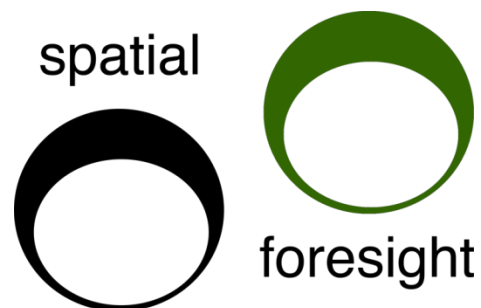




The impact of demographic change on European regions

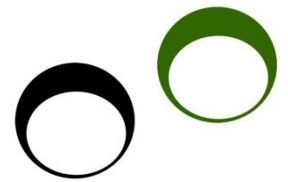
CoR - SEDEC Commission, 20 April 2016

**Specific Contract No 5911
implementing Framework contract No CDR/DE/16/2015/1**



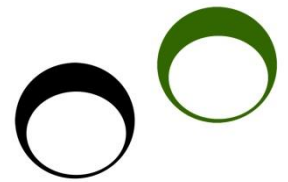
territorial policy support and [research](#)

Demographic trends in Europe



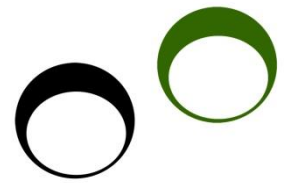
- Two combined patterns :
 - growth western Europe, decline in the eastern Europe (with numerous regional nuances);
 - decline along an axis running from Eastern Finland, through Germany and France to Spain and Portugal.
- As a result of the economic crisis, East-West population flows are less intense, while South-North flows have picked up.
- In general, **economic convergence** observed since the late 1980s **came to a halt** as a result of the crisis. This will have implications population movements between European regions and countries.

Economic impact of demographic change



- Ageing will not have the same effects in different European regions:
 - exclusion from the labour market of working-age population;
 - individual accumulation of capital;
 - productivity of the economically active population;
 - fiscal mechanisms of solidarity between generations and social groups.
- To make policy-relevant conclusions from demographic trends, factors such as these need to be taken into account.

Three key fields of intervention for LRAs



◦◦ **Work-life balance**

Regions with better work-life balance regimes see higher women's employment and fertility rates.

'Time policies' to organise working day schedules, life courses, and regulate the provision of services in cities help to address these issues.

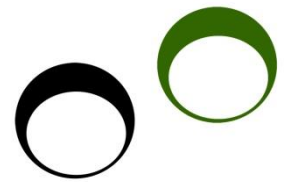
◦◦ **Teleworking and Independent professionals**

From 2004 to 2013, the number of independent professionals ('iPros') has increased by 45% in the European Union, from 6.2 to 9 million.

◦◦ **Improved working conditions**

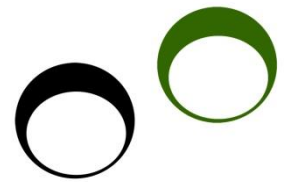
Better working conditions encourage employees to stay in employment longer.

Opportunities and perspectives for economic development



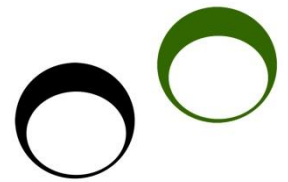
- **Silver economy:** targeting the needs of an ageing population.
- **Volunteering:** meeting needs for public services in innovative ways.
- **Residential economy:** attracting residents can be a more efficient lever of development than developing export-oriented production.
- **Remittances:** with appropriate support and infrastructure, remittances can trigger investments in lagging regions.
- **Self-perception and branding:** need for new policies, integrating these issues in cultural and social initiatives and using social networks actively.

Key recommendations



- It is not necessarily rational for all regions to maximise competitiveness and growth in export-oriented activities: some regions may concentrate these activities, while others **focus on residential functions**.
- **focus on overall performance and improved division of tasks** between regions, rather than opposing ‘net-contributors’ and ‘net-receivers’.
- Additional costs and organisational challenges generated by demographic change can be addressed by encouraging local and regional authorities to become ‘public entrepreneurs’ and generate innovative solutions in cooperation with private and social economy actors.

List of case studies



Text Box	Page	Case name
1	59	Thuringia (Germany): Demographic coaching to address population shrinking and ageing in the Saale-Orla district
2	62	Maribor (Slovenia): Innovative tools to manage the over dimensioned public infrastructure (public housing, roads) in order to reduce infrastructure maintenance costs
3	68	Malopolska (Poland): Telemedical services to optimise healthcare costs
4	71	Delfzijl, Groningen (the Netherlands): Active ageing as driver for social inclusion
5	74	Austria - Czech Republic border regions: Senior Plus cross-border project to keep the elderly healthy and active
6	89	Italy: A European Leader with regards to medical start-ups, providing examples of growth potentials in the silver economy, mostly located in northern and central Italy and in particular in the “Mirandolese” district (Emilia Romagna)
7	97	Ireland: Ageing together in large communities, voluntary participation of seniors in public service provision, examples from Letterfrack (Connemara, County Galway), the Ards Peninsula (County Down), Blacklion and Belcoo (Cavan-Fermanagh cross border area)
8	98	Budapest (Hungary): Senior Mentor Programme engaging people over 55 to tutor elementary school students struggling to learn to read
9	105	Spain: Retirement migration from other parts of Europe, and effects of their concentration in certain regions and areas.
10	109	Appenzell Ausserrhoden (Switzerland): Local development focusing on the residential economy
11	113	Romania: Remittances as drivers of economic and social development, example from Vultur (southeast Romania)
12	117	Nordic and Baltic countries: Transnational cooperation targeting youth to enhance development perspectives in rural areas