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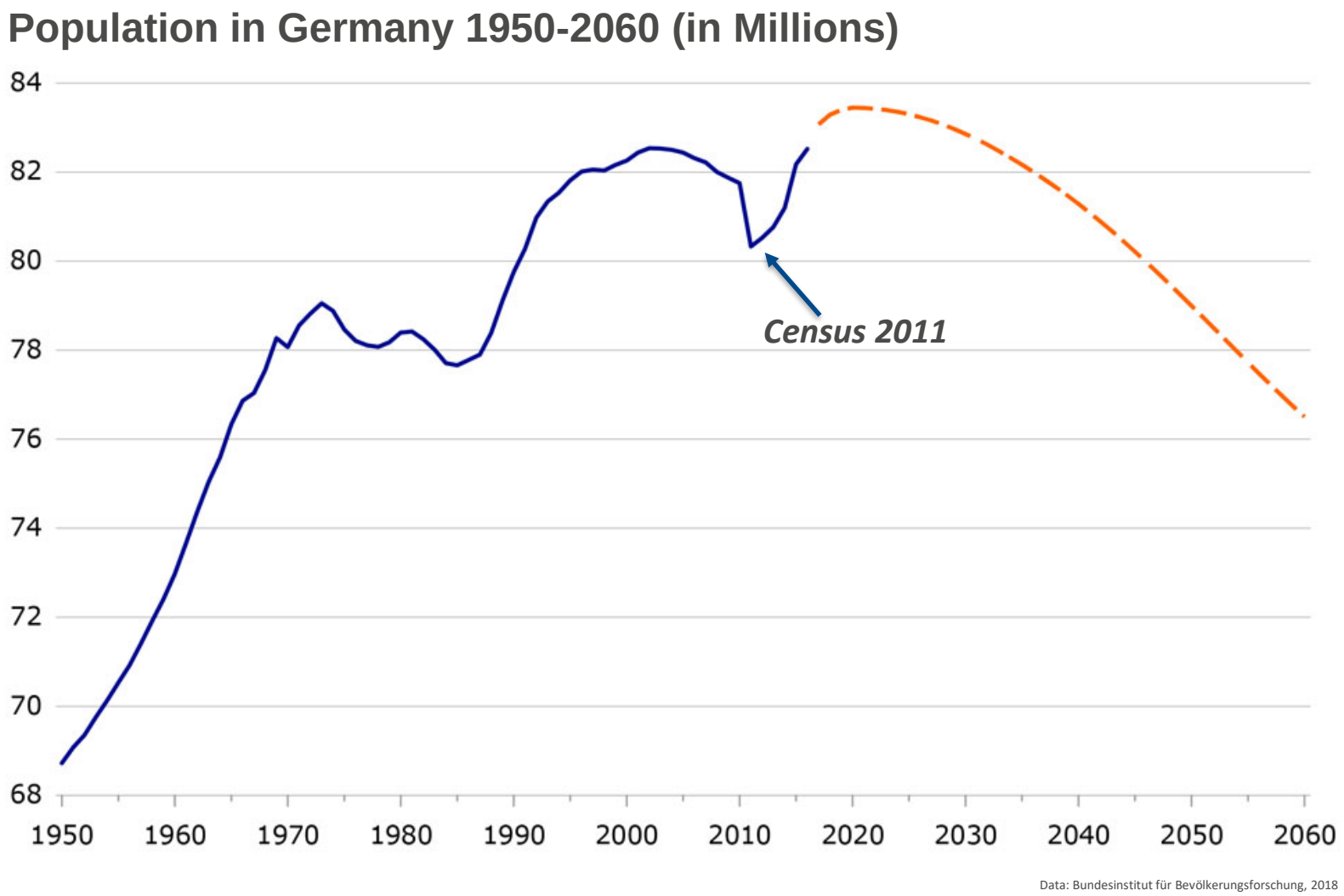
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND REGIONAL POPULATION DECLINE: A CRUCIAL CHALLENGE FOR LOCAL POLITICS AND PLANNING IN GERMANY

Bernhard Köppen 08.06.2018

Population Association of Korea - Bi-Annual Conference 2018

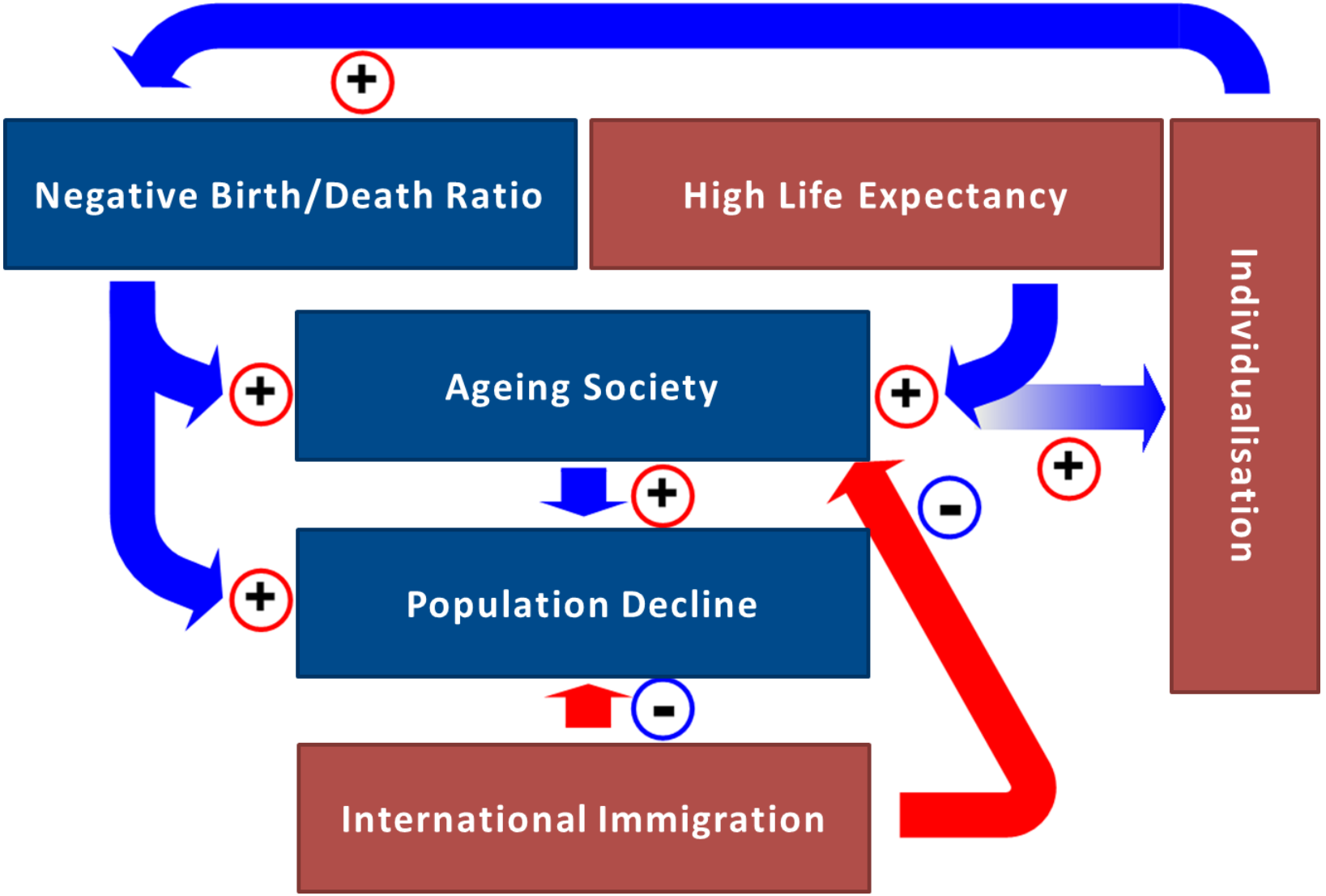
Population: A Problem for Germany (?)



Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung, 2018


Population Decline
Ageing Society
Individualisation
Internationalisation

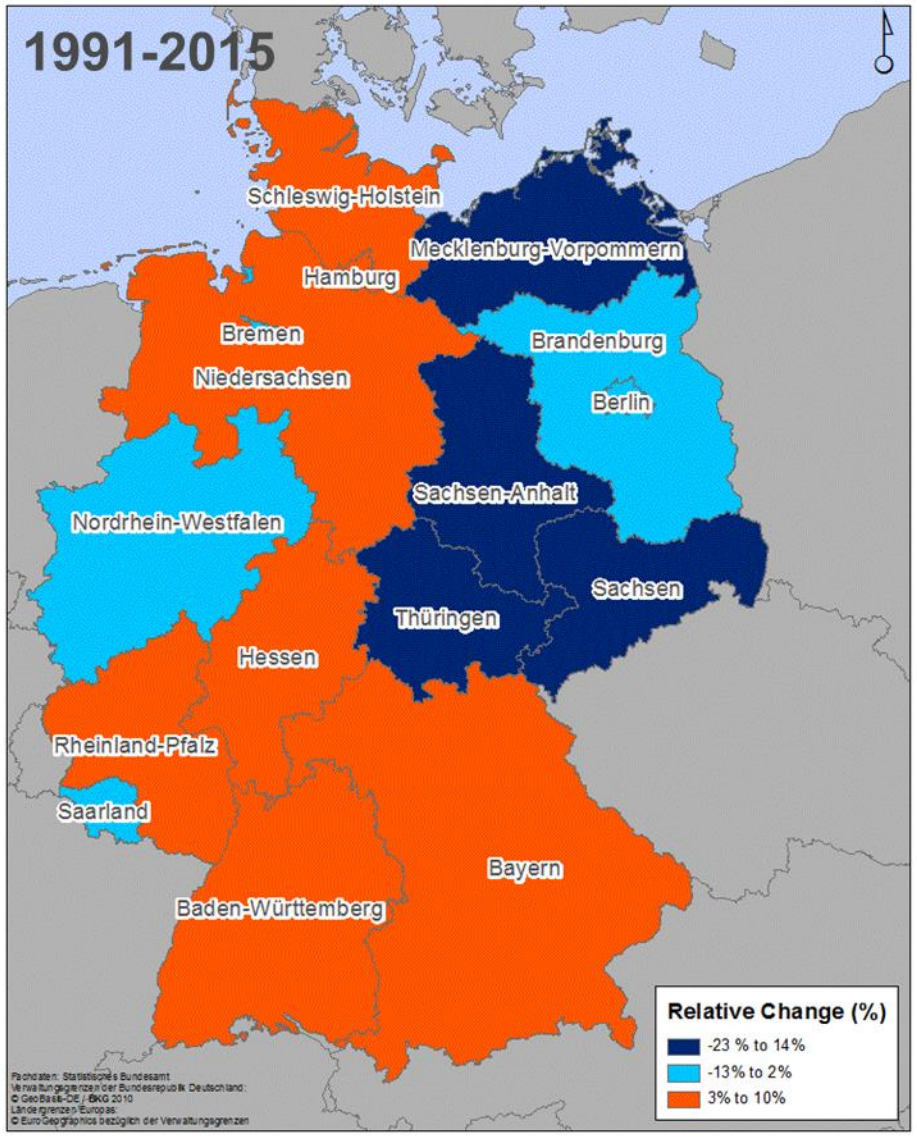
Schematic Chart of Demographic Change in Germany



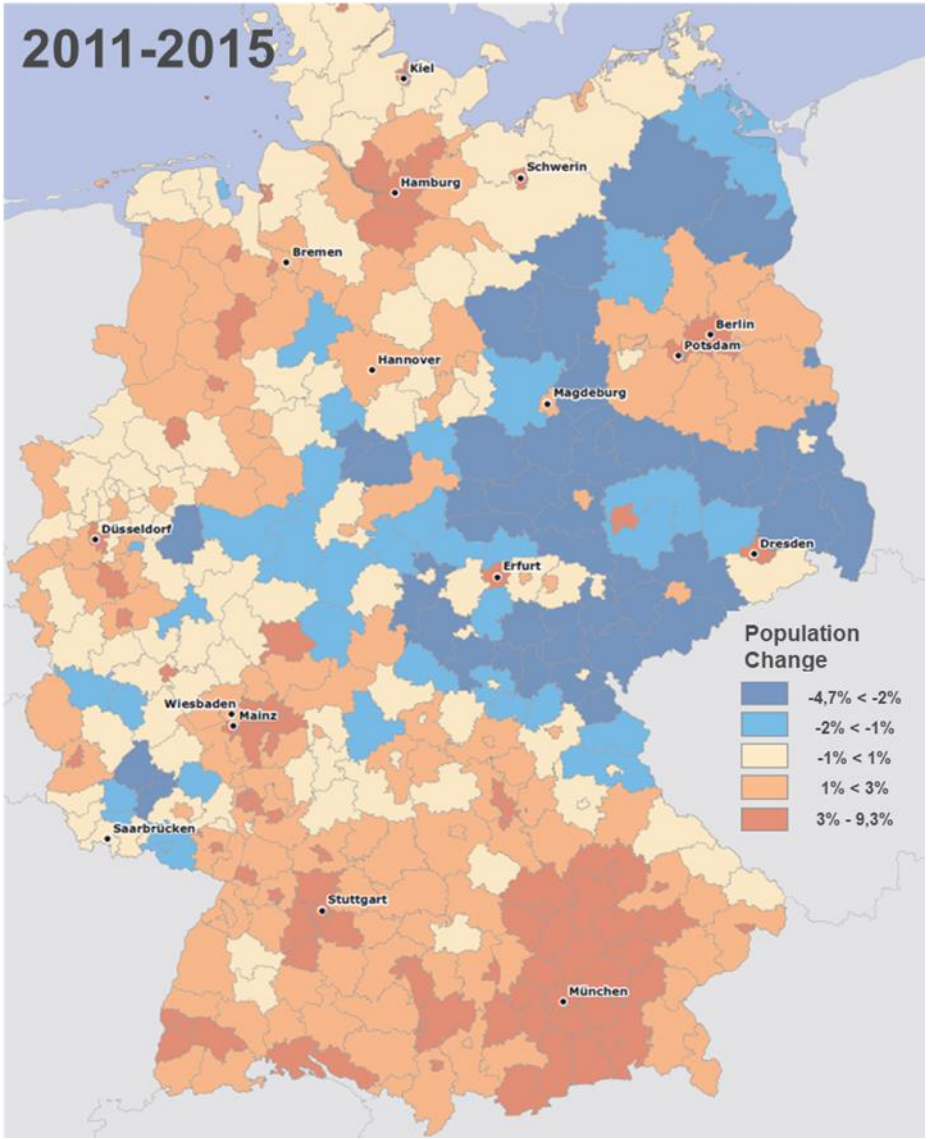
⇒ *Variations on regional/local level*

Recent Trends in Regional Population Development

Federal States (≈ Do/도)



Kreis/County (≈ Gun/군 & Si/시)



Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung
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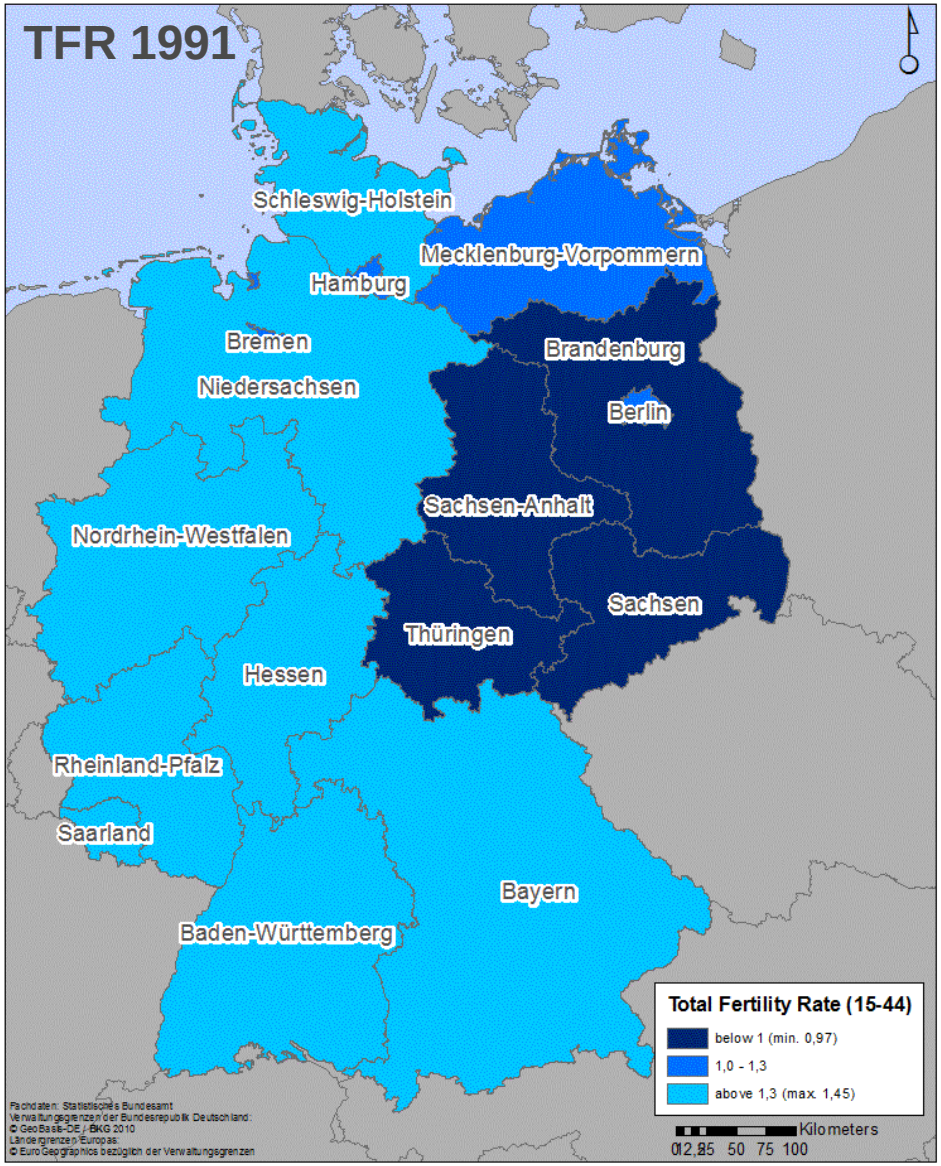
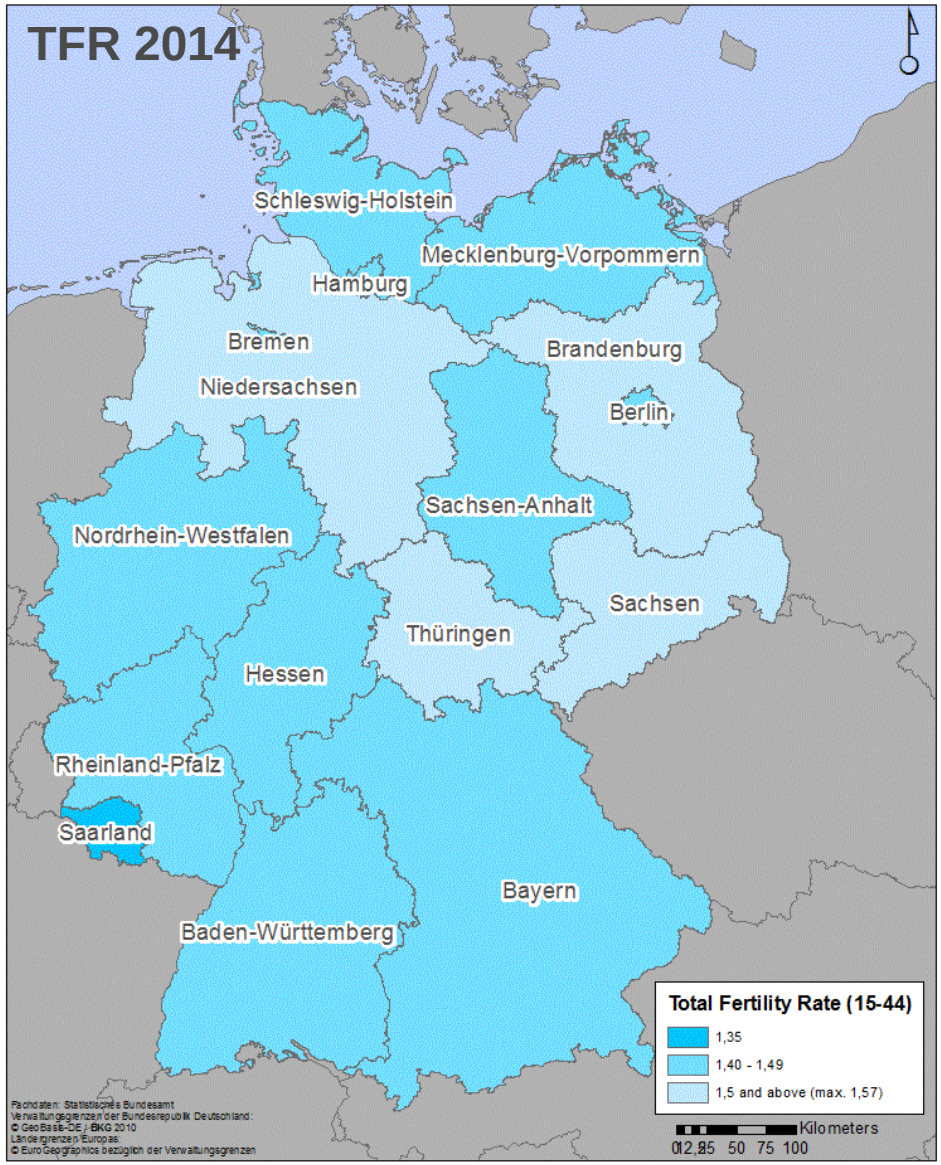
Total Fertility Rate 1991 and 2014: Federal States





Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung
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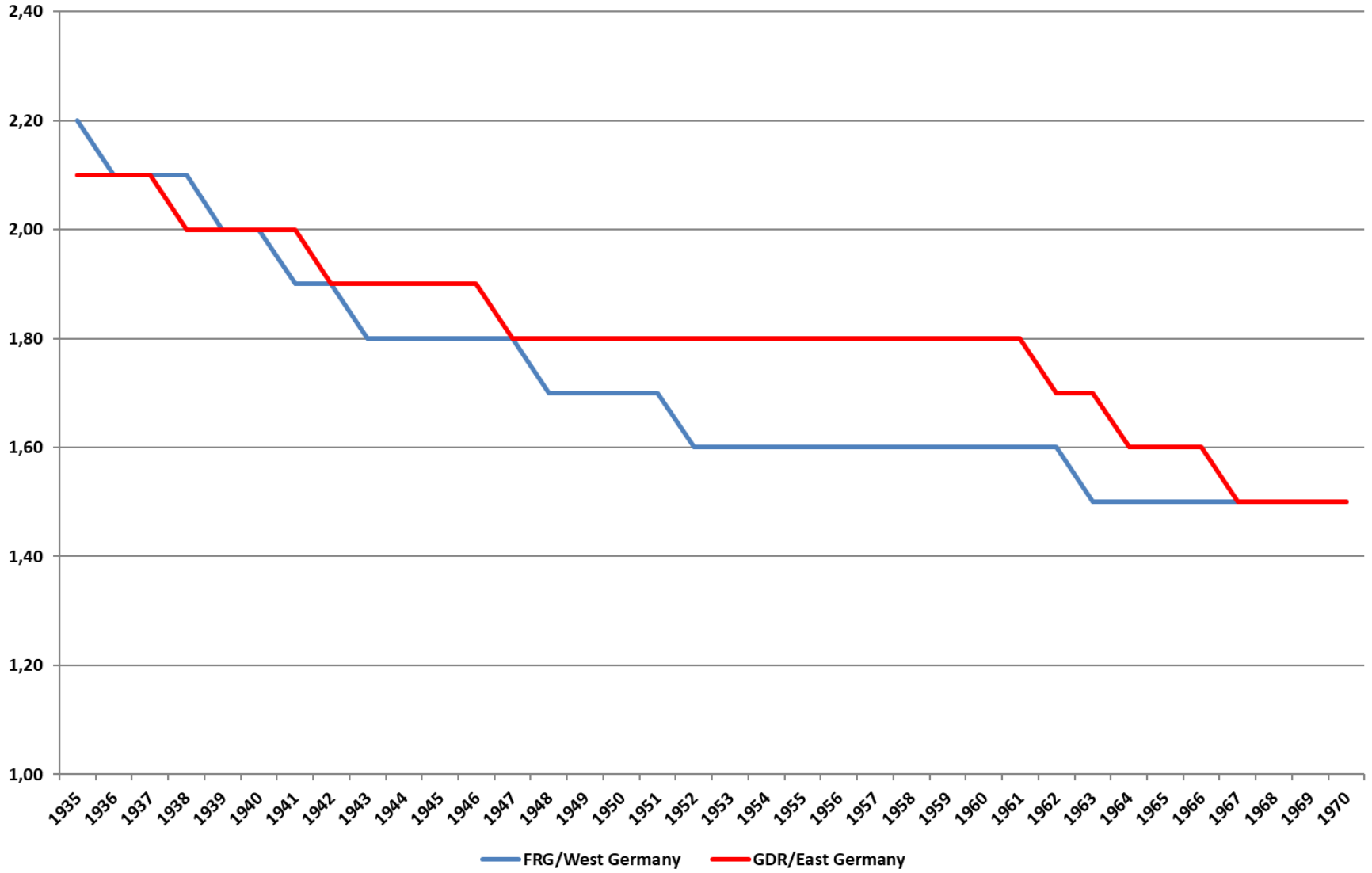
Cohort Fertility (CFR) 1935-1970



Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung
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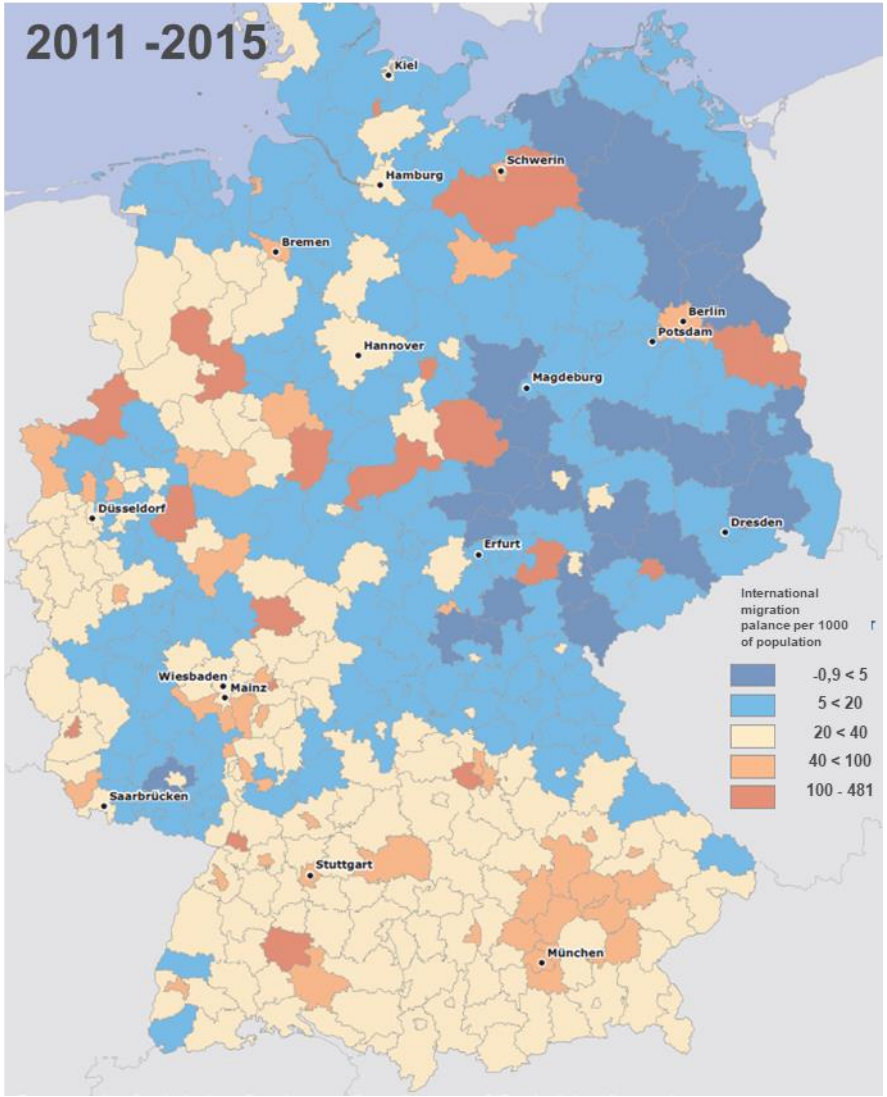
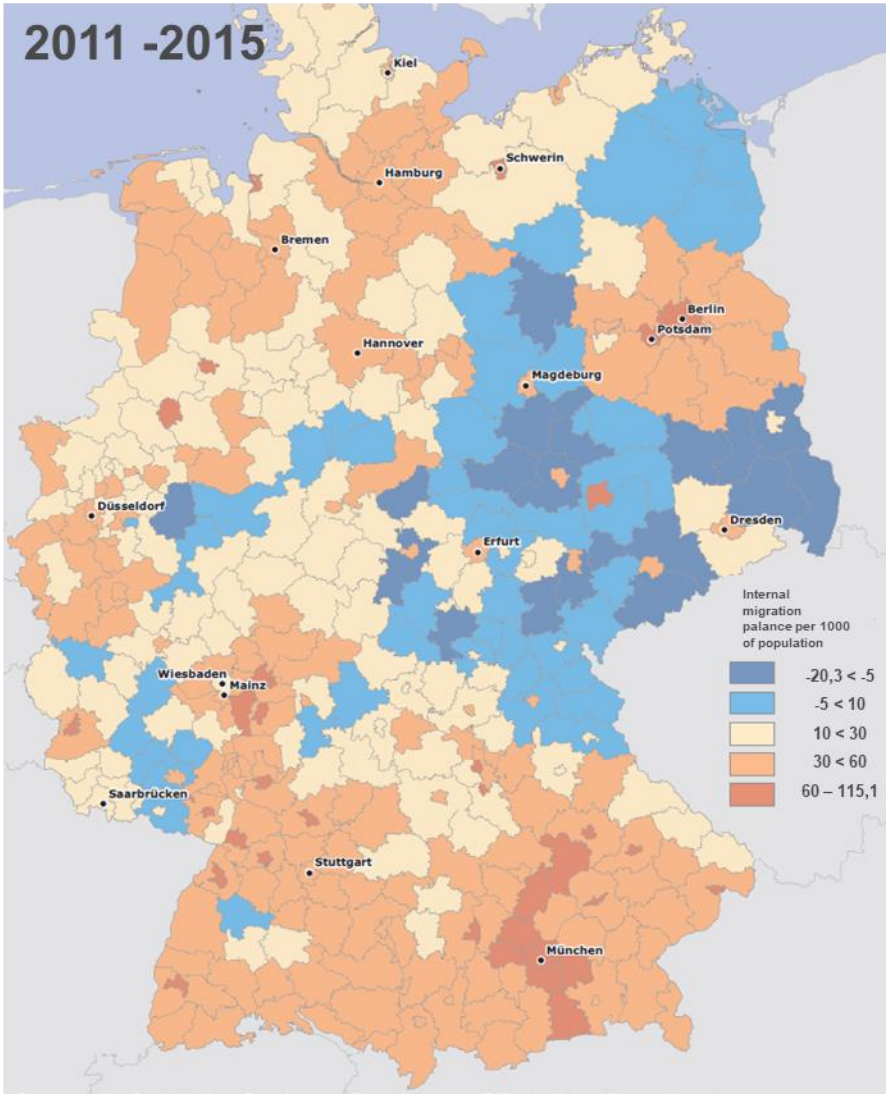
International Migration



Internal Migration



Data: Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung
destatis.de

Population Decline as a Challenge on Communal Level

a. In Germany, communal finance and population size are linked via regulations and systems of subsidy and solidarity ⇒ Population decline does affect the room for maneuvre in a direct way!

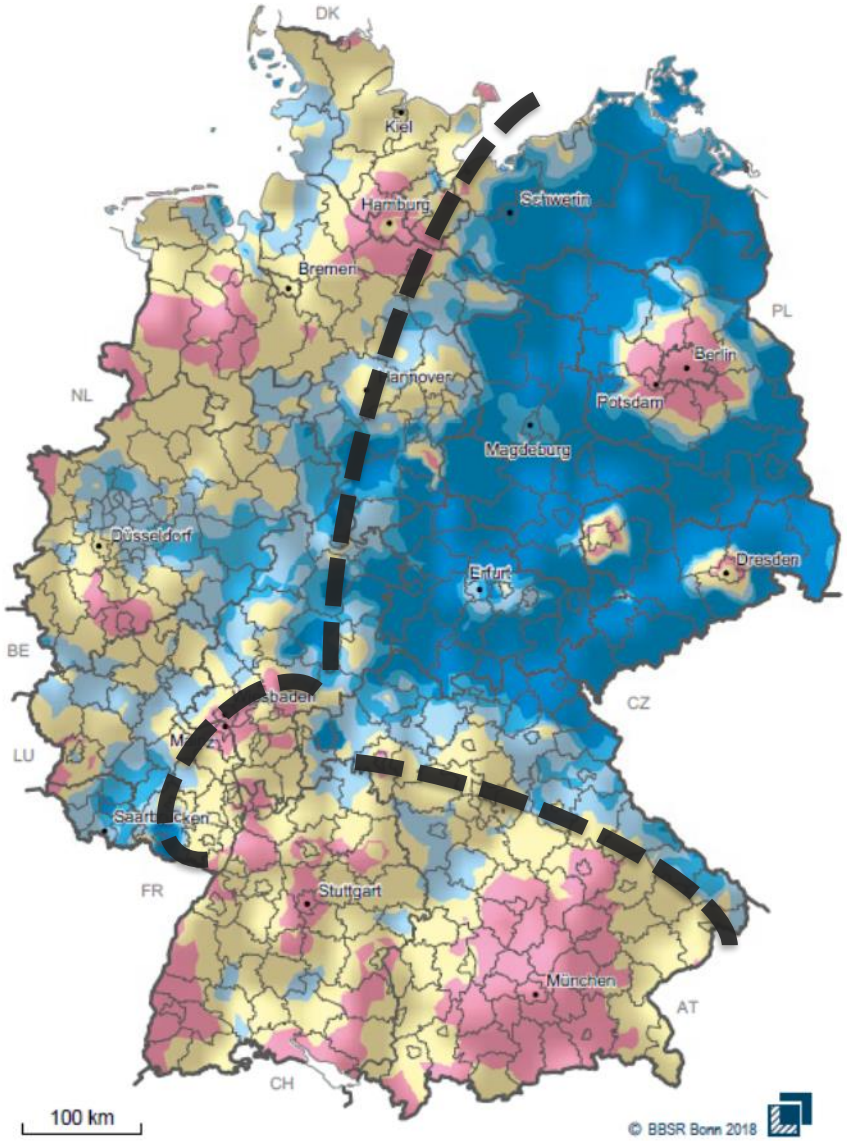
b. „Similar conditions of living for all people in all regions“ are a central paradigm of regional policy and spatial planning Germany ⇒ As demographic decline and poor economic performance tend to relate, the leitmotiv of the „*social* market economy“ is feared to be endangered.

c. Strategies for enabling the communes to provide all services of general interest under „conditions of demographic decline“ as a major task for the authorities of spatial planning

The Political Approach to Demographic Change

- There is no distinct, directly *interventionist* demographic policy in Germany targeting the individual citizens!
- Politics became sensitive to demography as a crucial parameter
- Measures are taken to ease and fight the negative consequences of demographic change and improve the conditions for families and women
  - → Parental allowance „Elterngeld“ and parental leave
  - → Expansion of child-care services…
- Most actions are in the field of public awareness and political discourse
  - → Demographiestrategie & Demograpfieportal of the Federal Government
  - → Demografiewoche in the State of Rhinelade Palatinate
- Due to the federal system, regional political decisions concerning demography can be contradicting when regareded in the national context

Model of Regional Population Change 2012 - 2035



Significant East-West and North-South Divide

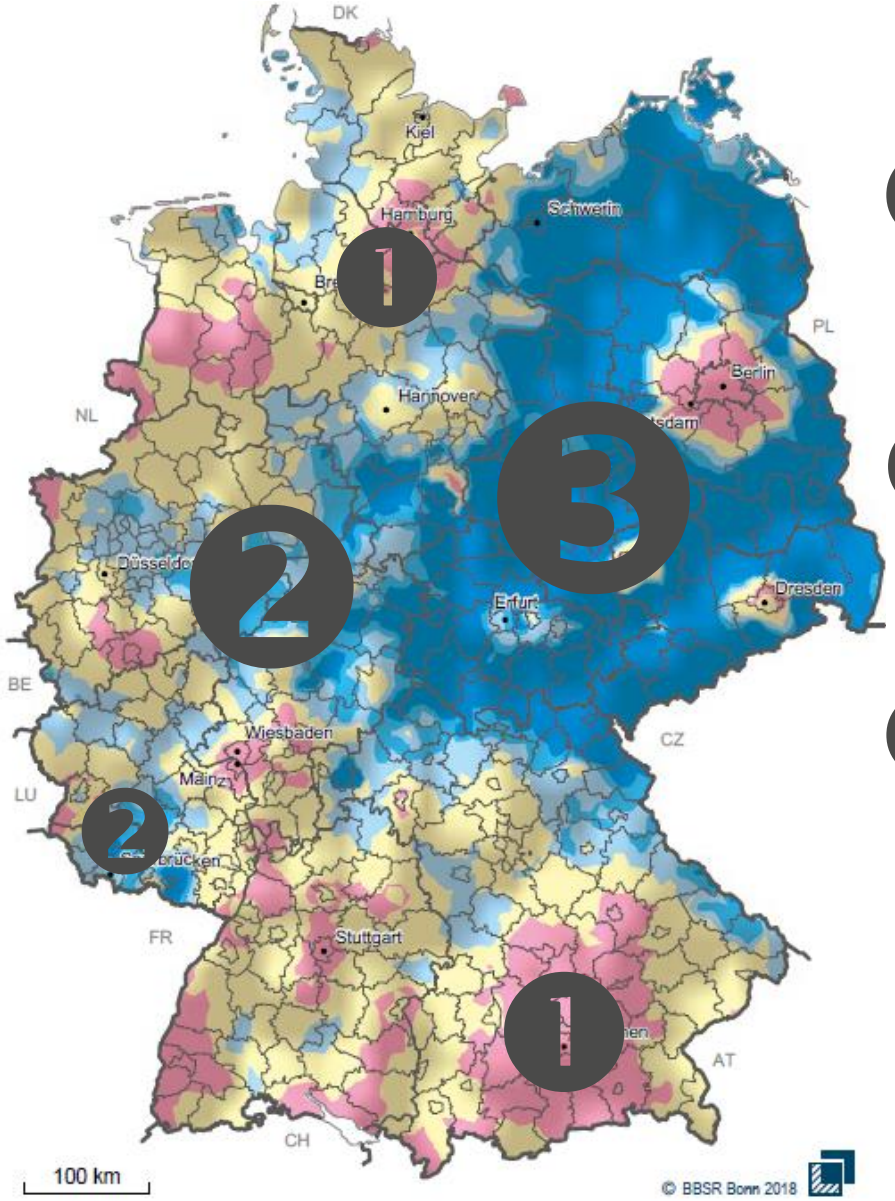
Population development 2012-2035 in %

- below -15
- -15 < -10
- -10 < -5
- -5 < 5
- 5 and above

Datenbasis: Raumordnungsprognose 2035 des BBSR
Flächeninterpolation der Gemeindeverbandswerte
Geometrische Grundlage: Gemeindeverbände (generalisiert), 31.12.2015 © GeoBasis-DE/BKG
Bearbeitung: C.Schlömer, M.Burgdorf

Source: Köppen, Kohlenberger, Horn (2018)

Regionalized Main-Pattern of Demographic Change

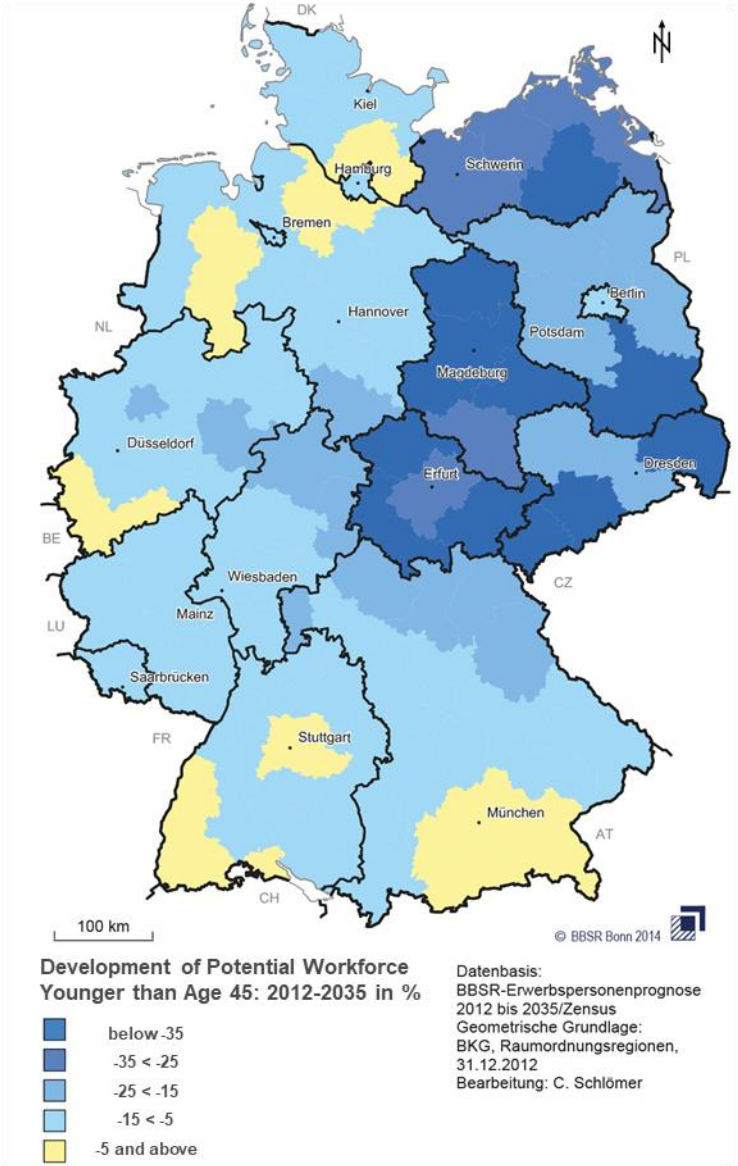


1. **Population Increase**
   Ageing Society „Type: Increase in Life Expectancy“
2. **Population Decline**
   Ageing Society „Type: Emigration of the Young“
3. **Population Decline**
   Ageing Society „Type: Emigration of the Young and Increase in Life Expectancy“

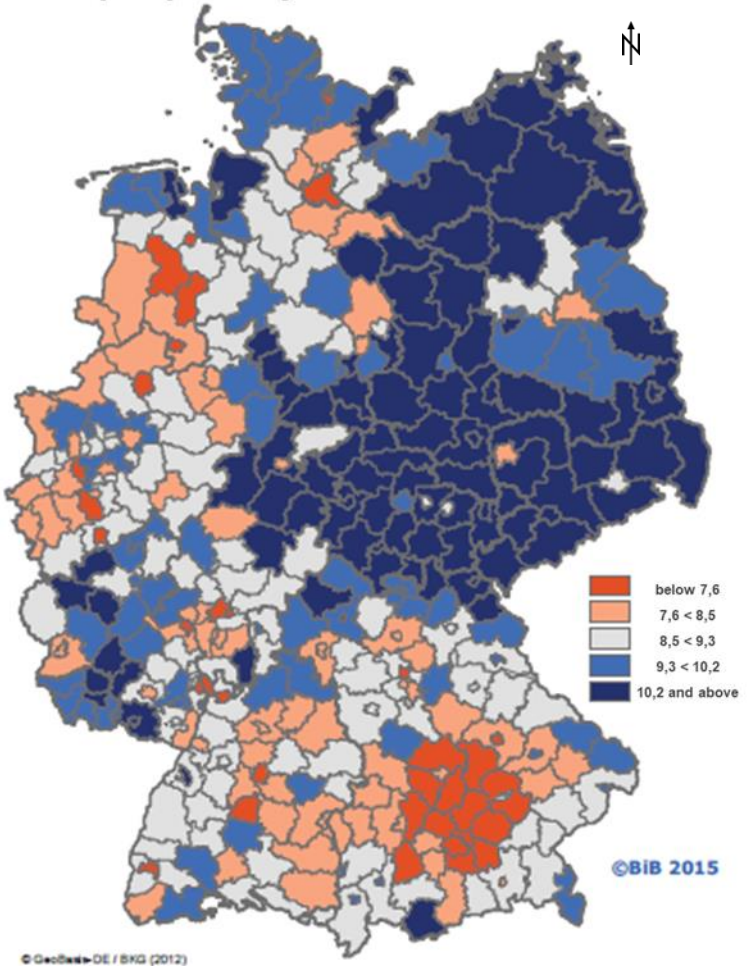
Source: Adapted form H.-J. Bucher (BBSR) & Köppen, Kohlenberger, Horn (2018)

Potential Workforce and Old-Aged People in 2035

Dynamics of Workforce



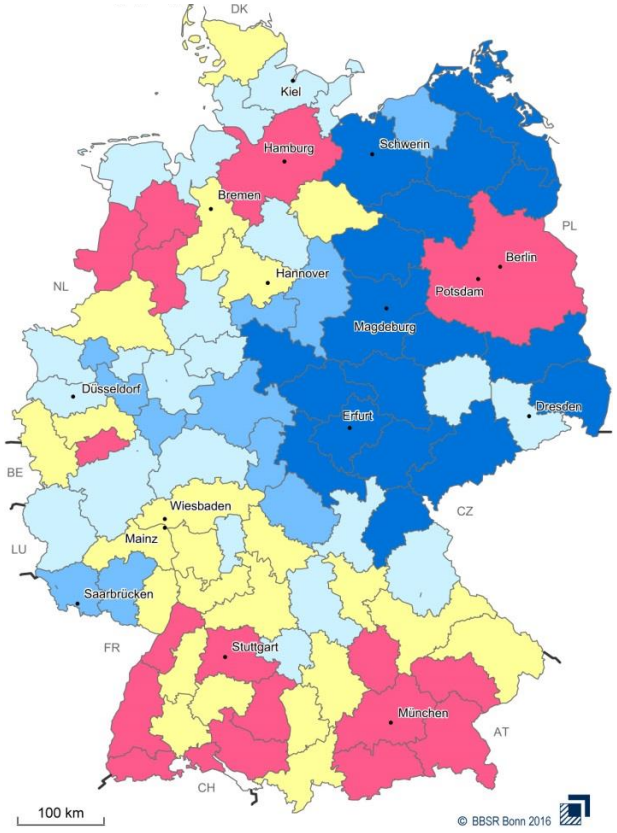
Share of people 80 years and older in %



Source: BBSR
Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung

Demographic Restoration by Refugees?

Population Projection 2012-2035 before 2015



Veränderung der Bevölkerungszahl 2012 bis 2035 in Prozent

- bis zu -12,5
- -12,5 bis zu -7,5
- -7,5 bis zu -2,5
- -2,5 bis zu 2,5
- 2,5 und mehr

Datenbasis: BBSR-Bevölkerungsprognose 2012 bis 2035/Zensus
Geometrische Grundlage: BKG, Analysregionen, 31.12.2014
Bearbeitung: C. Schlömer

A Scenario 2012-2035 by late 2016



The arrival of approx. 2 Mio. refugees does „ease" numerical demographic change for about 6 years mainly in South Germany and suburban regions of economic core cities

Veränderung der Bevölkerungszahl 2012 bis 2035 in Prozent, Szenario 2

- bis zu -12,5
- -12,5 bis zu -7,5
- -7,5 bis zu -2,5
- -2,5 bis zu 2,5
- 2,5 und mehr

Datenbasis: BBSR-Bevölkerungsprognose 2012 bis 2035/Szenario 2
Geometrische Grundlage: BKG, Analysregionen, 31.12.2014
Bearbeitung: C. Schlömer

Source: Schlömer, Köppen & Horn (2017)

Resumé: Regionalized Challenge of Demographic Change in Germany

- Various patterns of growth, decline and ageing → Need for multiscalar and regionally adapted approaches
- Dominance of internal migration: Regional growth is related to decline in other German regions
- Increase in regional disparities with regions of growth and decline side by side
- Cutthroat local competition for population, skilled workforce and investors?
- Shrinkage and decline as a financial burden due to remaining costs for public infrastructure (remanence effect)
- A need of „adapted planning for decline“
- Questions of integration, generational- and gender equality