

HINTERLAND

potentials for a spatial development under the aspects of decline

Summarised description

The BSR is characterised by various Hinterland areas in a distance of 50 km and more to coastal zones and to metropolitan areas and larger cities. Most of these Hinterland areas suffer from a long-term decline in population, Europe has not experienced for hundreds of years. Decreasing demand of employment in agriculture and in lesser competitive SME structures with an increasing mobility makes people move away from Hinterlands, leading to lesser active and over-aged population, lesser economic and social activities and waste of houses and infrastructure. This process might create a "downward spiral" accelerating and combining several decline processes with waste areas, loss of central functions in neighbouring towns and decreasing attractiveness and competitiveness of whole regions.

The project aims to manage the process of decline in the Hinterland region by modern, innovative spatial development approaches. Decline has to be organised even where no or only few potentials can be found or expected, affecting a stronger consciousness about decline and its long-term character. Also stronger potentials with effects on stabilisation or even slight growth must be found, bundled and mobilised most effectively - using bridges to neighbouring "Vorderland" regions for wider co-operations.

With the enhancement of knowledge about the facets of decline and with the scientific support the project partners will be able to develop local/regional foresights and specific development strategies for future settlement structures, rural-urban business relations, transport and infrastructure matters as well as landscape and agriculture aspects, and apply them in their pilot activities.

The Hinterland Trans-national Network will accompany this process and sustain close co-operation with the European and BSR development visions and policies. It will also create an inter-regional concept underlining the specific facets of decline experienced by different partners.

Hinterland project partners areas are characterised by decline in started or already advanced stadium. The scope of the decline of the inhabitant's number since last 3 - 5 years is -2% to -7%. The forecasts for the next 15 years expect -5% to -43% additional.

Complementing the local and regional partners Hinterland will have strong support and control by other key experts - partners like universities, planning and development institutions and Vorderland linking authorities. So a Hinterland triangle partnership between local authorities - regional co-ordinators - decline experts builds on strong horizontal and vertical cooperation in spatial planning and development. Also the project partners involves more than 100 villages in the whole BSR where will implement best practice pilots.

WP 1: Challenge of decline – Hinterland information and organisation

WP 1 is to deepen knowledge about decline process in Hinterlands. Although it is widely known that decline is/will be the destiny of many Hinterlands, its local and regional facets and its long-term character and consequences yet not are very common. Overall decline rates for larger spatial units often cover differences and specific problems in smaller units with the result that decline not has been identified as local phenomenon and problem. Thus local and regional actors not feel concerned by decline. Too, many stakeholders know about the Hinterland future, but have not started to manage this process consequently; many involved authorities and socio-economic partners are rather uncertain in approaching the process with new and innovative instruments and strategies. Therefore this work-package will work out the individual mechanisms of decline in the PP's local units, supported by science and development institutions. WP 1 will not concentrate on detailed forecasts, but more analyse the whole process, its propulsions, it's local and regional consequences including its impacts on Vorderland and cities and the starting points for an efficient decline management. The main result will be individual decline surveys and schedules for the PP regions.

Furthermore WP 1 will reflect decline management measures on WP 5's regional foresight and therefore cover the whole project's time, installing a constant flow of experiences and results from the other work-packages.

WP 2: Hinterland types of regions

WP 2 is to define Hinterlands under its pre-conditions and its potentials of long-term decline.

Although the project only covers a very small cutout of BSR Hinterlands it is likely that decline will vary in its characters within the PP regions. To give a base for comparisons it is useful to arrange the results from WP 1

into a Hinterland typology, not only respecting the differences in the size of decline but also differences in individual potentials and profiles, in present development activities, in pre-conditions for a decline management and in relations to Vorderlands and neighbouring cities. This typology can simply be used as a ranking list but also as a tool to estimate efficiency and success of development activities as well as a starting point for new decline oriented rural-urban co-operations. It seems likely, that the typology will also increase decline discussion in regions outside PP and thus open the issue to a wider and concerned audience. Furthermore the typology can help to modify present classifications of rural regions in national and European spatial development programmes not only in larger scales but also regarding the application of planning and funding in spatial development.

It is obvious that the typology will not be developed only as a starting point but will be modified and corrected continuously throughout the whole project – due to the found results from WP 1, 3, 4 and 5. A responsible partner's role would be to make sure that each of regional workgroups will carry out its work in an agreed method so that the results are comparable between countries.

WP 3: Hinterland indigenous potential development

Work-package 3 concentrates on the evaluation of typical potentials and profiles of Hinterland regions respecting specific demands and needs from decline and other typical demographic elements such as over-aged population. It is essential to find out interdependencies between aspects of decline and Hinterland potentials to define their chances in future. This will affect the design and application of better tools due to the demographic process. Depending on the found Hinterland types from WP 2 it can be expected that these types can be related to different potentials and profiles, promising different success in their development: Similar potentials could request different measures and strategies for development, and it is important to find out those which suit most to the individual demographic pre-conditions, defined in the types of Hinterland from WP 2. As it is unlikely to find an ideal collection of potentials and profiles suitable to a majority of Hinterland types, WP 3 offers the opportunity to test some potentials and profiles as pilots within a half year's time in the PP regions and to develop jointly scenarios as a expectable testing background.

WP 3 will be the main issue to be discussed in regional Hinterland networks (RegNet's) under participation of local and regional authorities, public and private bodies and SME's as future partners in Hinterland decline management. Spreading and transforming the results from WP 1 and WP 2 to a wider regional/local audience will help to inform and motivate stakeholders to join the project.

WP 4: Promotion Hinterland development with "Vorderland" links and co-operations (urban/coastal/metropolitan linkages)

It is an experience that the principle of subsidiarity is limited in regions with structural weaknesses. Even an ideal exploitation of indigenous Hinterland potentials won't change decline substantially. Indigenous potentials from WP 3 therefore should be completed in WP 4 by stronger linkages to related prospering zones along the coast and around cities/ metropolitan areas next to the Hinterland. These linkages should be developed to a mutual function and benefit sharing, respecting the fact, that strong Hinterlands enhance Vorderland with their cities. The investigations on linkages will exceed the typical linkages like tourism or the production and sale of food. The aim is to find hidden potentials which are worth to be developed or re-developed - i.e. if there can be found function sharing in the past with hidden Hinterland potentials. It is likely to benefit predominantly in this WP from trans-national comparisons and discussions, generating chances for new rural-urban-partnerships, strengthening both. Whatever the search, discovering and discussion of new linkages will bring – it has to be related to the characters of decline and to the found results from WP 1, 2 and 3.

WP 5: Hinterland trans-national concepts and regional foresight

WP 5 ensures the embedment of the other WP's in the present situation of strategy and policy in rural development. A collection and selection of recent and relevant activities in this field will be examined and evaluated due to the intermediate and final results in WP 1 - 4, showing different grades of correspondence to the found characters of decline, to types of Hinterlands, to potentials and profiles and to rural-urban-linkages. Depending on the results, different demands and needs for modified planning and funding in Hinterland regions will be defined by the PP and discussed regionally as well as trans-nationally. At least overall and individual recommendations for a better respecting of decline characters will be the result, leading to improved or new strategies, policies and other trans-national activities for a more decline oriented rural development.

It seems useful to combine the present approaches to rural development in Hinterlands with the found characters of decline and types of Hinterlands to a regional foresight. Different future models could be discussed, showing the necessity to keep involved in the management of decline processes and producing answers for the question what would be if decline continues on certain levels.

Strategic focus and planned results of the work-packages

WP no. 1	Title	Challenge of decline – Hinterland information and organisation
	Strategic focus	Analysing, evaluating, survey, processing and dissemination of decline in local, regional, and trans-national levels; decline networks
	Planned results	- Efficient structuring and performance of project organisation, - Enhanced und structured decline information, bundled in tailored tools - Raised awareness on decline issues and related development items; Installing Decline Networks
	result indicators	- Embedded individuals and groups in project organisation, - Involved actors in generating and transfer of information - Reached users and animated actors of information tools in all levels
	outputs and their quantifications	- 7 Hinterland Networks (6 RegNet and 1 TransNet Regional), Hinterland TS - Decline information packages (2 per region), decline surveys/schedules (2 per region) - Overall decline synopsis, report, 5 Hinterland Forums, Hinterland Manual and Website
	Responsible partner	LP
	Involved partners	all PP
WP no. 2	Title	Hinterland types of regions
	Strategic focus	Typology of declining Hinterland in order to create new and optimise tools and measures for future development
	Planned results	- Development of a typology of Hinterland regions around BSR - Synopsis of rural classifications as planning and funding tools, best practice results - Improvements of recent planning and funding tools in the Hinterland types
	result indicators	- Application rate of typology/Hinterland types of decline - Number of concerned actors and activities represented by typology/Hinterland types of decline
	outputs and their quantifications	- Hinterland types of regions / typology - Typology presentation and report, comparison report on spatial classifications for rural areas - Trans-national/regional expert meetings, Expert networks
	Responsible partner	PP 3
	Involved partners	all PP
WP no. 3	Title	Hinterland indigenous potential development
	Strategic focus	Mobilisation indigenous potentials - needs on new/existing development tools, pilots in application, further optimisation of present tools
	Planned results	- Selection and structuring of key potentials due to their flexibility/adaptability in items of decline - Enhanced motivation for local/regional decline issues in networks - Improved innovative tools and exploitation of key potentials
	result indicators	- Number of actors to explore potentials, - Number of beneficiaries from explored potentials, - Number of involved partners of pilot application
	outputs and their quantifications	- 12 final Information packages with key potentials by PP's - Catalogue of innovative tools, guidelines for application respecting pilot enhancements - Number of regional meetings, Hinterland web-portals, newsletters

	Responsible partner	PP 4
	Involved partners	all PP
WP no. 4	Title	Promotion Hinterland development with "Vorderland" links and co-operations (urban/coastal/metropolitan linkages)
	Strategic focus	Dissemination of Hinterland decline items/potentials to Vorderlands. Mobilising partnerships with prospering neighbours including piloting.
	Planned results	- Enhancing interest and engagement for Hinterland decline issues - Key potentials in new innovative partnerships in Hinterland-Vorderland relations - Models of Hinterland-Vorderland co-operations due to decline issues
	result indicators	- Number of Hinterland-Vorderland connections, - Number of actors to explore potentials and number of beneficiaries from explored potentials, - Number of involved partners of pilot application
	outputs and their quantifications	- Institution building/Implementation of mutual and constant information flow instruments to be installed in Vorderlands: rural embassies, rural market spots, rural treasuries, rural marriages, H-V meetings, H-V chatrooms; H'land homecomer's club
	Responsible partner	PP 2
	Involved partners	all PP
WP no. 5	Title	Hinterland trans-national concepts and regional foresight
	Strategic focus	Comparison between recent Hinterland development policy and specific decline-focused demands in BSR- and an EU-wide context
	Planned results	- Transfer of information to regional, national, international stakeholders - Regional foresight and optimised strategies to improve Hinterland long-term future perspectives - Recommendations concerning new Hinterland planning and funding in BSR
	result indicators	- Addressees/customers of trans-national decline information packages - Actors and audience in regional foresight scenarios - Addressees and users of overall Hinterland decline recommendations
	outputs and their quantifications	- Final trans-national information package (1), - Foresight scenarios and strategic approaches (number unknown) - Catalogue of trans-national recommendations, Regional TransNet final report (1)
	Responsible partner	PP 8
	Involved partners	all PP

Hinterland partnership

Hinterland project partners (PP's) are institutions, local and regional authorities with the whole area or great spatial areas/districts characterised by decline in started or already advanced stadium. The scope of decline of population since the last 3 - 5 years varies from -2 to -7 % already. Additional expectations in long-term forecasts until 2020 range from -5 up to -43 %. For the types of partner constellations in the respective Hinterland Regional Networks (6 RegNet - in Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia - Karelia, Russia – Pskov Region) - see the illustration in the attached file coopstructure, please. A strong support of municipal and regional partners Hinterland is guaranteed by key experts from science (universities) and development institutions (planning boards, and Vorderland linking authorities (i.e. public transport).

This Hinterland triangle partnership between local authorities - regional co-ordinators - decline experts builds on strong horizontal and vertical co-operation in spatial planning and development to offer new chances in tackling the problem of decline. So Hinterland involves local and regional authorities which will implement well practical activities under scientific support in more than 100 Hinterland settlements/villages all over the BSR.

	Institution	Country
Lead Partner	Regional Planning Authority Havelland-Flaeming	DE
Partner 2	VBB Transport Authority of Berlin/Brandenburg	DE
Partner 3	Lithuanian University of Agriculture	LT
Partner 4	Šiauliai County Governor's Administration	LT
Partner 5	Pasvalys District Municipality	LT
Partner 6	Jurbarkas Regional Municipality	LT
Partner 7	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn	PL
Partner 8	Baltic Institute for European Regional Concern	PL
Partner 9	Town Hall of Tczew	PL
Partner 10	Viborg County Council	DK
Partner 11	Municipality of Sallingsund	DK
Partner 12	Municipality of Spottrup	DK
Partner 13	Municipality of Sundsore	DK
Partner 14	Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Science	RU
Partner 15	The Pskov regional Administration, the Committee for the Local Self-Governing	RU
Partner 16	Regional Planning Authority Havelland-Flaeming (as Tacis Financial LP)	DE

Partner	Role in the project
Baltic Institute for European Regional Concern	
Partner 8	<p>responsible for WP 5, in close cooperation with LP; - staff: average 0,2 - compl. by PP's daily tasks+LP support</p> <p>- as a network of researchers, policy makers and planners PP has competence in integrated, sustainable development, planning and control of regional, national, trans-national policies (cohesion policy, esp. for socio-economic and spatial development)</p> <p>- contribution+benefit will be in delivering research, advisory services and developing policy tools, scenarios and models for planning, monitoring and control of Hinterland regions, in supporting LP+SC, esp. in trans-national context</p>

Map – Overview of the Hinterland project partner

