sassari, Italy

The paper presents an original and methodologically structured analysis of demographic convergences and divergences between the Mediterranean islands and their respective national contexts over the period 1995–2021.

The main data source is EUROSTAT, whose data are treated with rigor and analytical methods (cluster analysis, discriminant analysis, Arriaga decomposition), allowing the author to highlight the significant internal heterogeneity of the Mediterranean area and to offer an important contribution to regional and island demography studies.

The article is written in a clear and straightforward manner, although the large number of figures may give a sense of redundancy.

Moreover, the absence of a dedicated paragraph reviewing the relevant scientific and institutional literature on the topic is noted.

The following recommendations are therefore proposed:

- include a literature review section, expanding the discussion by engaging with recent international literature on demographic dynamics in insular, peripheral, and marginal contexts (e.g., small island studies, shrinking regions, inner and peripheral regions—see, for example, ESPON, Copus and Noguera, etc.);
- further elaborate on the **socio-economic implications** of the findings, for instance, by reflecting on how ageing, declining fertility, or gender imbalances might affect services, territorial cohesion, or youth migration;

- add in the **concluding section** some **policy implications or recommendations** that could help inform debate on local development strategies, infrastructure, welfare, or attractiveness policies in Mediterranean island regions.

In summary, the paper deserves to be published, subject to minor revisions.

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.