



Who are we?

Demographic changes are a great challenge for the economic and social cohesion in Europe. Thereby demographic trends vary from an increase of elderly people over a shrinking population to societal challenges with migration.

These trends are to be found not only on the level of EU member states but also – sometimes even contradictory – on the regional level.

To meet this challenges, regions from all over Europe established the “Demographic Change Regions Network”.

Initiated by the German regions Brandenburg and Saxony in 2006, the network now links up to 40 members in 18 member states.

The network is an open network, based on the principle of “flexible geometry”, i.e. members join the network to create a common platform but not everything has to be done together.

Activities of the network

The members have been using the network for exchanging best practices, organizing common events, coordinating joint statements etc. (e.g.):

- joint declaration “Facing Demographic Change as a Regional Chance” – 2006
- Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on “The Demographic Future of Europe” (Brandenburg) – 2007
- conference on “Demographic Change in Europe as a Regional Challenge” (Potsdam Declaration) – 2007
- joint response to the commission consultation on “Growing regions, growing Europe: public consultation on the future of EU cohesion policy” – 2008
- workshop “Regional impact of demographic change – political opportunities and specific solutions in Saxony and East Finland” – 2008
- joint INTERREG IV C project application “DART” – 2009
- regular meetings in Brussels

Aims of the network

- sharing information and experiences on Demographic Change issues
- raising awareness of European institutions on the specific needs of regions affected by Demographic Change
- improving the collaboration among Brussels Regional Offices
- developing common projects
- bringing forward a cooperation between the regions and stakeholders such as NGO’s and universities
- collaborating with EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of Regions

Interested in more?

www.demografie.sachsen.de

or contact

- Saxony Liaison Office Brussels
Mr. Holger.Keune@bxl.sk.sachsen.de
- Representation of Brandenburg to the EU
Ms. Kathrin.Rahn@eulv.brandenburg.de