Demographic Change in Central Europe

Introductory note

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The isw Institute

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Current study involves CE regions

- Saxony-Anhalt (Germany)
- South-West-Styria (Austria)
- Ustí (Czech Republic)
- Burgenlandkreis (Germany)
- Lower Silesia (Poland)
- North Great Plain (Hungary)
- Novara (Italy)
Demographic Change

- Processes of overaging are to be observed in nearly every participating region
- Decrease of the population as a whole
- In the Burgenlandkreis these tendencies have developed strongest
- Exception: Lower Silesia with an increase of childbirth within the past few years
Demographic Change

- Example: Development of population by age group in the Burgenlandkreis
Development of Migration

- Differently in the participating regions
- Large and partially mid-sized cities show gains from migration (in most regions)
- Peripheral territories show losses from migration
- Losses vary: Burgenlandkreis shows especially a loss of young women; Usti a loss of young men
- Lower Silesia: net migration came to a halt
Development of Migration

• Example: Migration Balance in Styria 2002 - 2008 (the winner is Graz)
Demographic forecasts

• Most of the regions: decrease in population ranging from minor to significant
• Continuously aging population
• Increasing territorial differentiation is expected
• Lower Silesia: urban population will drop, rural population will stay at the same level
• North Great Plain: very young population comparatively
• Burgenlandkreis: high surplus of men in the age group 25-45 years old
Demographic forecasts

- Example: Changes in numbers of inhabitants in the individual age groups in the Usti Region between 2010-2050
### Demographic forecasts

- **Example: Lower Silesia, Urban and Rural Population**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>As of Dec. 31st</th>
<th>Urban areas</th>
<th>Vital statistics</th>
<th>Rural areas</th>
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<td>Deaths</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Shortage of skilled workers

• Most regions assume a shortage; some regions already experience a shortage
• The average age of the employed rises steadily
• Occupational groups named the most: technical and healthcare occupations (in all regions!), also teachers and handcrafts in some regions
• But: in some regions a growing interest in technical occupations was noticed over the last years (North Great Plain, Lower Silesia)
Adaptions of the infrastructure

- Demographic change has consequences on the infrastructure
  - Less people need less water, less electricity and so on
  - Less younger people need less schools, less kindergartens and so on
  - More older people need more healthcare services
- Regions are assessed differently in preparing and implementing conformations of the infrastructure
Strategies to manage demographic change

- New models of connecting regular school, vocational school and professional training in some regions (e.g. combinations of grammar school/professional training or college/professional training)
- An increase in activities of corporations can be observed, especially in professional orientation (e.g. South West Styria, Lower Silesia, Burgenlandkreis)
- In all regions specific target groups are considered (e.g. highly gifted, handicapped, slow learners etc.)
- Most regions view a stronger development of social competences as a requirement (e.g. Lower Silesia, Burgenlandkreis, Usti)
Strategies to manage demographic change

- There are different strategies in the regions
- In most regions there are well-developed and versatile forms of interaction within the framework of professional orientation and professional preparation
Thank you very much for your attention.