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**THE REPORT OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS
ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES – ÚSTÍ REGION**

(Appraisal of advantages / disadvantages – 5.2.10)

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This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.



1. Introduction

Region Ústí nad Labem is among the most threatened areas in the Czech Republic. It's not just a question of demographic change, population aging. The complexity of the situation in the Ústí region is due to historical socio-economical reasons. Region belonged to traditional industrial areas in the Czech Republic. The past century, the economy of the region focused primarily on heavy industries (mining, textile industry, chemical industry). The regional management is currently facing with two major problems: high unemployment, which is due to the rapid decline of traditional industrial activities of employers in the region and unsatisfactory socio-demographic structure of the population whose profile enough to satisfy the requirements of the industrial region, however, does not correspond to the new conditions.

With regard to demographic change and its impacts (effects): the issue is implicitly present in all documents from which we draw in this report. Each of the materials, which are presented here, contains the analytical part (chapter) comprising a demographic analysis of the region. Aging of population is not overlooked problem. The fact of demographic shift is most “present” in the documents focused on the planning of social and health services (their implementation, strategic chapters). In all other areas are demographic trends present rather implicitly, as a necessary and inevitable fact, defining the context of the proposed objectives (actions).

2. Methodology of reviewing strategic documents related to demographic changes

The report is based on content analysis of relevant strategic documents of Ústí Region. All analyzed documents have a similar structure. It contains an introductory, analytical part, which is devoted to the basic definition of problem areas (analysis of available data from the defined area). The strategic section contains the main objectives and activities to fill defined strategy. This (strategic part of the documents) was crucial for our purposes. In the documents was searched the key objectives related to the objectives of the project ADAPT2DC. The third part of the strategic documents is the implementation chapter. It contains the specific mechanisms for implementing the proposed strategic objectives into practice (ways of evaluating and financing of projects that meet the regional strategy, etc.).

It follows that key documents whose selected findings are presented here, are created to manage the administration (policy) of Ústí region - NUTS3 area.



A brief overview of the strategic documents:

1 Title of document		
Program rozvoje Ústeckého kraje 2014-2020 Program of Development of Usti Region 2014-2020		
Level of analysis		
NUTS3		
Period of analysis		
7 years		
Action plan (project cyclus) of this strategic dokument will be continuously updated (every year).		
Language availability		
Czech only		
Public accessibility		
Link		
Areas of ADPAT2DC included		
		Notes
Demographic changes	YES	Demographical subchapter in analytical part of document. Demographical changes are implicate assumptions of some proposed actions.
Public infrastructure, ...	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen priorities.
Health care, social care	YES	Specification of one of the priorities.
Social services	YES	Specification of one of the priorities.
Transport and mobility	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen priorities.
Intergenerational cooperation	NO	
Connection with other strategic documents:		
<p>On the region level: This strategic document is connected with Strategie udržitelného rozvoje Ústeckého kraje (Sustainable Development Strategy of Ústí region) and other „sectoral“ strategies od Ústí region (Social services, Health, Public transport, etc.).</p> <p>On the national level: Strategy of regional development of the Czech republic 2014-2020. The basic dokument forming the „local“ policy and the development priorities (goals) of the regional strategic documents. Link.</p>		



2		Title of document
		Strategie udržitelného rozvoje Ústeckého kraje 2006-2020 (aktualizace 2010) Sustainable Development Strategy of Ústí region 2006-2020 (actualization 2010)
		Level of analysis
		NUTS3
		Period of analysis
		14 years
		Action plan (project cycle) of this strategic document will be continuously updated (every year).
		Language availability
		Only czech
		Public accessibility
		Link
		Areas of ADPAT2DC included
		Notes
Demographic changes	YES	Demographical subchapter in analytical part of document. Demographical changes are implicate assumptions of some proposed priorities.
Public infrastructure, ...	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen priorities (priority II).
Health care, social care	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen priorities – especially health care (priority III).
Social services	NO	
Transport and mobility	YES	Specification of one of the priorities (3.1.3; 3.4.2).
Intergenerational cooperation	NO	
		Connection with other strategic documents:
		On the region level: Connection with Programm of development of Usti Region. The SDS document can be understood as main, abstrakt, general conception of strategy of development in Ústí region. Is actually the hierarchical most important strategic dokument of the Ústí region. On the ather hand, the Programm of development of Usti Region is much more specific, concrete. Focused on implementation of individual procurations.
		On the national level: Sustainable development strategy of the Czech republic is the key document. The first vision was adopted by the Government in 2004. Last actualization was prepared in 2010. Link



3 Title of document		
Strategie rozvoje lidských zdrojů Ústeckého kraje 2008-2015 Human Resources Development Strategy of Ústí region 2008-2015		
Level of analysis		
NUTS3		
Period of analysis		
8 years		
Binding to co-financing from EU Structural Funds.		
Language availability		
Only czech		
Public accessibility		
Link		
Areas of ADPAT2DC included		
		Notes
Demographic changes	YES	Demographical subchapter in analytical part of document. Demographical changes are implicate assumptions of some proposed priorities.
Public infrastructure, ...	YES	Specification of one of the problematic field
Health care, social care	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen „problematic field“
Social services	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen „problematic field“
Transport and mobility	NO	
Intergenerational cooperation	NO	
Connection with other strategic documents:		
On the region level: Connection with other two described strategic documents and other „sectoral“ strategies od Ústí region (Social services, Health, Public transport, etc.).		
On the national level: We were unable to find the current version of the dokument.		



4		Title of document
		Střednědobý plán rozvoje sociálních služeb Ústeckého kraje 2012-2013 Medium-term plan for the development of social services in the Ústí region 2012-2013
		Level of analysis
		NUTS3
		Period of analysis
		2 years
		Language availability
		Only czech
		Public accessibility
		Link
		Areas of ADPAT2DC included
		Notes
Demographic changes	YES	Basic socio-demographical informations about region are presented in first chapter of this document. The field of social care and services are closely linked to the issue of demographic change (aging of the population). So demographic changes can be considered as the starting point of this dokument.
Public infrastructure, ...	NO	
Health care, social care	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen „problematic field“. One of the established thematic working groups.
Social services	YES	Explicitly – one of the chosen „problematic field“.
Transport and mobility	NO	
Intergenerational cooperation	NO	
Connection with other strategic documents:		
On the region level: Connection with other three described strategic documents (1, 2, 3). Within the region sets the priority areas which financially supports. This document is intended to link the activities at the regional and local level and to improve the quality of provided social services.		



5		Title of document
		Regionální operační program NUTS2 Severozápad 2007-2013 Regional Operational Programme NUTS2 Northwest 2007-2013
		Level of analysis
		NUTS2
		Period of analysis
		6 years
		Language availability
		Czech, English
		Public accessibility
		Czech , English
		Areas of ADPAT2DC included
		Notes
Demographic changes	YES	Basic socio-demographical informations about region are presented in first chapter of this document. The demographic change is not the key question (problem) of this strategic document.
Public infrastructure, ...	YES	Explicitly – two of chosen priority axes are linked with this field of ADAPT2DC.
Health care, social care	YES	Specification of one of the priority axes.
Social services	YES	Specification of one of the priority axes.
Transport and mobility	YES	Explicitly – one of chosen „priority axes“
Intergenerational cooperation	NO	
Connection with other strategic documents:		
<p>On the region level: Regional Operational Programme NUTS II Northwest (the Northwest ROP) is a major programmatic document defining regional priorities for Structural Funds in the programming period 2007-2013 to the region of the Northwest, consisting of Karlovy Vary (NUTS3) and Ústí Region (NUTS3). Processed program builds on the current strategic and program materials in both regions, such as Program of development of Usti Region and other sectoral or cross-cutting strategic and conceptual documents.</p> <p>On the national level: ROP Northwest also reflects the key strategic and programming documents, determining the general development priorities Czech Republic and the European Union as a whole. Among these documents employed include the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG), the National Development Plan of the Czech Republic (NRP) and the related National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (NSRF). The basic legislative documents (EU and national scale) are listed on pages 16-19.</p>		



Note: ROP Northwest, as the main strategic document parent area (NUTS2 Northwest) is currently due to irregularities in the provision of grant funds suspended. The grant program should start again from October 2013. All priority axes which are part of the strategic document will be further implemented.

3. Summary of the revised strategic documents

3.1 Demographic change explicitly

When it comes to unique naming issues of demographic change, most of the presented documents are content with merely stating the number and age structure of the population. **Indisputable fact of emerging trend of an aging population and the need to deal with it are explicitly mentioned only in one of the presented materials.** It is a document *Program of Development of Usti Region 2014-2020*. In the chapters devoted to education, health and social services is possible to read:

Consequences of the increase in the number and proportion of seniors at the macro level affect all spheres of social and economic development. The most frequently discussed and solved the following areas (EU Committee of the Regions, 2006, modified):

- *Revenues and expenditures of public finances - the reduction in income due to lower productivity of the population, respectively reduction in income tax, social security and health insurance while increased costs for pensions, health and social care.*
- *Economy and Employment - extending the age of retirement, decreased opportunities for older people to succeed in the labor market requires dynamic learning new skills, potential for the sector of consumer products and services oriented to the needs of seniors*
- *Health care and the provision of social services in particular, alternative care services seniors - quality and accessibility of care.*
- *Housing - how to ensure accessible housing for the seniors (often one-person households), the availability of adequate services.*
- *The quality of life of the elderly and the impacts on society.”¹*

Further mention of the process of demographic changes can be observed in other thematic subsections of this document.

Education:

The restructuring of the network of secondary and higher vocational schools in region (partly because decrease in the number of pupils in secondary education in the region and the need to harmonize operational and wage costs) in recent years to merge secondary and higher education, and networking “backbone schools” in the region. The “backbone schools” have a wider range of educational fields and forms of learning and higher overall capacities optimally serve the catchment area for improving the efficiency of buildings and equipment, reduction operational efficiency and increase investment costs. “Backbone schools” of Ústí region are based on meet the criteria certified KÚÚK. (43) The restructuring leads to significant reduction of small high schools and increase the

¹ *Program of Development of Usti Region 2014-2020, p. 27.*



average size of secondary schools from about 350 to about 600 pupils. (44) The decreasing population size each year leads to some more desirable release capacity of schools to which they receive less gifted pupils. It is also one of the reasons for the lower interest in apprenticeships. Less interested in studying at vocational fields led to the existential problems of some secondary vocational schools and schools in other parts of the multifunctional apprenticeships.²

Healthcare: Due to predict the aging population, evidenced, among others, the increasing proportion of people in advanced age and increasing average age of the population is projected to increase in future demand for health care for the elderly and capacities of health care in diseases associated with old age. Higher numbers of seniors, among other things reflected in the increased demand for bed capacity subsequent nursing care, which is a long time in the county assessed as deficient.³

Social services:

There is a relatively broad network of social services for the elderly. Due to the growing demand for placement in homes for the elderly (from about 3,300 applicants in 2006 to 5,689 candidates in 2009) and the trend of an aging population, however, will require capacity expansion residential social services for seniors. This is especially true for social care for older people with specific problems (Alzheimer's disease) that are in the region of long-term insufficient capacity. The region is not sufficient capacity subsistence forms of respite care for the elderly (residential services for a transitional period, support for families caring for seniors). The general problem of social services is the lack of funds for their security. Another problem is the lack of information of public about the offer of social services.⁴

3.2 Public infrastructure, housing and public buildings

For the purposes of the ADAPT2DC project, we are primarily interested in the issue of housing and public buildings. As is evident from the summary above, on the level of regional strategic materials are issues of housing and public buildings reflected. Before we introduce specific actions relating to the issue of housing and public buildings, we want briefly present a context of the communal management of real estate in the Czech Republic.

Municipalities, property and management of Real Estate

If the municipality has in his property any estate, may it handle several different ways. According to the Law on Municipalities 128/2000Sb. the municipality is considered to be a public corporation that, among other things, has the right to freely dispose of their property (sell, rent, lease, distribute). **Municipality is most the owner of the municipal building office, town hall and then building institutions that establishes** (the allowance organizations). It's mostly the buildings of **primary schools, kindergartens, the city's museums, buildings of technical services, public transport companies, community centers, sports venues**, etc. It depends on legal subjectivity of each organization. If we are interested in the buildings providing the civic amenities, there is always

² Program of Development of Usti Region 2014-2020, p. 44.

³ Ibid., p. 50.

⁴ Ibid., p. 54.



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substantial a founder (legally responsible operator) of the services (municipality, region, state, private organization, NGO).

There may however be cases where the municipality does not own any real property. Also, the city administration may be located in leased buildings (eg. Rokytnice nad Jizerou - community is so indebted that it was forced to sell all objects).

With regard to **the housing fund** (public, civic flats) – until 1989 it was a completely state-owned. It was then transferred to the municipal administration, with which it can handle a variety of ways:

1. Municipality cares about property itself. Most often this is done by establishing a contributory organization of the city (Municipal Housing Authority). Due clearer responsibilities creates community a company/Ltd. company. Municipality then owns 100% interest. This company is then the real estate manager.
2. Housing fund - real estate remains the property of the municipality and management of it report on another, often entrepreneurial, private party. Any revenue from the management of property goes to the business entity. But the company must comply with the obligations tied to management of property.
3. Sold out, complete privatization of the housing fund. Disappearing all obligations relating to the care of the estate. On the other hand the municipally loses control of the filling flats. There is a threat (example Ústí region) of bulk buying of the housing fund and uncontrolled movements of problematic tenants from other (more lucrative) sites of Czech Republic.

Sources of funding

The biggest financial burden for municipalities (Public administration) currently represents the buildings of civic amenities. In the Czech Republic, municipally leaders can use these financial sources:

1. The Green Savings Programme

“The Green Savings programme focuses on support for heating installations utilising renewable energy sources but also investment in energy savings in reconstructions and new buildings. The programme will support quality insulation of family houses and multiple-dwelling houses, the replacement of environment unfriendly heating for low-emission biomass-fired boilers and efficient heat pumps, installations of these sources in new low-energy buildings, installation of solar-thermal collectors as well as construction of new houses in the passive energy standard.

The Czech Republic has raised funds for this programme from the sale of emission credits under the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions. The Green Savings support has been set up so that the funds can be used throughout the period from the programme's launch until 31 December 2013. A subsidy may be applied for before or after implementing



the measure, but support for measures completed before the programme's launch cannot be granted. The support is granted for equipment installed in residential houses, not buildings intended for individual recreation or industrial buildings, even if the applicant has their permanent residence there.

Basic Programme Structure:

The programme is divided into these basic subsidised areas:

A. Energy savings in heating

B. Construction in the passive energy standard

C. Use of renewable energy sources for heating and hot water preparation

D. Subsidy bonus for selected combinations of measures - Some combinations of measures are eligible for a subsidy bonus (no more than once per building, even if more than one of the listed combinations is used).

E. Subsidies for preparing and executing the actions subsidized under the Programme

F. Energy savings in public buildings⁵

Programme is administrated by Ministry of the Environment of Czech republic (MoE). Basic document of the process of support is *MoE Directive No. 9/2009*. Fulltext of the Directive is to be found [here](#).

2. State Housing Development Fund

The fund is focused on providing low-interest loans to municipalities for repair and modernization of the housing stock. In addition to use loans, municipalities may provide another means of these loans for the same purpose other owners of the housing stock in their area. Terms of use of this funding source has set the Government 396/2001 Coll. Housing policy concept of the Czech Republic till 2020 – strategy of this fund - (English version) is to be found [here](#).

3. Operational Programme Environment

Operational program is administered by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. The program uses the resources of the European Union (Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund). For "our" purposes is essential Priority 3: Sustainable use of energy. Its global targets for 2007-2013 are: "... sustainable use of energy resources, especially renewable energy sources and promoting energy savings. The long-term goal is to increase the use of RES in electricity and heat generation and higher utilization of waste heat."⁶ The areas of support include the implementation of energy savings and utilization of waste heat in the public sector.

4. European Union Structural Funds under the management of Ústí region

Binding document which defines the rules of redistribution of funds is for the Usti Region strategic document: *Regional Operational Programme Northwest*. Its priority axes in relation to the issue of housing and public buildings will be presented later.

⁵ *About the Green Savings Programme. Online: <http://www.zelenausporam.cz/sekce/582/about-the-green-savings-programme/>*

⁶ *Program document of the Operational program Environment. Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, 2012, p. 105.*



Revised documents and the strategy of support housing and public buildings

After looking in the regional strategic materials, we can clearly define priority objectives that determine the possibilities of municipalities in the field of property management.

1.

Program rozvoje Ústeckého kraje 2014-2020

Programm of development of Usti Region

Priority 4: ATTRACTIVE CITY

Action 4.1: Public spaces and amenities

Note: The measure is intended primarily for cities with an emphasis on the city over 5,000 people (not Vejprty).

Goal of this action is to improve the technical condition and increase the usability of public spaces and buildings of public amenities.

Range of activities of other entities incl. indirect support from the Ústí region are: preparation of project documentation for revitalization or creation of new zones by cities; inclusion of a specific objective of the support mechanism in the future allocation of resources from the EU Structural Funds in the region; lobbying for the allocation of funds from the EU Structural Funds in the area of support; interventions for the transfer of public spaces owned by other public entities owned by the city; legislative regulation of PPP projects enabling public support for the development of public facilities with prevailing public functions and private secondary functions.

Monitoring indicators are: number of recovered objects and surfaces; annual savings in operating costs of regenerated objects in CZK; number of reclaimed/newly constructed building public amenities; number of newly constructed buildings with wheelchair access; total amount of aid paid from the EU Structural Funds; number of assistance projects supported Ústí region.

Priority 4: ATTRACTIVE CITY

Action 4.3: Revitalization of declining residential areas

Note: The measure is intended primarily for cities with an emphasis on the city over 5,000 people (not Vejprty)

Goal of this action is to avoid decline of physical condition and social status of residential locations.

Activities connected with this action: preparation of regional statistical and analytical document aimed at preventing physical and social decline of endangered residential districts (with an emphasis on socialist housing estates); coordination of activities of municipalities and other stakeholders in the revitalization of declining residential areas; higher activity interventions for towns and cities in the issue of social housing; overseeing the consistency of activities at the local and regional level; the legislative initiative to limit speculative migration of welfare recipients. And generally: creating financial incentives for the demolition of the long-term unoccupied houses; inclusion of a specific



objective mechanism of support for the allocation of funds from the EU Structural Funds in the region; lobbying for the allocation of funds from the EU Structural Funds in the area of support.

Monitoring indicators such as: amount of people supported/reclaimed houses; area revitalized public space (ha), number of demolished houses/apartments, total amount of aid paid from the EU Structural Funds, existence of strategic and statistical and analytical document, number of assistance projects supported.

Priority 5: VIABLE RURAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Action 5.2: Services and public facilities in rural areas

Note: The action is aimed at rural communities with emphasis on the municipality to 5 thousand inh.

Goal of this action is to ensure adequate and sustainable supply of services and public facilities.

Activities and intervention fulfilling the action: maintaining transport services in rural areas (bus and rail transport); modernisation and adaptation of the road network II. and III. classes; support for reconstruction of local roads; support for the construction and reconstruction of water treatment plants, sewer systems, water systems and other technical infrastructure; support the creation of separate units of high school (even within their administrative mergers); any financial support to maintain and adequate availability of basic services and public facilities in small communities (kindergarten, primary school, post office, doctor, police, emergency medical, social services); support the development of community life; support for leisure activities and community associations (cultural, social and sports activities);

Monitoring indicators are: the share of municipalities equipped with various basic public services in the total number of municipalities in rural areas; number of municipalities providing transport services on weekdays and weekends; the length of local roads reconstructed with the help of Ústí region; length new or refurbished technical infrastructure with the help of Ústí region;

2.

Strategie udržitelného rozvoje Ústeckého kraje 2006-2020 (aktualizace 2010)

Sustainable Development Strategy of Ústí region 2006-2020 (actualization 2010)

PRIORITY AXIS II: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

Goal 2: Improve the condition of cities and towns

Actions:

- Revitalization of abandoned derelict sites and buildings, brownfields
- Revitalization of city centers and problematic urban areas (environmental, social, safety, etc.), providing space and infrastructure for relaxation and leisure residents and visitors to the city
- Solution of stationary traffic in cities, promoting the development of public transport systems and enhancing its attractiveness compared to individual car transport
- **Increase energy efficiency of buildings, promotion of energy savings in the public sector and the individual construction or renovation of housing**



- **Improving infrastructure and providing public services to create the conditions for maintaining the stability of the population, especially in rural and peripheral areas of the region**
- **Support for new construction or transformation of existing housing stock to housing with low operating costs, which could be used as a "starter" apartments for young families with children, etc.**
- **Removing barriers in public and publicly accessible spaces and buildings for persons with reduced mobility**

Monitoring indicators are: number of unoccupied houses unfit for habitation to the total number of houses; number of completed flats per 1000 inhabitants

3.

Strategie rozvoje lidských zdrojů Ústeckého kraje 2008-2015

Human Resources Development Strategy of Ústí region 2008-2015

Strategic Goal 2: IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MATERIAL AND INFORMATION IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Action 2.4: Reconstruction of buildings and facilities of medical devices

Description of the Action: Energy savings solutions through technical actions - insulation, replacement windows and door panels. Solving technical and operational facilities such as kitchen operations, etc. The solution and increase standards of hygiene for patients and staff.

Specific activities of this Action: preparation and implementation of the project on technical actions for energy savings; preparation and implementation of the project to remove the state of disrepair emergency service facilities; preparation and implementation of projects for improving health care in hospitals od KZ a.s. (regional corporation - joint-stock company – that operates health services in Ústí region)

Monitoring indicators are: number of prepared projects including documentation; number of implemented projects.

5.

Regionální operační program NUTS2 Severozápad 2007-2013

Regional Operational Programme NUTS2 Northwest 2007-2013

As we mentioned, this is a basic strategic document. On the basis of this material are in the Usti Region redistributed money from European structural funds. We will quote the reasons why regeneration and urban development can be considered as a priority of whole region directly from the strategic document.

„A characteristic feature of the urbanized area of the Northwest region is a considerable neglect of its cities, distinguished by an outdated or even completely lacking technical, transport and social infrastructure, occurrence of brownfields (i.e. real estates that are environmentally or otherwise affected by their past utilization and whose renovation requires funds), lacking services,



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growing socio-pathological phenomena and other problems, which considerably decrease the quality of life of the city residents.

...

Most key problems of the region are concentrated in the urbanized, densely populated areas with much industry. These facts considerably limit the abilities of the cities to fulfil their economic, social and cultural functions and thus to become the driving force of growth and development of the whole region. Above all, the ability of the cities to ensure an attractive environment for living, work and leisure time activities is limited, which is reflected in their low ability to attract a sufficient number of highly qualified workforce to the region or to retain them in it. This has resulted in the low interest of investors in the region and low competitiveness of the Northwest region as a whole.

...

Unattractiveness of the urban environment of the Northwest cohesion region is also intensified by the fact that most schools, hospitals and social facilities in the cities can be characterized as outdated, and their quality and equipment fail to meet the present requirements.

...

In this situation, the cities lack sufficient resources to implement large-scale regeneration and revitalization of their city centres and other areas affected by previous activities in order to significantly increase the quality of the physical environment as well as the level of social, medical and educational infrastructure. The importance and need for targeted support becomes evident especially when taking into account the fact that due to worsened conditions of the physical environment and negative effects of the aforementioned restructuring in progress, the region has been earmarked as a "region requiring concentrated government support" for a number of years. Therefore, the funds invested in the region on a long-term basis within the framework of the national projects targeted above all at revitalizing the former mining areas could - in synergy with ROP funds and the other operational programmes – constitute the required momentum for overall socio-economic change of the region.

...

Within the framework limited by other operational programmes, in which the support of revitalization of industrial brownfield sites is subject to above all OP Business and Innovations, on the one hand, and by its limited funds, on the other hand, the Regional Operational Programme of the Northwest region will focus above all on support aimed at increasing the attractiveness of cities, i.e. modernising the physical environment of their neglected parts including educational, medical and social infrastructure.⁷

⁷ Regional Operational Programme NUTS2 Northwest 2007-2013. Ústí region, 2007. p. 146-147.



PRIORITY AXIS I: URBAN REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Main Objective: Increasing the quality of the physical environment of urbanized parts of the region

Specific objectives of the priority axis:

1. Revitalization and regeneration of neighbourhoods and unused objects aimed at increasing their attractiveness and reuse.
2. Increasing the offer and quality of infrastructure for human resources development.

This support will be aimed particularly at renewing basic functions of the cities in the region, i.e. renovation of city centres, regeneration or extension of green areas in the cities as well as at renewing or modernising service functions of the cities by means of modernising public buildings serving as a base for the development of public and private services.

The second specific objective of this priority is focused on advancement of the life quality of the population in the Northwest cohesion region through the investment in public services of the regional importance in the area of human resources development. The support will be aimed at facilities providing these services to people in the whole region or at least in part of it. The support will be targeted particularly on modernization, quality improvement and possibly extension of educational, medical and social infrastructure of the regional importance.

Example of areas of support (*full list of supporting areas can be found on page 152 of the document*):

- Revitalising and increasing the attractiveness of neighbourhoods, i.e. constructional renovation or completion of buildings including the related transport and technical infrastructure, public lighting, green areas and facilities for leisure time activities.
- Regeneration of brownfields for their further public use including decontamination of affected areas and related transport and technical infrastructure as a part of a broader concept of regeneration of a certain area.
- Related project preliminary, project documentation, architectonic competition, project cooperation between the public and the private sector (PPP).
- Increasing the know-how in the area of regeneration and revitalization of cities including sharing “good practice” in the other EU member-states.
- Modernization and physical renovation of secondary schools.
- Modernization and reconstruction of the infrastructure for the provision of social care services with regard to humanization and social integration of the user in the community.
- Modernization and reconstruction of regional healthcare facilities.

Indicators of this Axis: Population increase/decrease in supported towns and communes – migration. Number of supported projects focused on sustainable development and enhancing the attractiveness of municipalities and metropolitan cities in general. Number of enterprises / service organisations established or maintained in the revitalised part of the municipality

PRIORITY AXIS II: INTEGRATED SUPPORT OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Main Objective: Stimulation and balanced development of rural areas and their communities by implementing targeted integrated projects based on local demand.

Specific objectives of the priority axis:



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1. Strengthening the local development capacity for the preparation and implementation of integrated projects.
2. Development and improvement of the infrastructure and physical and cultural environment.

The development of rural areas is in the Ústí region also important. Initial state describes selected passage from the document.

“The main problems of rural areas in the Northwest region also include lack of job opportunities close by; two thirds of the residents regularly commute to work and to school to towns and cities. The availability and transport serviceability in rural areas is insufficient and hinders the residents’ mobility. The state of the local technical and transport infrastructure, the appearance of the villages and the abandoned and neglected production plants is also poor. The quality of air in the villages is negatively affected by home furnaces, often burning lowquality solid fuels. Limited availability of educational, social, healthcare and cultural facilities and services is another typical problem of these areas. This generally results in continuing depopulation of rural areas, as mostly young and qualified people leave for cities, whereas people at the post-productive age and those less qualified remain in the country. This aggravates the social and economic problems of rural areas.”⁸

Example of areas of support (full list of supporting areas can be found on page 168 of the document):

- Activation of local subjects by the local authority (common meetings, controlled discussions, sharing experience and examples of good practice) leading to the establishment of an informal local partnership, assessment of the local needs and creation of a simple local action plan, setting targets in a medium-range horizon and containing the strategic projects and intentions agreed upon including the identification of necessary sources and subjects required for the implementation of this plan.
- Educational measures aimed at increasing public involvement (round tables, citizens’ forums, consultations with the public on proposed investments and prepared projects, on the vision of the local area), creation of local studies, surveys, questionnaires and other activities necessary in the preparation of a project and of the documentation necessary for its implementation.
- Preparation of projects and necessary supporting documents for the implementation of the created plans, cooperation on projects of the public and private sector (PPP).
- Revitalization, regeneration and development of municipalities and their parts by means of:
 - Building renovations and completions of public spaces (including “rural” non-agricultural brownfields”), squares and architectural elements;
 - Renovation and building of pavements, pedestrian zones, underground passages, cyclists’ trails including marking and adjustments for the physically handicapped;
 - Renovation and foundation of public green areas, parks, recreational zones etc. (without a connection to tourism);
 - Renovation and renewal of historical and cultural monuments (without a connection to tourism);

⁸ Regional Operational Programme NUTS2 Northwest 2007-2013. Ústí region, 2007. p. 164.



- Investments in support of increased usage of renewable energy sources (RES) in rural municipalities.
- Construction, renovation, modernization and equipment of healthcare facilities;
- Construction, renovation, modernization and equipment of the facilities providing care for senior citizens.
- Renovation and construction or the related technical infrastructure (sewerage, water piping, lighting and marking);

Indicators of this Axis: Population increase/decrease in supported towns and communes – migration. Number of supported projects focused on rural areas (municipalities) development.

4. Conclusions and suggestions for possible use of the review in further work

As we have seen, strategic material that would explicitly (and only) dedicated to demographic changes in the region Ústí region does not exist. Demographic changes, however, are described in all selected documents. The design of each of them precedes the analytical part of the text in which the general data on the demographic structure of the region is shown. The proposed actions of strategies, however, are more related to the different areas of civic amenities - demography is used as the default starting point occupied by the general strategy. The key problem of Ústí region is not the demography but the structure of the region's economy, respectively uncompetitive qualification structure of the population and small attractive for potential investors.

Perhaps closest to the goals of the ADAPT2DC project are the materials (sub chapters of the documents) dedicated to health and social services. Professionals working in this area are reflecting the trend of aging population (preference outreach, outpatient services, the choice of "backbone" of institutions in the region health and education, etc.).

Primary interest was devoted mainly to those parts of the documents that deal with the problematic housing and public buildings. As is evident from a quick perusal of the objectives and actions that are proposed, Ústí region is faced with the existence of a large number of abandoned industrial areas - brownfields. The region (or Czech Republic in general) does not have a big experience with the revitalization of these areas. At present the region is at the stage, where encourages discussion about the possibilities of their use or initiates the creation of the first project.

As regards the situation in the rural parts of the region (which includes also Vejprty), the regional management recognizes the need for investment. This, however, is not primarily related to the knowledge of demographic movements, but with the need to ensure the basic civic amenities. This of course is nothing surprising or new.

In the case of management of public buildings and services residing in them, we said that the last word when dealing with them has their founder. State, region or the municipalities have a large number of grants that can be used to reconstruct public buildings. As a very inspirational way to finance public building reconstruction we consider the **Green Savings Programme**. It uses money from the sale of emission allowances. Suma, which state obtains through a sale is reinvested in the



reconstruction (energy efficiency) of buildings, houses and apartments. The program is open for citizens as well as for the municipalities.

Conclusion

The report presents the main strategic documents of the Ústí Region. The observed problems are mainly related to public buildings and housing. Evaluated is primarily the availability of materials, their relation to other development documents and their link to the problem of demographic change.

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