

Newsletter No 2. September 2014

“DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN SEE TERRITORIES: MMWD POPULATION PROJECTIONS”

Policy tools for strategic planning in SEE regions and cities

13/10 2014

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Welcome again.....

Dear Friends,

In sight of the final international conference of MMWD, taking place in Bologna next October 13, we are delighted to share with you the first of a short sequence of bulletins that will introduce MMWD accomplishments.

In this edition, the initial focus will be on MMWD population projections. Our project places demographic change at the centre of its analysis of territorial development challenges, persuaded that today's demographic change, and particularly migration-related demographic change, is transforming the prospects for sustainable development in SEE territories, and in the SEE region as a whole.

You will hear from us soon again! And if you would like to get in contact, your emails are welcome to contact@migration4growth.eu.

Regione Emilia-Romagna, Lead partner

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

MMWD is a **strategic project** co-funded by the 3rd Call of Proposal of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

www.southeast-europe.net

Priority Axis No.4:

Development of transnational synergies for sustainable growth areas

The Partnership:

21 partners from 9 European Countries

Duration:

30 months (May 2012-October 2014)

The MMWD Partnership



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN SEE TERRITORIES: MMWD POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Overview of Demographic change across MMWD Territories

Towards a catching up process

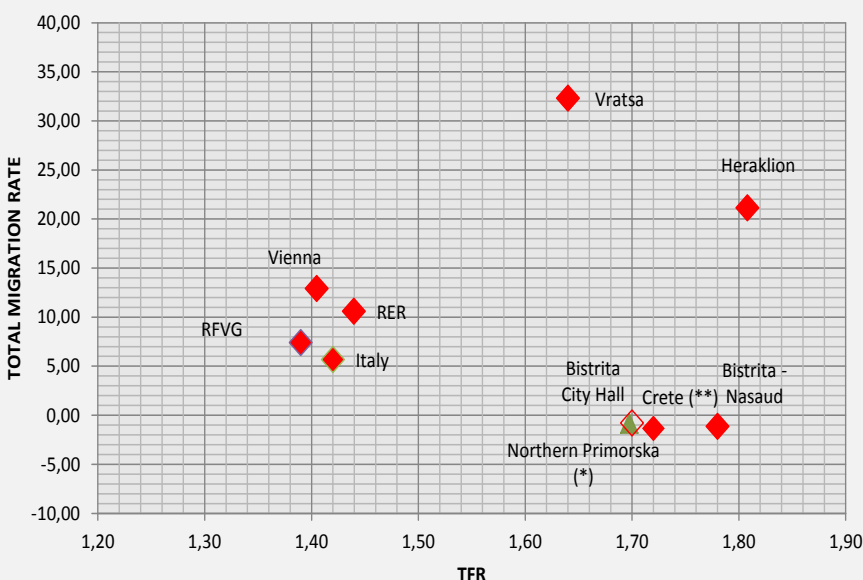
Regarding the demographic trends analysis, MMWD project expected the development of demographic projections realized starting from a common methodology of reference that takes into account the specific socio-demographic factors that impact on population structure. The population projection proposed methodology has been constructed after a deep gap analysis useful to make clear which were the data availabilities of each partner.

Three scenarios have been chosen:

- **scenario with zero (net) migration** or, otherwise said “closed population” scenario. The hypothesis of absence of migration is of course unlikely. It would be also the hypothesis of no or negligible net migration, as in the reference area of the project MMWD is prevalent areas of origin or destination of the flows. However, this choice turned out to be useful to assess what would be the evolution of the population as a function of only the natural component (FIRST scenario);
- **scenario with constant migration**, assuming the periodical average for the last 10 years, thus taking into account migration peaks to regularize historical series (SECOND scenario);
- **scenario with the average migration trends for the period 2009-2012** (or last available data) in order to isolate the effects of the economic crisis on population movements (THIRD scenario).

Given to the available data it is possible to split the partners involved in the project in two main groups: the first one **characterized by consistent migration flows, low fertility and high population ageing**, and the second group **with high emigration rate and younger population**. In 2012 this pattern is pretty clear but considering the population in 2020 (in the graph are represented the crisis scenario results) the forecast data show TFR differences among countries and convergences in migrations movements, mainly due to the economic crisis that causes that the typically destination of emigration regions are supposed not being attractive anymore.

Graph 1. TFR and Total migration rate, 2012



(*) Refers to year 2010 ; (**) refers to year 2011

Source: MMWD projections

Specifically, in 2012 there are Italy (both the country as a whole and two regions Emilia Romagna and Friuli Venezia Giulia) together with the city of Vienna recording a TFR less than 1,50, and positive migration rate. While Northern Primorska and Bistrita (both the municipality and the county) and Crete registered more than 1,50 TFR and negative migration rate. The exceptions are Heraklion and Vratsla, which have high TFR and high migration rate as well.

In 2020 this picture will not consistently change, the main feature to be underlined is Northern Primorska which will decrease the TFR below 1,50 and Italy and Vienna which will decrease their migration movements.

Another aspect to focus on is the population structure. It is well known that one of the major issue in demography, nowadays, is population ageing. Ageing is directly causing various problems in public policies, social welfare and pension scheme sustainability as well household needs and equilibrium.

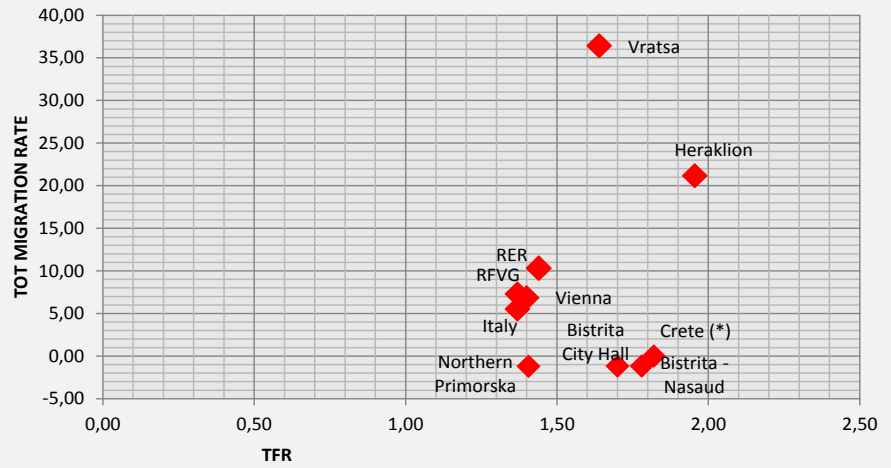
Overview of Demographic change across MMWD Territories

(Continued from page 2)

Italy and Vienna since decades are progressively recording this trends, while some younger population – as Slovenia, Serbia and Bistrta - since few years are facing ageing. Thanks to the population projections it has been possible to describe the trend and measuring it.

In fact, as graphs 3 and 4 show, all the partners will have to face this problem; also those which had a younger population in 2012 will consistently lose this characteristic. Just Crete and Vienna will not increase the percentage of over 60 years old population.

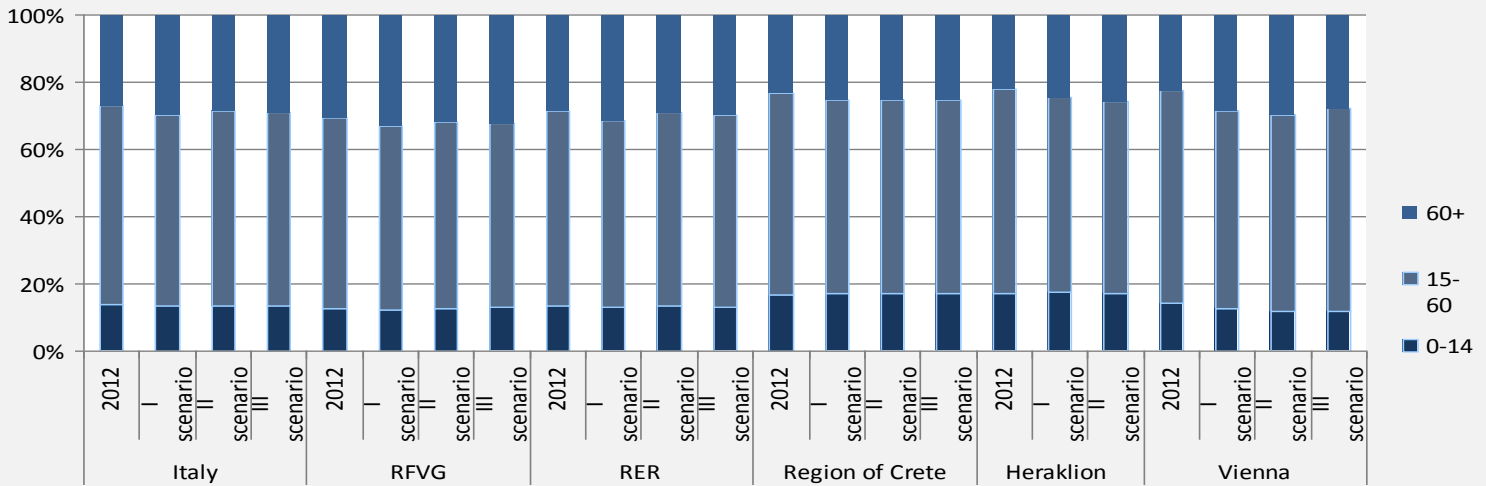
Graph 2. TFR and Total migration rate, 2020 (THIRD scenario)



(*) Refers to year 2021

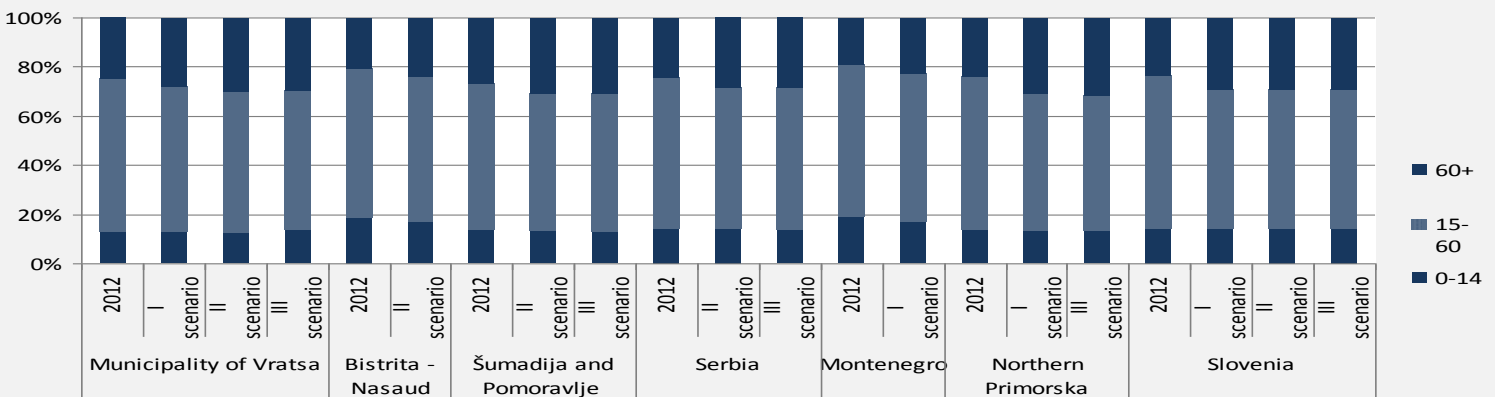
Source: MMWD projections

Graph 3. Distribution of population by age groups, 2012-2012 (all scenarios)



Source: MMWD projections

Graph 4. Distribution of population by age groups, 2012-2012 (all scenarios)



Source: MMWD projections

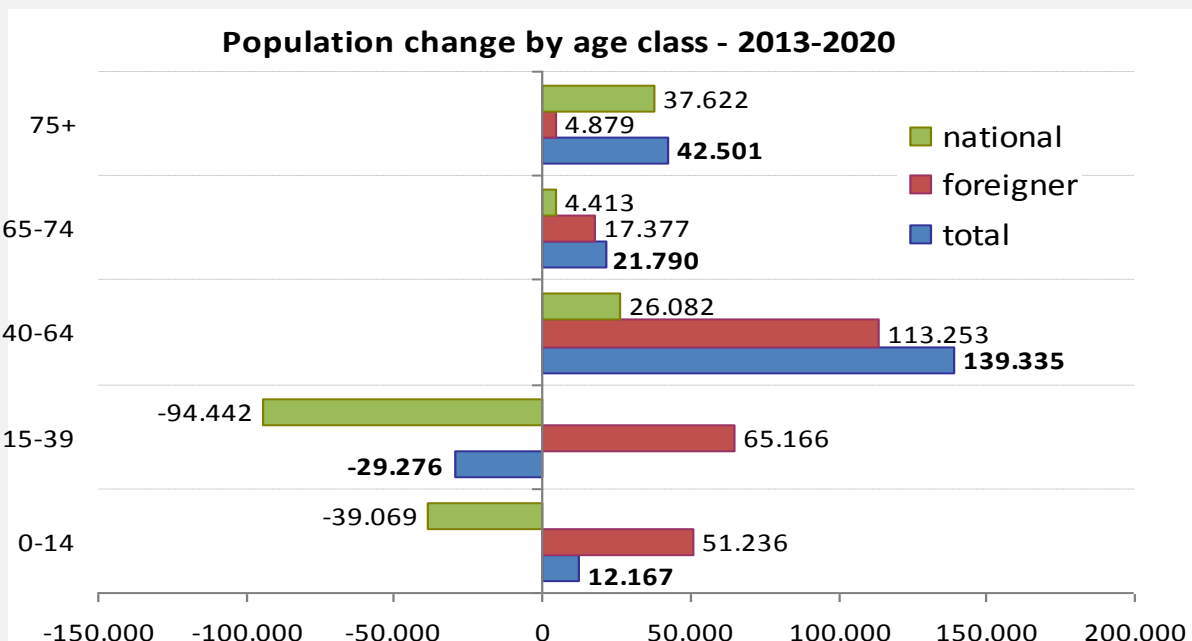
This data underline how important are projects as MMWD, in fact, by sharing experiences both in methodology and public policies will be easier to handle and govern processes as population ageing as well as migration movements. Each of the partners involved has its peculiarities, but most of the trends and dynamics registered are common nowadays or will be similar in the recent future.

Irene Plet and Serena A. Francovig, Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy

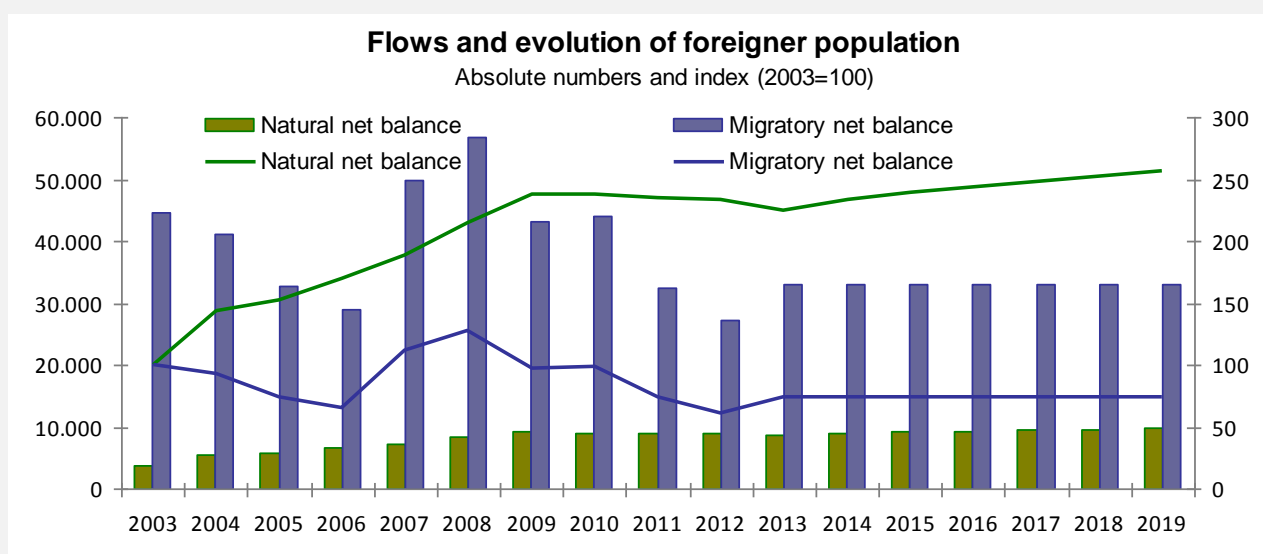
Demographic trends in SEE regions: an insight of Emilia-Romagna

At the beginning of 2013, the resident population in Emilia-Romagna counted 4.471.104 people, approximately 500.000 more than in 2003: +10 per cent, much more than the national average for Italy, with growth being almost entirely due to recent and stabilized immigration. According to MMWD demographic projections, the population will continue to rise in the near future as well as the share of not Italian citizens, which reached 12% of the total population in 2013 and is expected to rise up to 17-18% in 2020.

Actually, considering demographic trends by age brackets, it is apparent that not only the population remains on the increase (although the growth path is slowing down), but it is also undergoing a tremendous transformation. In 2020, 7 years from now, over a quarter of the Italian population in Emilia-Romagna is expected to be over 65 years of age, while a third of the population below 40 years of age will be composed of residents with a foreign citizenship:



Interestingly, this is less and less the effect of incoming flows: while the number of immigrants from abroad is lowering, the number of non Italian children born in Emilia-Romagna is increasing. A growing share of so-called “foreigners” are actually born here, and in 2020, 1 every 3 new born is expected to have foreign citizenship:



The regional population has therefore become increasingly heterogeneous, with more complex and volatile social and economic dynamics, which in turn become more difficult for policy makers to understand in detail and place in the framework of long-term development strategies.

Demographic trends in SEE regions: an insight of Emilia-Romagna

(Continued from page 4)

Similarly, the structure and dimension of households and family networks are changing and going in the direction of higher fragmentation. To mention but one result for Emilia-Romagna, trends until 2020 show an increase in the number of single-person households, mostly by people over 75 years old but also in younger age classes, especially women, where foreigners have a relevant role. The absence of consolidated social and familiar networks in the regional territory is a further element of vulnerability for the social system as a whole, and for immigrant people in particular, as they tend to have less consolidated family and social networks, who are usually the providers of first responses to individual and family needs.

If we look at transitions in educational attainments (MMWD methodology has allowed to depict trends by sex, citizenship and age classes), the stronger difficulties faced by foreign citizens and by foreign students are an additional indication of fragility for this segment of the population, but also a feature of concern for the whole region and the quality of its human capital, considering the increasing share of non-Italians in younger age groups. With all implications such trends may have, in perspective, on the share of population at risk of poverty or economic fragility, and thus on the sustainability of the social system.

Anna Lucia Colleo & Alessandro Daraio, Regione Emilia-Romagna, Italy

The importance of monitoring demographic trends at municipal level: the experience of the municipalities of Bistrita and Vratsa



Bistrita Municipality, Romania. Bistrița, the capital city of Bistrita-Nasaud County lays on Bistrita Valley, at the foot of Bârgău Mountains, at the crossing of major important commercial routes – one heading east to Moscow (Russia), and the other one heading west to Wien (Austria). This is the main reason why the city hosted a diversity of nations through the last 100 years, as well as a number of religious confessions like: German, Hungarian, Jews, Romanian and others.

The population in 1930 was structured as follows: 14.000 inhabitants, out of which 5.660 Romanians, 4.461 Germans, 2.177 Jews, 1.363 Hungarians and the rest, others. So, 60% of the local population has economic, cultural or religious connections with different regions from abroad that determined the development of the area in all domains: human capital, economy, labour force both internal and external.

For hundreds of years, Bistrița – Bistritz was a Saxon bourg, inhabited until the half of the XIXth century exclusively by German/saxon population. In a period of 80 years, respectively 1930-2011 the population of other nationality or religion has an evolution marked by major changes. So, in the years 1940 we witness the deportation of the Saxons (Germans), their percentage dropping from 60% to 2%. This important fact created a lot of changes in social, economic and cultural life of the city.

The demographic monitoring in this period determined major changes of the city, in the fields of education, labour market and citizens. In 1984 Bistrita municipality had over 84 big companies which employed over 50% of the population, 20 years later, as a result of economic, political and demographic changes had only 4 big employers. The evolution of student population determined the creation of 49 primary and gymnazial state schools and 11 primary and gymnazial private schools, enrolling a total of 17000 attendees.

The importance of monitoring the demographic changes determines the stability of social and economic development on a long term, as well as the impact of social and economic policies promoted on the local, regional and national communities.

The monitoring of indicators like: birth rate; fertility rate; death rate; infant death rate; life hope at birth; marriage and divorce rates allow us to make proper decisions and policies in time, regarding the social welfare, human capital, labour market, education, housing, etc.

Radu Dreptate, Executive Directore, Social Services, Bistrita Municipality, Romania



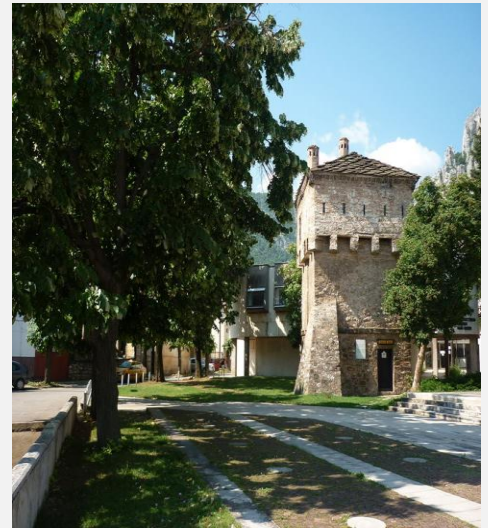
Policy tools for Strategic planning in SEE regions and cities

The importance of monitoring demographic trends at municipal level: the experience of the municipalities of Bistrita and Vratsa

(Continued from page 5)

Vratsa Municipality, Bulgaria. Demographic trends and changes in the structure of the population in Bulgaria in recent decades had a strong negative impact on important systems of society: demographic, economic, educational, health, pension and social security system. These processes led to changes in marital behavior and fertile population, maintaining high levels of mortality and unsustainable negative growth, intense internal and external migration and as a result - decreasing and aging population. The latter restricts reproduction and affects the structure of the population recruitment of labor.

Local authorities in Bulgaria as well as the Municipality Vratsa, operate in a lack of decentralization, including financial. At the same time, some of the areas that the local level in the jurisdiction of the local government shall be designed and managed at the national level. For this reason, municipalities have difficulty in conducting highly effective policies related to the nature and structuring of operations in the areas of health, education, social services, tax policy, etc.



Therefore, it is essential to bring out the mechanisms through which municipalities can actually influence. To achieve maximum effect, it is appropriate to apply an integrated approach to planning and implementation of related policies at the local level in the context of scenarios developed within the project MMWD. Based on these scenarios there are outlined seven related policies by which local authorities can influence the outlined processes and to provide necessary services in the conditions described in the scenarios.

Proposed policies incorporate varying degrees a combination of "soft" (representing mostly support services targeting specific beneficiaries) and "hard" (representing investments in facilities, space and / or infrastructure elements) measures. It is appropriate to take into account the spatial components associated with the intervention in the physical environment and to reconcile with each other through the instruments of spatial planning policy.

We are faced with the need to pursue an active and consistent integrated horizontal and cross-cutting demographic policy whose main objective is to mitigate, slow pace of development and reduce the negative impact of demographic changes and trends on the stability of public finances and social systems - labor market social assistance and protection, pensions, healthcare, education, etc.

Ralitsa Geshovska, Chief Expert "Investment Projects", Municipality of Vratsa, Bulgaria



Making Migration Work for Development

IN AGENDA - PAST EVENTS

by Gerassimos Koutsogiorgos, External Expert, Region of Crete, Greece

Knowledge Exchange Day in Salzburg University of Applied Science, Austria

At the peak of intensive development of policy scenarios by all MMWD project partners, a study visit to Salzburg University of Applied Science (SUAS) was organized with the purpose of upgrading the knowledge and experience of interested project partners, based on the results of need assessment conducted in the previous phases of the project. For the Serbian partners, the goals of the study visit were to **upgrade the knowledge and capacity in domain of population projections development** and to **contribute to the quality of policy scenario** that is being developed for the territory of Sumadija and Pomoravlje, as to achieve its significance as a strategic planning tool.



The study visit lasted from 3 to 7 February 2014 and was organized and hosted by the SUAS. The partners from **Serbia** (Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje and Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia), as well as from **Slovenia** (School for Advanced Social Studies and Regional Development Agency of Northern Primorska Ltd Nova Gorica) received a valuable know-how from the best experts within the MMWD partnership in domain of development of policy scenarios. Shared experience and discussions among participants provided a deeper and more detailed insight into methodology and essence of using population projections data, combined with identified key factors of development in the process of policy scenario development. Furthermore, the significance of policy scenarios as strategic planning tool was elaborated between the experts in social studies, statistical processes and territory development advisors. The shortages of the evidence and procedures available and used by Serbian and Slovenian partners were identified, while the most practical information and best practices provided at the study visit, were the opportunity to find out models of how to make up for the lack of data and upgrade structures for policy scenario development and their use in strategic planning.

Apart from the most valuable know-how transfer that they received, the representatives of the Serbian partner organizations, presented the experience, knowledge and practices at regional and national levels, concerning population projections and policy scenarios, which confirmed that there is no system of data needed for extended projections that is available to the Serbian Statistic Office and no policy scenario approach applied in strategic planning procedures at local and regional levels. The methodology defined through the MMWD project will be used and built up with the experience received during the study visit, as **to produce the first policy scenario for the region of Sumadija and Pomoravlje of Central Serbia**, and to be the **first strategic planning tool of this kind** that will be applied in the process of revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for Sumadija and Pomoravlje Region, 2011-2021.

Marica Gajić, Territory Development Advisor, Regional Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlja, Serbia

Institutional Visits for the capitalization of achievements among the administrations involved in the project "MMWD"

The visits have been part of a pilot testing process for the use of policy impact scenarios, constructed under MMWD, in strategic development planning for the period until 2020. The process involved 3 administrations: **City of Vienna, Region of Emilia-Romagna and Region of Crete**; 2 local and regional agencies: **Heraklion Development Agency (Crete) and Regional Economic Development Agency for Sumadija and Pomoravlje (Serbia)**, and local authorities from **Crete**, that have been met three times, in Heraklion, Vienna and Bologna, with the aim to share knowledge and good practices to design a coherent, knowledge-based and effective strategy framework.

1st Institutional Visit, Heraklion, April 2014

The **Region of Crete** hosted the 1st Institutional Visit in Heraklion, on April 9th. The participants had the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences on institutional frameworks and strategic planning at regional and local level in sectors such as labor, human capital, social welfare and migration.

IN AGENDA - PAST EVENTS

1st Institutional Visit, Heraklion, April 2014

(Continued from page 7)

The agenda included the Regional Development Strategy for the new programming period 2014-2020, social policy initiatives and inclusion measures implemented at local level and educational initiatives, meant to facilitate, at regional level, social inclusion and access to labour for immigrants and other vulnerable groups of people.



2nd institutional Visit, Vienna, May 2014

The 2nd visit was organized by the **City of Vienna** on May 9th. The agenda included presentations about the Vienna Employment Promotion Fund, which takes local initiatives against youth unemployment; the new Urban Development Plan of Vienna (STEP 2025) and the Austrian model to enhance tertiary technical education. The last presentation took place in University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Technikum Wien, Austria's largest technical University of applied sciences.



3rd institutional visit, Bologna, September 2014

The 3rd visit took place in Bologna, Italy on September 17th, held by the **Regione Emilia Romagna**. The meeting focused on the transfer of good practices, knowledge and

experience from the Italian region to the other administrations regarding regional and local services and models on social economy, tourism and youth mobility. The participants visited two social enterprises; a restaurant that provides a first employment opportunity to youth and a social cooperative that provides social, healthcare and educational services to the public system for children, disabled people and elderly.

The "MMWD" in a SEE Migration Roundtable

The **Region of Emilia Romagna**, lead partner of "MMWD", was specially invited to attend the SEE Migration Roundtable "**Data system reform for Managing Migration Effects in South-East Europe**" to share its own experience on collecting migration data needed for territorial development strategies.

The Roundtable took place in Trento, Italy on 7th May 2014, under the **strategic project "SEEMIG"**, which has as a main goal to empower public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence in order to better understand and address longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of South-East Europe.

The event was an opportunity for "SEEMIG" to present findings related to the identified pitfalls and adequate actions to address the problems on enhancing datasets and databases to contribute to a process of better management of migration impact in Central-Eastern Europe.

It was also an opportunity for the Region of Emilia Romagna to present the **methodological and conceptual framework followed by "MMWD" to identify development challenges**, using population projections and policy scenarios that take into account current demographic trends and their implications in certain policy realms. The MMWD lead partner presented also some selected results and data, depicting demographic changes in the Region of Emilia Romagna and their impact on youth and welfare system, which gave rise to fruitful discussion among the participants.

IN AGENDA - PAST EVENTS

3rd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Danube Area



MMWD representatives have been among the major participants of the **Joint Working Group Meeting** to prepare the 3rd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Danube Area (Vienna, 26 & 27 June 2014). The meeting took place on 24 & 25 June 2014, in Eisenstadt, Austria, to discuss the importance of migration as a driver of local development in preparation for the Third Annual Forum on Strategy of the Danube macro-region. The overall approach of the Joint Working Group placed the local and regional authorities in the forefront of the management of the effects that the current demographic, economic and social changes lead in terms of cohesion, innovation and regional competitiveness.

The MMWD partners **Regional Economic Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlje (Serbia)** and **Municipality of Vratsa (Bulgaria)** had the opportunity to present their initiatives and measures to address migration to and from their communities.

MMWD national and local events

National and local events are organized regularly under “MMWD”, with the aim to streamline awareness of the project's work by relevant stakeholders, establish lines of collaboration and exchanges with other relevant working groups and initiatives and disseminate project's results.

Under this framework, the **Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy** organized in Sofia, on 29th May 2014 a national conference with the aim to inform the Bulgarian stakeholders (public administrations, social partners, local authorities, etc.) about the results from the project MMWD activities, as well as to establish a line of cooperation and exchange of information with other similar initiatives in the future. The agenda focused on methodologies for population projections and policy development in response to the economic crisis; challenges and migration management at local and national level; development of strategic policy scenarios to meet the demographic challenges. A representative of “SEEMIG” project has also attended the conference giving a speech about “Basic stages, objectives and activities of the SEEMIG project”.



In the same context, the **City of Vienna**, in cooperation with the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, hosted on April 1st a regional dissemination event to present policy scenarios that anticipate the prospective effects of current demographic trends for the City of Vienna on different policy sectors, labor market, human capital and social **affairs**. The event gave the opportunity to the local authorities to share policy scenarios with stakeholders, get feedback for shaping future strategies and build ownership.



“Migration can be a factor for economic growth provided that social integration and access to employment will be guaranteed for migrants. Migrants are not a cheap labor force but cultural communities that give perspective on development and economic bridges between countries and regions”. That was the major conclusion underlined by all the participants in the “MMWD” Greek National Dissemination Conference, held under the title **“Population Changes and Development in the Region of Crete in 2020”**. The event was organized by the Region of Crete, on Monday 30th June 2014 at the Heraklion Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with more than 100 distinguished participants, among which MPs, regional and local leaders, policy makers and other representatives

from national, regional and local authorities, universities and technical educational institutions, local labor and other agencies, decentralized health and education authorities, local media, police and port authorities etc. The International Migration Organization was represented at the conference.

IN AGENDA - PAST EVENTS

3rd Regional Consultation on Transnational Dialogue and Cooperation in SEE

The final stage of MMWD Regional Consultations took place in Trieste (Italy) on 18-19 September 2014. The process of thematic roundtables meant to address important challenges related to the effects of demographic change across South East Europe, by means of facilitating institutional dialogue and thus pave the way to shared approaches and common action plans for the years to come. Through a process of dialogue among SEE public administrations and stakeholders, the Roundtables served the concrete purpose of discussing and developing one **Action Plan for Transnational Cooperation in 2014-2020** for each of the 3 areas covered by MMWD: Employment, Human capital, and Welfare.



IN AGENDA - UPCOMING EVENTS

MMWD Final Conference

“Ambivalent Neighbours. Demographic change and growth strategies in SEE”

The relevance of the demographic challenge for Europe and its regions has been underlined for several years now, even if less attention has been devoted to long-term challenges for territorial development related to demographic change.

Population trends have been at the centre of the analysis of the **strategic project “Making Migration Work for Development”**, a SEE transnational cooperation programme, which is coming to the end after 30 months of work.

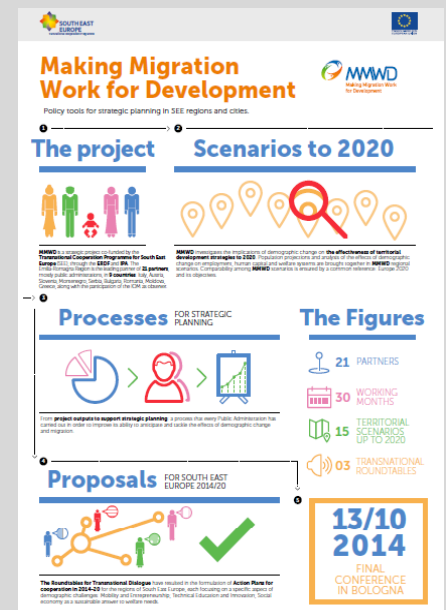
MMWD has aimed at sustaining the capacity of regional and local governments to embrace a future-oriented vision of territorial development. Partners have engaged in the construction of scenarios to 2020 concerning the relevance of demographic trends for growth and jobs’ strategies, which have been the turning point for both territorial analysis, and a process of dialogue and cooperation among institutions of South-East Europe.

The scale of MMWD are primarily regions and cities in South-East Europe, a peculiar cooperation area including EU and non-EU countries with an accession perspective. Local and regional authorities indeed are at the forefront in facing the interrelated effects of demographic, economic and societal changes occurring on their territories.

But the local dimension mirrors in wider macro-regional and international dimension, given that the most important factor shaping demographic change in the short term is migration. In this respect South East Europe is a largely connected region with strong complementarities but divergent regional trends.

Results and insights coming from MMWD project will be the base for the discussion, which will take place during the project final conference to be held by the Regione Emilia Romagna in **Bologna, on 13th October**.

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