



Within the „Network of European regions affected by demographic change“ Brandenburg and Saxony are currently developing a project proposal which is geared to the specific problems of regions facing the double challenge of an ageing and declining population. The project will concentrate on benchmarks and indicators for services and search for practical solutions especially in the fields of education and health services. To balance this, the potential for an innovative local economy contained in the changes are also explored.

## Background

In about 50% of European NUTS 2 regions population will decrease significantly until 2030. They are losing primarily young (20 to 30 years old) and well educated people. The corresponding decline in population density has important consequences for both social and technical infrastructure. This problem is particularly pertinent in rural areas which already have difficulties in ensuring the provision of adequate public services. At the same time, the shrinking regional demand and lack of qualified staff endangers the economic basis. Until now, there are no experiences in successful dealing with these framework conditions on regional level.

## Objectives

1. Work out, using a cross-divisional approach, operation options for regional administration and attend to their implementation
2. Gain knowledge about a necessary adaptation of European policy to the changing framework conditions (declining and ageing population) in an increasing number of regions
3. Know-how about instruments and how to deal actively with demographic change, which is available or needed in participating regions, shall be tried out in practice and be made accessible to regions with a similar future development

## Thematic Approach (see project structure on reverse page)

1. Public services and infrastructure: Benchmarks for an sustainable basic provision of services and indicators for success in regional development in regions with a ageing and/or declining population
2. Life long learning: Accessibility of primary and higher education (incl. virtual classrooms), Professional training in SME and further education for an ageing population, Keeping the 50+ in the work force
3. Health Services: Hospital infrastructure and spatial distribution, Influence on location of doctors, preservation of health, supplementation of existing services (eg. with e-health and district nurse systems)
4. Development potentials for the local economy arising from changes in the public service and changing consumer demand

## Organization

Duration: 01.07.2008 – 30.06.2011. Partner Regions (09/07): Brandenburg, Central Bohemia, Eastern Finland, Galicia, Hradec Králové, Limburg, Lower Silesia, Mazowien, North West England, Saxony, South Finland. The Partnership is open to all interested Regions willing to actively manage demographic change and to share the results. Integration in the “Parent-Network” is supported.

The Steering Committee will consist of representatives from regional government and will ensure coordinated work on cross-divisional questions. Working Groups will consist of regional and local players and will follow a practice oriented exchange of experiences complemented by scientific analysis to develop model options and solution ideas in the targeted topics. Communication necessities and transparency of work will be furthered by an Online Portal. The Network will actively take part in related EU-Conferences

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# Project Structure: Declining, Ageing and Regional Transformation (DART)

