

4. "Neutral Road" Connecting the Enclave of Llivia to Spain

Llivia is a small Spanish exclave in France with 1,200 inhabitants and an area of less than 13 sq. km. It is located just one km away from the Spanish-French border (Figure 7.2). Before the 1990s, Llivia was connected by a neutral road (D68) with Spain, which was forbidden for use by foreign cars until 1995. The crossing with the French road N20 was particularly dangerous, as in the 1970s the Spanish did not accept that cars traveling on the French road had the right of way. They insisted on an unhindered connection between Llivia and Spain proper and French stop signs were often demolished in what came to be known as the "guerre des stops." In the end, a viaduct was built, paid for by the Spanish government. The same problem occurred at the crossing with the D30 but here a roundabout was constructed in 2001. The problem of transit in Llivia has never reached the level of other enclaves and indeed exists no more at the present time, as both the mainland and the surrounding state are members of the EU and the Schengen zone.

The crossing in question was the one with the French road from Ur to La Guingueta.

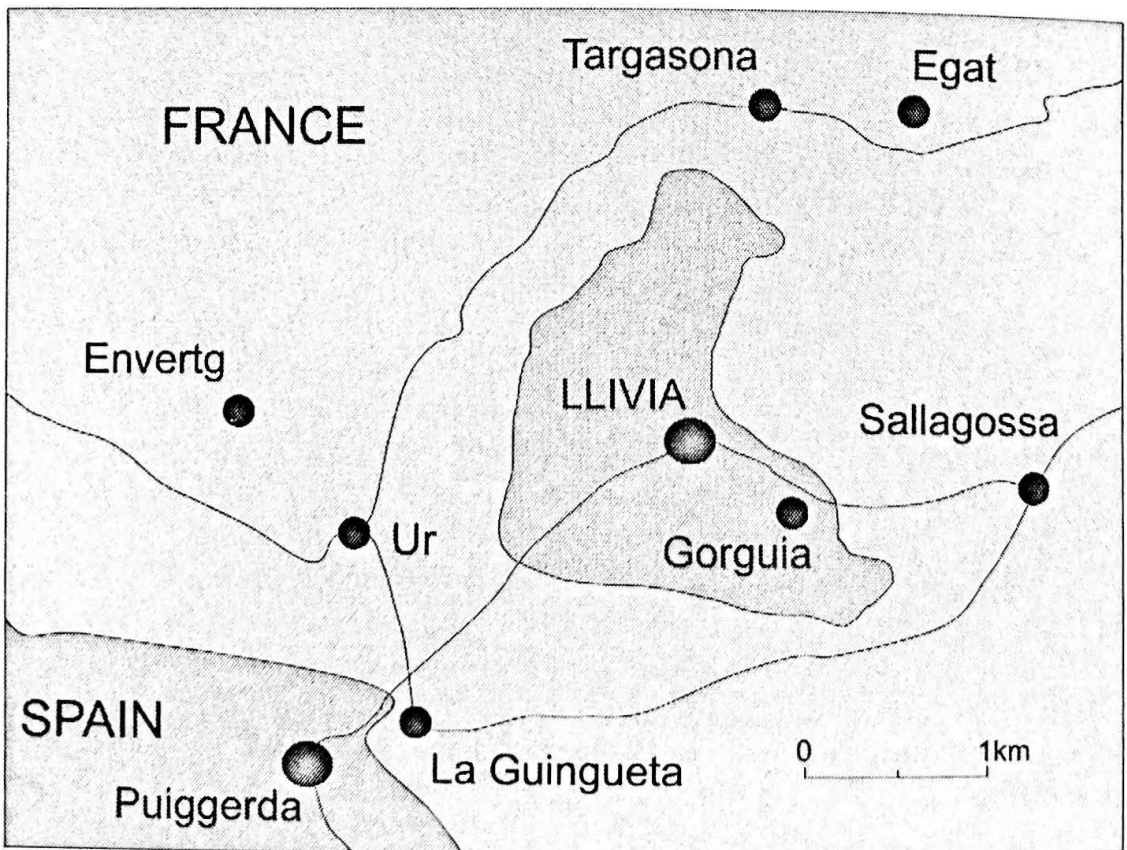


Figure 7.2. Neutral road connecting Llivia with Spain proper (from Puiggerda). Note: French names are Enveig, Saillagouse, Bourg-Madame, and Targassonne.