



Newsletter



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Adaptation to Demographic Change

ADAPT2DC works on solutions for improved urban and regional planning in the Central European regions and cities experiencing demographic change. Seven pilot actions deal with restructuring of the public services and infrastructure.



ADAPT2DC was approved within the strategic call in the area competitiveness "Addressing Territorial Effects of Demographic and Social Change on Urban and Regional Development".

ERDF Funding:
ca. 2.167.075 €

Project duration:
November 2011 - October 2014.

Strong international partnership in this strategic project consists of 10 partners and 5 associated institutions from across CENTRAL EUROPE: Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia. ADAPT2DC is coordinated by the Thuringian Ministry for Construction, Regional Development and Transport.



CENTRAL EUROPE is an European Union programme which covers an area of about 1,050,000 square kilometers with a population of 150 million citizens. Central Europe encourages cooperation of countries, regions, municipalities, cities, GO's, NGO's and SME's among nine central European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. It aims to improve innovation, accessibility and the environment and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of their cities and regions.

The programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and runs from 2007 to 2013.

3rd Partner Meeting
21-23 November 2012
The Czech Republic
Prague and Červený Hrádek

Organisator: Institute of Sociology of the Academy of the Sciences of the Czech Republic with the Usti region

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Are you prepared for demographic changes? Decrease of population is generally accompanied by a corresponding decrease of public revenues.

Demographic change have become an important issue in the Central European regions and cities. They are particularly affected by the processes that have been changing the social reality. On the other hand, these regions have large potentials that should be explored and used. That is why a general remodelling of the existing public services and infrastructure is necessary.

It will help to adjust the available public resources to the new demographic context.

There is also a need to establish a common framework for sharing experiences and information and to adapt the governance so that the regions and cities become more **competitive, more productive, and more innovative.** ♦

How to keep providing services of high quality under conditions of “shrinking”?

How to adapt infrastructure budget to consequences of demographic change?

Objectives of ADAPT2DC

- development of a transnational strategy which will help to reduce costs of infrastructure and service provision;
- targeting regions and cities, especially small and medium ones, affected by demographic decline;
- creating deepened awareness and understanding of the impacts of such processes;
- developing cost effective options and policy recommendations for the management of infrastructure and services in these regions;
- launching a series of innovative pilot actions to adapt to the shrinking processes.

Innovative solutions for smart governance in shrinking regions and cities of Central Europe.

Meetings

Kick-off Meeting
17-19 January 2012
Erfurt, Germany



Lead Partner Thuringian Ministry for Construction, Regional Development and Transport hosted the first partnership meeting. Here, a strong, sound and smooth management structure was introduced for the project, with various milestones, control mechanisms and a flexible risk management for ensuring progress among the international partnership. ♦

2nd Partner Meeting
20-21 June 2012
Ostana, Italy



Topics in the small village of Ostana were the targeting analyses of shrinking regions and cities in CENTRAL EU and realization of pilot actions. The analyses should improve the understanding of the shrinking processes, their consequences and relations to serve as an input to infrastructure and service costs and develop a joint transnational vision on the needs of shrinking regions and cities. ♦

Pilot Projects

Partner regions and cities from Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy and the Czech Republic are faced with common problems caused by demographic processes. The aim of the ADAPT2DC pilot actions is to develop cost effective options and policy recommendations for the management of public infrastructure and services.

State of Thuringia

State of Thuringia will together with Bavaria and Saxony establish a pilot action **Cost effective, sustainable and innovative forms of cohabitation of generations in shrinking regions and cities of CE**. The goal of the demographic coaching is a sustainable modern administration which is adapted to demographic change, accepted by the public and thus enhances the competitiveness and attractiveness of these regions.

Planned activities of the pilot action

- sensitization of central municipalities for demographic change issues
- development of strategies to secure the provision of public services
- delineation of concrete measures and dissemination of opportunities
- strengthening the functionality of central municipalities
- setting up a communication platform for discussions and transfer of innovative solutions
- development of specific regional solutions for the framing of demographic change by trend-based strategies for the future
- strategic partnership and trust approach of the regional communities

As a result innovative administrative and management structures will be developed, which in a second step will be implemented in the pilot regions.



Észak-Alföld region

Észak-Alföld pilot action **New solutions to rationalize services and infrastructure on microregional level** addresses infrastructural development of institutions providing near-family and near-home day care and social services.

The project is expected to raise awareness and give solutions of regional planning to better handle infrastructure in Észak-Alföld region which has very low economic performance. New governance models will give solutions on how to be more cost effective in infrastructure management especially in case of day care.

The new approaches can be mainstreamed into the Regional Operative Programmes and regional strategies.



Planned activities of the pilot action

- Analysis of current usage of infrastructure of target area
- Model development to rationalize services and infrastructure on micro-regional level
- Workshops to involve stakeholders

Małopolska region

The Małopolska region pilot action **Tele-medical services for elderly people to reduce health care costs** address the changing demographic structure in the region. The situation requires a new approach of public authorities in order to provide the necessary services to the senior citizens and promote their economic and physical activity which will enable drawing on their experience and potential.

The action will focus on providing tele-medical services to senior citizens. The target group, consisting of elderly people, will be recruited from the areas of Małopolska which are most affected with demographic changes. The selected patients will be provided with equipment enabling monitoring certain bodily functions, such as ECG or blood pressure. The parameters will be monitored by telemedical and telecare systems enabling remote examination, consultation, and diagnosis. Moreover, the patients will benefit from guidance and consulting regarding healthy lifestyle and active aging. This will lead to patients' improved life quality through better health condition and more convenient access to medical service as well as decreased healthcare costs for both the beneficiaries and public sector.



Piedmont region

The pilot action in the territory of the Ostana and of Po, Bronda, Infernotto and Varaita valleys Mountain Community **Realization of a multi-service center** is trying to find solutions to attract young people and to develop social life in these areas.

The pilot action has the objective of creating a multi-service center in order to:

- Create a reference point of aggregation
- Improve the cultural offer of the valley with a library and an area dedicated to meetings and presentations
- Guarantee the presence of a little shop in the village
- Promote the territory and its main aspects

Planned activities of the pilot action:

- individuation of a possible location of the center
- involvement of the population in the center structuring
- individuation of contents
- beginning of activities
- territorial marketing about the center's activities



Usti Region

Pilot action **Cost effective innovative solutions on public property maintenance, energy savings by optimisation of public buildings** in the Usti Region seeks a possibility to reach innovative solutions and to preserve the permanent settlement of the historical border area through the maintenance of the quality of living standards.

The Usti Region will identify the necessary infrastructure and will develop a plan for its maintenance, which will support the accessibility of the area.

The economic evaluation of the current situation related with the budget of the respective municipality and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the costs, design of the improvement of the status, optimisation of the savings of energy, development of 3 energy audits will represent the main topics of the pilot action.



Maribor

The subject of pilot action in Maribor is **infrastructure for culture and other purposes after European Capital of Culture in 2012**. The scope of the project will be how to make public infrastructure sustainable after the implementation of ECoC in 2012.

The project focuses on the strategic reflections on shrinking phenomena and the spatial analysis of the ECoC. Maribor as a shrinking city with slowly reversing trends should study the possibilities of rational strategic management of this public infrastructure.

The spatial analysis of the ECoC project in 3 partner cities with demographic and infrastructure costs analyses will serve as a base for common transnational strategy. ♦



Ostana Story

2nd partners meeting took place in a small village in Valley Po in Piedmont.



Ostana is a small village in the Po valley, in the western Piedmont, who faced an intense phenomenon of depopulation in the last century, from about 1,000 residents in 1900 to 5 in the eighties.

In recent decades, however, the trend gradually reversed, thanks to an in-depth analysis of the causes that led to the massive abandonment of the territory, which is essential for understanding the full path of cultural and landscape recovery based on the contribution of all actors in order to achieve a common goal: the reterritorialization and human resettlement of these places.



The idea has been to create in Ostana a real community project to be implemented in the long term in an attempt to recover the cultural heritage and traditional architecture and to present it in a new way, with a strong focus on the human component. The Mayor, Mr. Giacomo Lombardo, explains with these words the implemented process: "We started with an important asset: the integrity of the territory in terms of environmental and architectural heritage. And we decided to work on that. It's been a long way, but today people believe in this idea: at the beginning, they brought the architectural remains of the city, because it seemed that what could no longer be used in the cities could fit to this sort of periphery. Now, if architectural work is not correctly realized, if architectural and environmental balances are not respected, people openly complains".



Thanks to the contribution of skilled technicians of the Polytechnic of Turin, Ostana changed its face: a redesigned entry to the village with low-impact materials architecture, a refuge-hotel run by a new family, a climbing gym, a wellness center being built which will become self-sufficient in terms of energy, street lighting with solar panels, two hydroelectric catchments on the aqueduct and much more.

In this laboratory of Alpine innovation, in the framework of ADAPT2DC **project it will be set the creation of a multi-services center that will be proposed as a reference point for the territory of the upper Po valley.** Among the many services that may be activated within the center are included a library, an area dedicated to meetings and presentations, a small food shop, an ATM, an internet point: in short, a wide range of offers for a center that will hopefully one day become a place of aggregation and promotion of the region and its salient features. ♦



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