



## **AER Roadmap for Demographic Change Background & Preparatory Questions**

### **Where are we coming from?**

Committee 2 of the AER has been working on the issue of demographic change for at least ten years.

From 1999 to 2008 the ALIVE network, which in its glory days gathered over 15 European regions, focused on strengthening the position of older people in the context of an ageing society. ALIVE resulted in several reports on elderly, elderly care and regional policy as well as two (unfortunately unsuccessful) applications for EU funding.

The Umeå Committee 2 plenary meeting in June 2008 focused on demographic change and issues such as: elderly care, active ageing, fertility and family policies, youth policies, solidarity between generations and how to combine these policies. A questionnaire had been sent out in preparation to the meeting to understand regions' interests in this policy field. During this meeting it was decided that demographic change definitely is one of the key issues in regional policy and politics and should be addressed within AER Committee 2. Members also acknowledged that demographic change has an impact on almost every aspect of daily life, that its exact impact varies among the regions and therefore it's hard to define a common agenda.

### **A challenge ahead: AER Roadmap for Demographic Change**

As demographic change in Europe requires a policy response urgently, Ms. Brigitte van Haaften, Vice Governor of the region of Noord-Brabant, and the AER Secretariat propose to you the challenge of concluding an AER Roadmap for Demographic Change.

This Roadmap should not be seen as a blue print to solve all regional issues concerning demographic change, nor is the roadmap meant to gain consensus around a single important issue raised by demographic change. Rather it is an agenda in which some *current common interests* are pointed out, including a *proposal* on how to deal with them in the context of AER.

Energy and synergy will be the key motivations for proposals to end up on the AER roadmap for demographic change. We all know that each region in Europe has its own agenda for demographic change and that each region in Europe is somehow affected by the financial and economic crisis. So we all know that each region must set its priorities. We therefore have to be realistic about the AER Roadmap for demographic change and put forward goals within reach. And we must ensure that these goals are firmly supported by regions that are committed to contributing to the work.

The Roadmap will be the result of a working session during the meeting of Committee 2 in Noord-Brabant in October 2009. In this session, on Tuesday 6 October,

representatives of the AER regions will discuss four questions about the content (focus) and organisation of demographic change within AER Committee 2. The discussion will be organized and moderated by Carly Jansen, member of the board of Directors of the Province of Noord-Brabant.

The Roadmap should consist of one or more proposals addressing the issues raised by demographic change. All proposals should satisfy three conditions:

- A proposal should consist of a description of the content and a description of the organisation (what issue do we want to work on and how will this issue be addressed);
- At least three regions should take part in a proposal;
- In order to favour the continuity of a proposal, a 'lead partner' should be appointed.

#### **Four questions to prepare**

Many reports have been written about the state of demographic change in Europe and its regions. We recommend the European Commission report "Regions 2020: An assessment of future challenges for EU regions", Brussels, November 2008, and the corresponding background paper<sup>1</sup>. Further, Hubert Santer and Camille Bulot (AER) have written a background document on demographic change in Europe: "Demographic Change – An Unavoidable Challenge Looming". All three documents are included among the working documents for the AER Committee 2 Autumn Plenary Session in Noord-Brabant on the AER website.

(<http://www.aer.eu/events/health-social/2009/innovation-demographic-change.html>)

Please log in to access the working documents.)

To prepare for the working session 'Roadmap for Demographic Change' on 6 October, **we ask participants to prepare the following four questions:**

**1. What should be the AER objectives and/or actions for demographic change according to your region? You may choose one or more of the options written below.**

- a. Fertility and family policies
- b. Youth policies
- c. Labour market policy
- d. Social inclusion policy
- e. Active ageing
- f. Elderly care
- g. Solidarity between generations
- h. Integration policy
- i. Health care innovation (including E-health, new working methods and planning tools, new health professionals)
- j. Social innovation (looking for new approaches, including integral and E-approaches)
- k. A combination of the above – please specify...

---

<sup>1</sup> "Regions 2020: Demographic challenges for European regions", Brussels November 2008.

- l. Other – please specify...
- m. My region is not interested in the issue of demographic change within AER

**2. What method fits best to this content according to your region? You may choose one or more of the options written below.**

- a. Form a new working group/network within AER's Committee 2, with regular meetings, to exchange knowledge and information
- b. Form a new working group/network within AER's Committee 2, with regular meetings, to prepare a project proposal for EU funding
- c. Form an informal network of experts exchanging information via IT means (website, discussion forum, online database etc)
- d. Participate (with other AER member regions) in an existing network or project on this subject and inform AER member regions on developments and/or the progress made during plenary sessions of Committee 2
- e. Prepare a AER Committee 2 Plenary Session on this subject (most possibly in 2012, which is expected to be the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity)
- f. Mainstream this issue across all Committee 2 activities
- g. Mainstream this issue across all AER Committee activities
- h. A combination of above – please specify...
- i. Other – please specify...

**3. Please, prioritise the objectives and/or actions you proposed.**

**4. Is your region interested in taking the lead in case your proposal is included in the AER Roadmap for Demographic Change?**

- a. Yes
- b. No