

Closure of the strategic project MMWD Making migration work for development

Demographic change and growth strategies in South-East Europe

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 in Bologna on 13th October under the heading ***Ambivalent Neighbours. Demographic change and growth strategies in South East Europe***

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