Demochange

Demographic change in the Alps: adaptation strategies to spatial planning and regional development

- AS priority area: Competitiveness and Attractiveness
- Duration: 01/10/2009 - 30/11/2012
- Project webpage
- Project on the website of the Alpine Space Programme

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Project summary

The needs of the population – elderly people, young people, tourists, immigrants and local people: DEMOCHANGE addresses the general needs of the changing population in Alpine areas; it also recognizes the reaction to changes within the population of certain areas with specific requirements. By involving stakeholders from local authorities, politicians, business and social institutions, the project aims at creating a governance process to develop adaptation strategies for local key issues. The project is based on regional sustainable development. DEMOCHANGE has the necessary impetus

to face the issue of demographic change regarding spatial and local planning. The principal objectives of DEMOCHANGE are that of showing by "master" processes in different areas how to react to demographic changes and how to make use of such changes in a positive way.

Hypotheses

- Coordination of sector policies to prevent exploitation of natural resources and single-sector economies
- Sensitive Alpine territory requires appropriate and diversified measures (consensus-oriented multi-stakeholder approach)
- Partnerships & trade-offs between inner- and outer-Alpine areas
- Ageing population requires adaptation and offers opportunities for Alpine areas

Keywords

- migration
- territorial development
- urban-rural partnership
- peri-urban development

Topics

- Territorial cohesion through balanced social and economic development
- Balanced accessibility

Results

Results of a project can be differentiated in outputs, outcomes and impacts of an intervention. Source:OECD Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management.

Outputs

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
Transnational results, final booklet: Demographic change in the Alps: Adaptation strategies to spatial planning and regional development	Report	EN, FR, DE, IT, SI	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; planner; specific institutions;	The result summary gives an overview on created and achieved results within the project. It shows on the one hand transnational outputs but also a summary of implemented pilot actions in the DEMOCHANGE model regions. **in-depth information about Transnational results**

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE ALPINE SPACE; short regional reports with summary (10 pilot regions)	Report	EN	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; Planner; Scientists; Specific institutions	A crucial part of the DEMOCHANGE project is the analyses of quantitative (and qualitative) data of each of the ten model regions. The analyses cover various fields such as migration, cost and quality of settlement and housing, labor market, changes in regional demand for public services, changes in consumer behaviour and form the basis for a discussion with regional stakeholders. This may result in the development and implementation of individual adaptation measures. The short regional reports are split in a text part and a data part. The pilot regions are: Pinzgau – Pongau – Lungau (Austria); District of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Allgäu (Germany); Aosta Valley, Langa Astigiana, South Tyrol (Italy); Upper Gorenjska, Škofja Loka Hills (Slovenia); Nidwalden, Seetal (Switzerland). For the three pilot regions in Austria and Germany long versions with maps are available in German. **in-depth information about DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE ALPINE SPACE - short regional reports**
SWOT-Tool	tool	EN, DE	Civil servants / administration/ planner/scientists/specific institutions	Online-tool to analyse Strength-Weakness-Opportunities-Threats of regions. Usable after registration, a selection between the conduction of an analysis with focus on demographic change or an other issue is available. Based on the results of this SWOT analysis, the tool also assists in the definition of related strategic objectives. **in-depth information about the SWOT-Tool**
Roadmaps for spatial planning and regional development	guidelines	EN	Policy maker / civil servants / administration/ planner	Strategies to cope with demographic change in the Alpine Space. An overview over indicator / data to be collected for the analysis is included. **in-depth information about Roadmaps for spatial planning and regional development**
Public participation manual and Public participation material	guidelines	EN, DE, IT, SI	policy maker; civil servants / administration; Planners	The manual is complemented by a separate material book **in-depth information about the Public participation manual**

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
Demographic Challenges in the Alpine Space: The Search for Transnational Answers - Proceedings of the Midterm Conference	Conference report	EN	planners, scientists, civil servants / administration	The documentation of the midterm conference reports ist divided in three parts: "Part 1 of this book presents the keynote speeches of the conference, as well as presentations on model region experiences. ... Part 2 of this publication focuses on papers presented in specifically designed work sessions, covering the most important aspects of demographic change. This part of the book is structured along topical areas, whereas each topical chapter includes the presentation given as well as the documented results of expert group discussions held within each session. ... Part 3 contains the Model Region Posters which have been exhibited during the conference. In summary, this publication brings together the most important aspects of demographic change in the Alpine space and contributes to the understanding of the growing set of issues relevant to a variety of economic, social, societal issues in regional areas."
Pilot Actions database	database	EN	Policy maker / civil servants / administration/ planner/scientists/specific institutions	The database offers several possibilities to filter the entries. E.g. by topic, coutry or type of area. Each pilot activity (27 in total) is described by a fact-sheet giving more information about the activity and a contact for further information. Some of them - but not all - offer hyperlinks to additional information.
The DEMOCHANGE Expert Network	Network	EN	Policy makers, civil servants / administration / planner / scientists / specific institutions	The expert network offers an opportunity to spread innovative ideas and to discuss strengths and weaknesses of its own region. The network provides local knowledge of and regional experience with demographic change impacts for spatial planning and regional development.
Demografie-Check Garmisch-Partenkirchen Part 1 and Part 2	report	DE	Policy makers, civil servants / administration, Civil society / citizens	Detailed report on results of the analysis of demographic change in the pilot region Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The report includes interpretations of the consequences and recommendations for the thematic fields economy, agriculture, tourism, labour market, society, education and care, health care, care and home for elderly, settlement, technical infrastructure and public transport and public budgets.
Demografie-Check Allgäu (with map sections)	report	DE	Policy makers, civil servants / administration, Civil society / citizens	Detailed report on results of the analysis of demographic change in the pilot region Allgäu. The report includes interpretations of the consequences and recommendations for the thematic fields economy, agriculture, tourism, labour market, society, education and care, health care, care and home for elderly, settlement, technical infrastructure and public transport and public budgets.

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
Demographischer Wandel im Pinzgau, Pongau und Lungau (with map section)	report	DE	Policy makers, civil servants / administration, Civil society / citizens	Detailed report on results of the analysis of demographic change in the pilot region Pinzgau, Pongau und Lungau. The report includes interpretations of the consequences and recommendations for the thematic fields education, economy and labour market, housing and public services.

Résumé of project outputs

Results which are directly or indirectly suitable or applicable for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration:

- The pilot actions-database can be directly used by practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration.
- The roadmaps are meant for further use in the whole Alpine Space: "To that end, this paper picks up on the results achieved through the development of various strategies in a number of model regions in order to make such findings available to the rest of the Alpine Space and with the hope that all Alpine regions will be able to reap the benefits of the experiences gained within the DEMOCHANGE framework. Also documented below are methodologies for the transnational development of spatial planning and regional development strategies that were tested by international experts during several workshops held in Italy, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia." (Roadmap, p. 7)
- The Swottool is useful for municipalities and regions for a first analysis, but without experience not easily applicable.
- The Public Participation Manual and Materials are useful for practitioners and administrations to give some ideas, but unexperiences people would need support.

Which of the project results are usable for which aspect of SSD and which are the most relevant for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration?

- Most relevant for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration is the database of pilot actions.
- The roadmaps give background information about demography-related objectives in spatial planning and regional development.
- The SWOT-tool is suitable for all aspects of SSD as long as strength-weakness-opportunities and threats can be clearly identified.
- The Public Participation Manual and Materials are describing general methods applicable for all aspects of SSD which can be discussed in a broader public.

Are there results which need further steps to be useful for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration?

- Many outputs are only available in English which could be obstructive for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration. Translations into the different alpine languages could be helpful.
- A document "Analysis of demographic data: WP4 list of indicators & guidelines for data collection is named in "Output 4.5 - Work Package 4 DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE ALPINE SPACE short regional reports with summary", p. 8, but could not be found at the homepage.
- The database of pilot action is useful to give ideas for action, but to transfer them to other regions would need more information in some cases

Which kinds of stakeholders have been involved, how have their competences been used in the project and are there options for a better implementation?

Mainly local and regional policy makers (mayors of municipalities), administrations and public service providers were involved. In context with participation also the public had the opportunity to contribute.

Are the results (tool, method, indicator, recommendation) directly or indirectly addressing the strategic objectives for the Alpine Space?

The SWOT-tool, the pilot actions and especially the roadmaps contribute to the strategic objective "Balance and equity in access to services of general interest across the Alps". The systematic SWOT analysis is suitable to detect the demographic challenges of the regions and can raise awareness for them.

What could be long-term outcomes of this project? If none, why low impact? Why high impact? What is needed to achieve outcomes in the long-run?

Some pilot regions started projects in the frame of Demochange, which are continued after the project ended. E.g. the pilot region Nidwalden started 4 activities which are pursued (Revitalize old knowledge; Future Living Facilities; On the spoor of culture and nature; Apprenticeship in trade and crafts) (Source: http://othmar-filliger.ch/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/IGWestStans_20131218_2.pdf)" Further long-term outcome could be higher awareness for the issues of demographic change and their implications in the pilot regions.

Outcomes and Impacts

Unlike project outputs, outcomes and results cannot be described in a standardised way. Therefore, they are listed as free text:

Achievements that could be further implemented

The SWOTTOOL can be implemented in all Alpine regions to identify the challenges connected to demographic change. A translation of the pilot activities and the possibility to contact a person in case more information is needed would ease the implementation of pilot activities in other regions as well as free access to all documents named in the pilot activities database.

Remaining gaps

Besides the "Short regional report book with summary" for each of the ten pilot regions only for the three pilot regions in Austria and Germany more detailed versions of the analysis are available. The short regional reports are an output of the WP4, which was dedicated only to the analysis of demographic change. The further work in the pilot regions is not documented in form of reports, but only in the pilot action database. These descriptions are quite short and documents, which are connected to a pilot activity are just named, but not available (e.g.: pilot activity "More Mobility, local supply and social integration for elderly people": a questionnaire is named, but not available: Ankündigung DT Seniorenerhebung Fragebogen.dox, Annuncio IT Seniorenerhebung Fragebogen.dox, Seniorenerhebung Fragebogen Version 9 DE.dox, Seniorenerhebung Fragebogen Version 9 IT.dox)

Emerging contradictions

Accessibility of project results

- Demochange outputs on the official website of the project
- Demochange outputs on the website of the Alpine Space Programme

territorial development, urban-rural partnership, urban development, peri-urban development, demographic change, migration]

Synergies

- Decline of services in remote areas
- SWOTTOOL
- Pilot action database

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