

# „Regional Strategy for the Provision of Public Services“

Experiences with an innovative instrument for peripheral rural regions in Germany



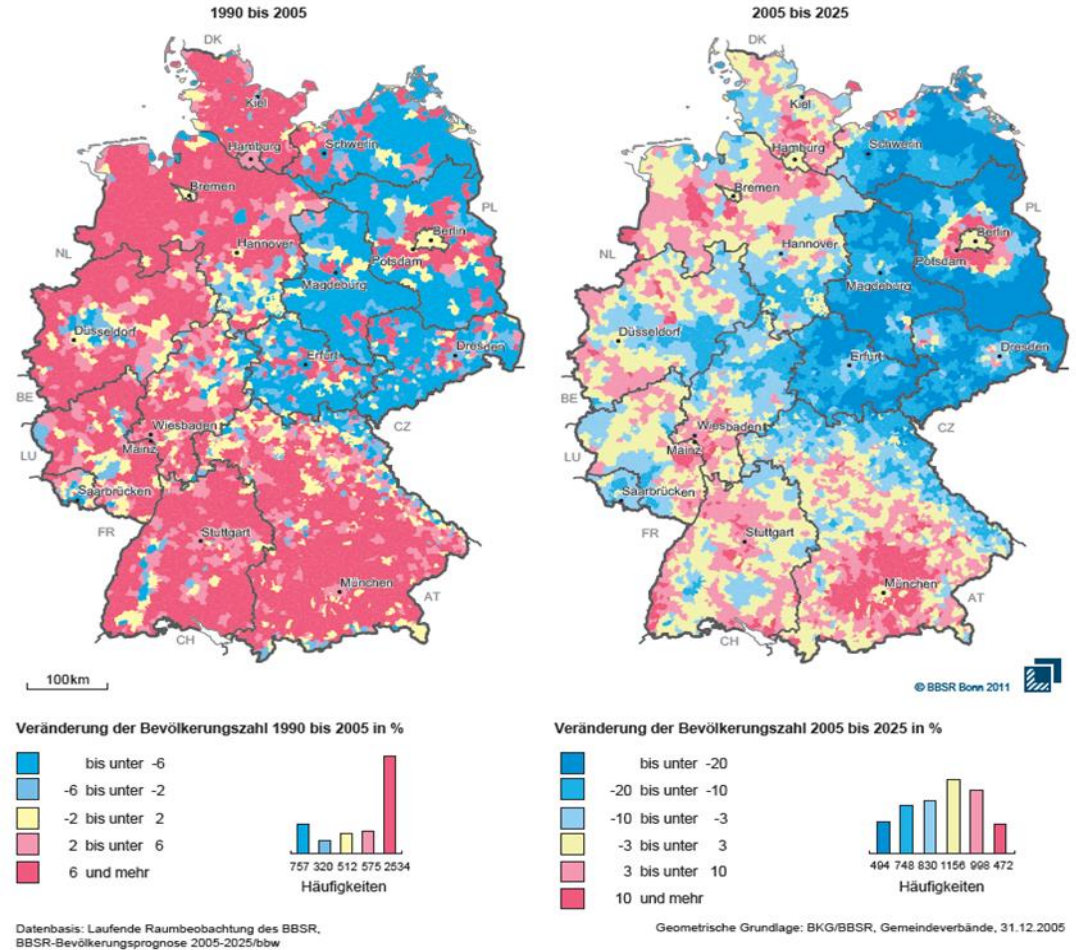
Johann Kaether, University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg

- **Challenges**
- **Programme of Action for the Regional Provision of Public Services**
- **Planning Approach Regional Strategy for the Provision of Public Services**
- **Results and Examples**

## Demographic Changes in Germany: Past and Future Trends

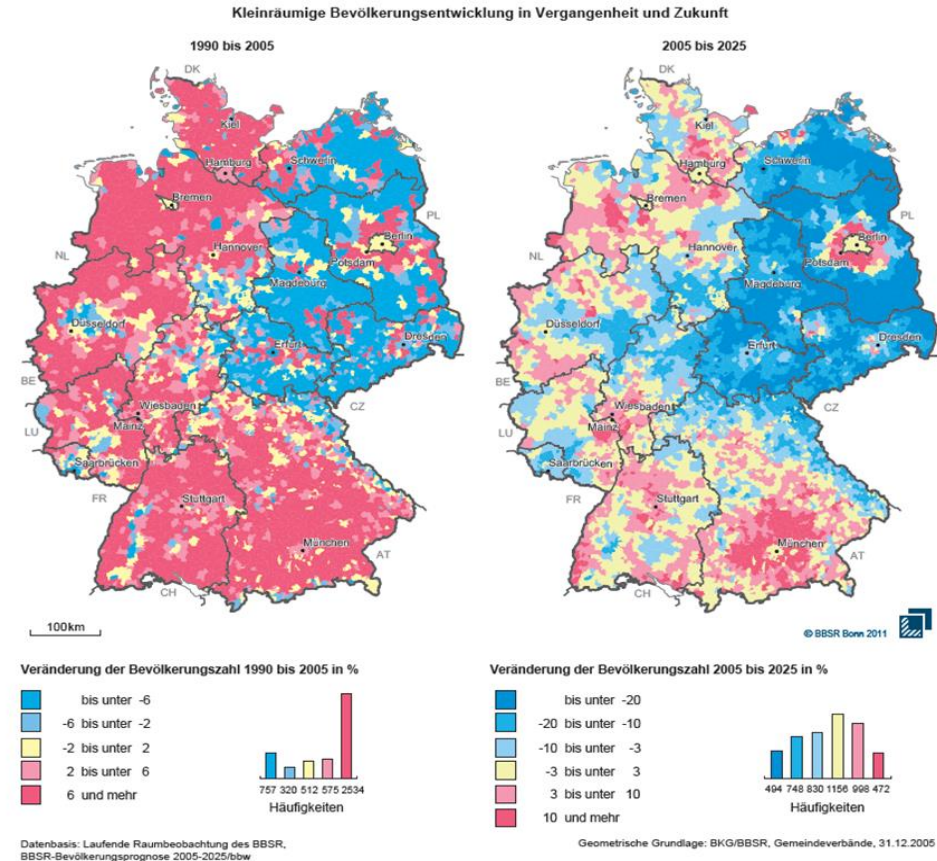
- Decrease of population
- Shift of age classes / ageing
  - Less younger people
  - Less Work force and parents
  - More elderly people
- Internationalisation
- Many rural regions are concerned

Kleinräumige Bevölkerungsentwicklung in Vergangenheit und Zukunft



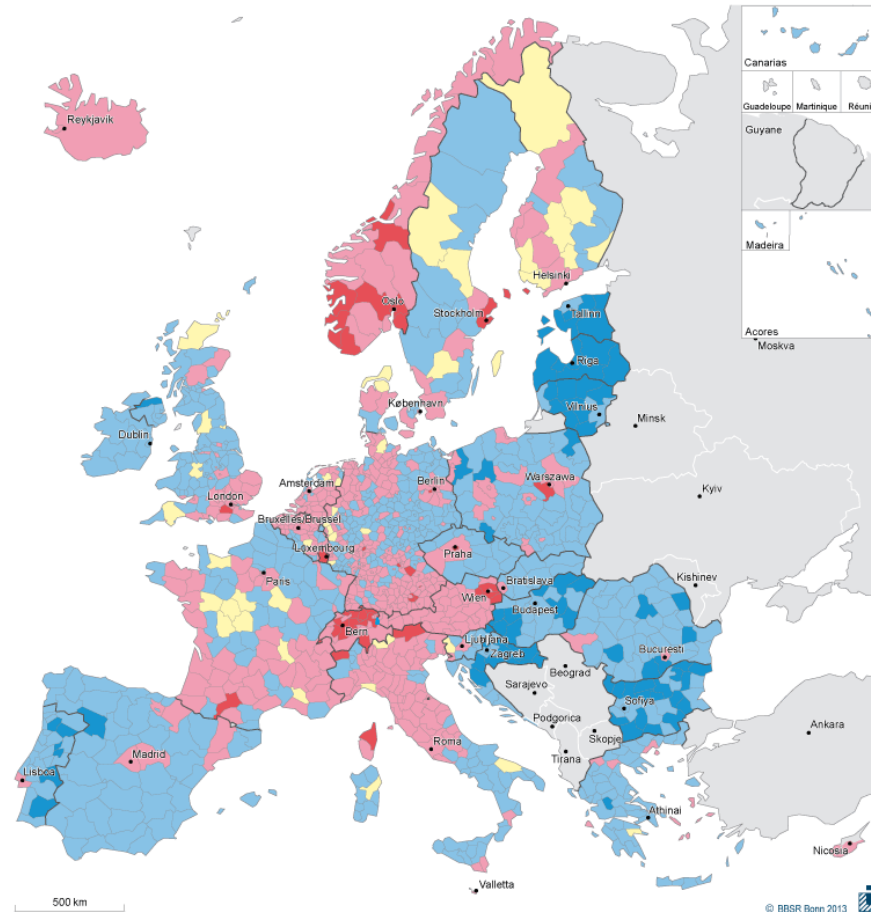
## Regional polarization

- Great diversity of development
- Few growing and many shrinking regions
- Side by side of growth and shrinking
- Competitions growing between regions and municipalities
  - Skilled personal
  - Residents
  - Enterprises
  - Finances



Not only a specific  
german problem

Wachsende und schrumpfende Regionen Europas



**Schrumpfung**

- stark schrumpfend
- schrumpfend
- stabil
- wachsend
- stark wachsend

**Wachstum**

- keine Daten

**Betrachtete Indikatoren:**

- Bevölkerungsentwicklung 2005 - 2010
- Wanderungssaldo 2007 - 2009 (Dreijahresdurchschnitt)
- Erwerbstätigenentwicklung 2007 - 2011
- Arbeitslosenrate 2010
- Entwicklung der Arbeitslosenrate in % Punkten 2007 - 2011
- Kaufkraft pro Haushalt 2012
- Bruttoinlandsprodukt in KKS pro Kopf 2009
- Entwicklung BIP in KKS pro Kopf 2006 - 2009

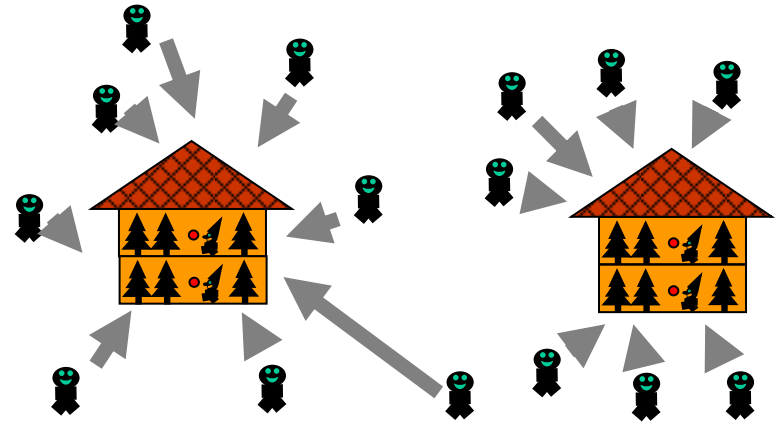
Datenbasis: Laufende Raumbearbeitung Europa  
Eurostat REGIO, nationale statistische Ämter, GfK Marktdaten  
Geometrische Grundlage: GfK GeoMarketing, NUTS 3 regions

## Regional development = economic and social development

- Good general conditions and quality of life get more important (f.e. in competition for skilled personal)
- Public services of general interest = quality of life
- Soft location factors turn into hard location factors

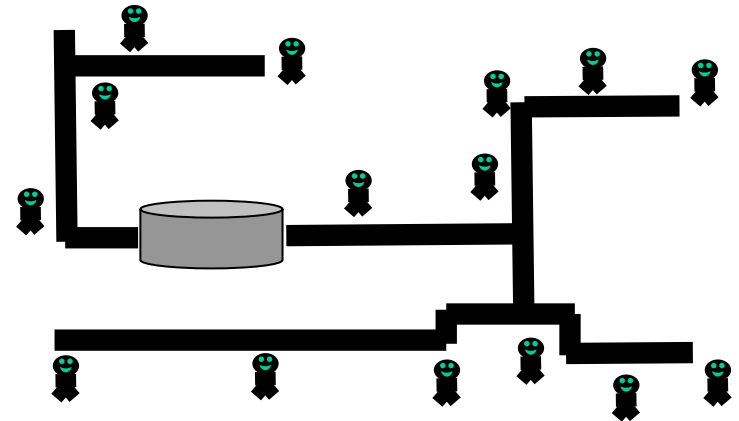
## Social infrastructures (mostly bound to an location)

- Schools
- Child care
- Elderly care
- Health/practitioners
- Youth work
- Culture
- Fire defense / rescue
- Local supply
- Local administration
- ...



## Technical infrastructures (mostly bound to networks)

- Water supply/sewage
- Energy
- Broadband
- ...



## Mobility and Transport

Demographic change causes both

- the **decline** of demanders of public services of general interest (e.g. pupils)
- the **increase** of demands in other services (e.g. care for the elderly)
  - problems of (*economic*) viability or of shortfall (*under-utilisation*) occur
  - existing supply of public infrastructure is under drastic pressure for adaptation
  - major political challenge for regional, county or municipal administrations

**What to do?**





## Aim of german politics and planning

Assignment for Regional Planning by the Constitution and the Federal Regional Planning Act:

- Achievement of equivalent living conditions in all regions
- Equivalence does not mean identical living conditions everywhere, but equality of chances and ensuring certain standards with respect to
  - **access to** and **availability of** services of public interest,
  - options for earning a living,
  - infrastructure and
  - environmental qualities.
- *“The provision of services and infrastructure of general interest .... for all population groups is to provide to ensure equity in all regions in an appropriate manner; this is also true in sparsely populated regions.”*  
(Principles of Spatial Planning according to the Spatial Planning Act 2008)

## Programme of Action for the Regional Provision of Public Services

- Initiated by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
- The Programme supports 21 model regions in rural areas to sustain basic public services;
  - Regional strategy
  - Pilot projects
- Runs from 2011 – 2015 with funding totalling 6.5 million euros;
- Frequent conferences and workshops ensure knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences

# Programme of Action – regional variety

- From all länder (without city states)
- Different types of co-operation
  - 5 regional associations
  - 9 counties
  - 7 municipal co-operations

## Area size

smallest region: 168 km<sup>2</sup>

largest region: 6.999 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population number

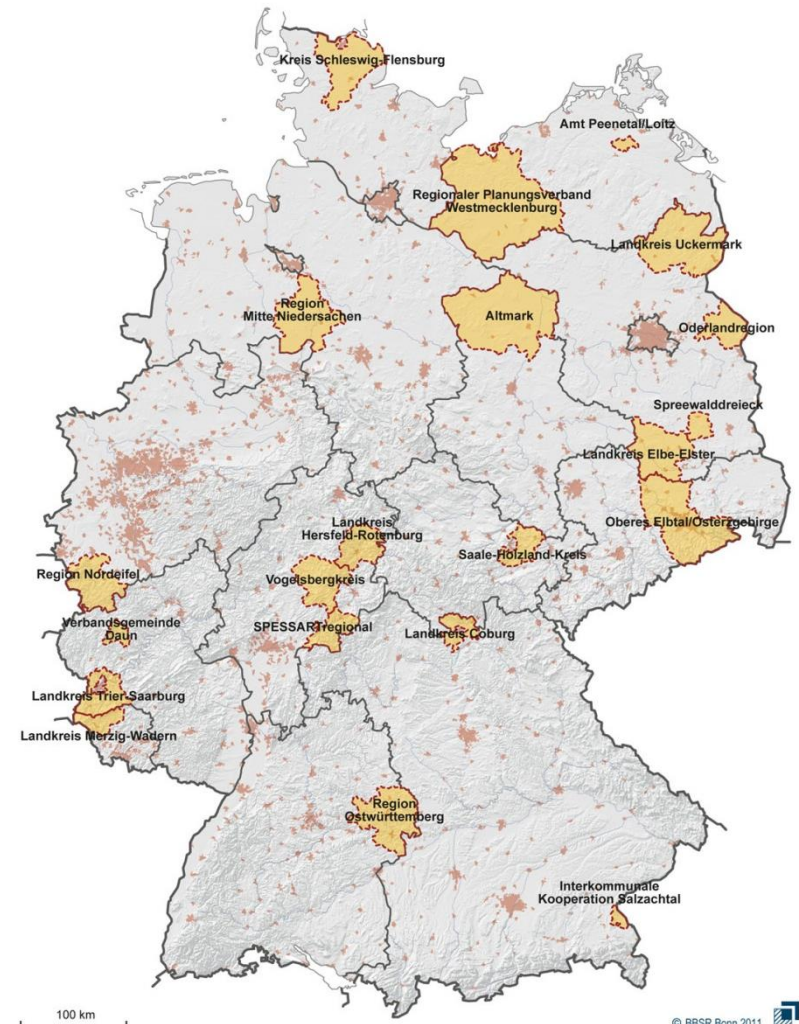
lowest: 6.700 inh.

highest: 1.025.378 inh.

## Population density

lowest: 38 inh./km<sup>2</sup>

highest: 207 inh./km<sup>2</sup>



© BBSR Bonn 2011

Datenbasis: Laufende Raumbearbeitung des BBSR  
Geometrische Grundlage: BKG, Gemeinden, 31.12.2009

# Public Transport

Rescuesystem

Care

Supply of doctors

Elderly

Settlements

Child Care

Schools

Vocational schools

Skilled personnel

Broadband

Culture

Handicaped people

Housing

Water supply/Sewage

Social Venues

Fire defence

Energy

Local Supply

Streets

Youth Work

An informal planning process which is initiated by regions or counties,

→ to deal systematically with the impacts of demographic change on the different sectors of infrastructures of general interest

with **broader focus**

- **Planning horizon** longer than most sectoral plans (e.g. 20 years)
- **Vertical and horizontal co-operation** (between spatial levels / between different local authorities)
- **Interdisciplinary approach** by considering **interdependencies** between infrastructures (e.g. school, public transport and health care)
- Taking the chance to ask „What infrastructures and services do we really need in our county/region?“ (**Need based**)
- Enabling of **creative discussions**

**Regional strategy = a window of opportunity for strategical thinking**

## Key questions

- How is the regional population distribution in 2030?
- What does this mean to (location-bound) infrastructure? f.e. schools, child care, doctors, care for the elderly, sports, culture
- How do distances and accessibility change?
- What are the costs of future infrastructure supply?
- How can quality be assured?
- What to do?



- Discursive, cooperative, interdisciplinary process with **work groups** over a period of about 1½ -2 years (about 5-7 meetings)
- Includes wide range of **stake holders/experts** (different levels of administration, providers of public infrastructure, associations, charities, users, age group representatives, businesses, ...)
- Needs a efficient **organisational structure**
- follows a partly **standardized phase model**
- works with **basic modules** and uses GIS and database models
- conducts and assesses (alternative) future **scenarios**
- develops **adaptation strategies** for selected infrastructures

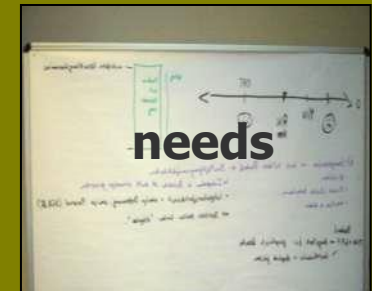


## Basic Modules

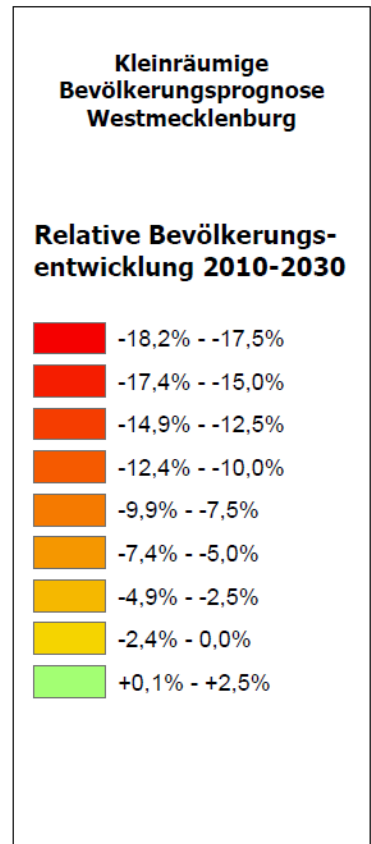
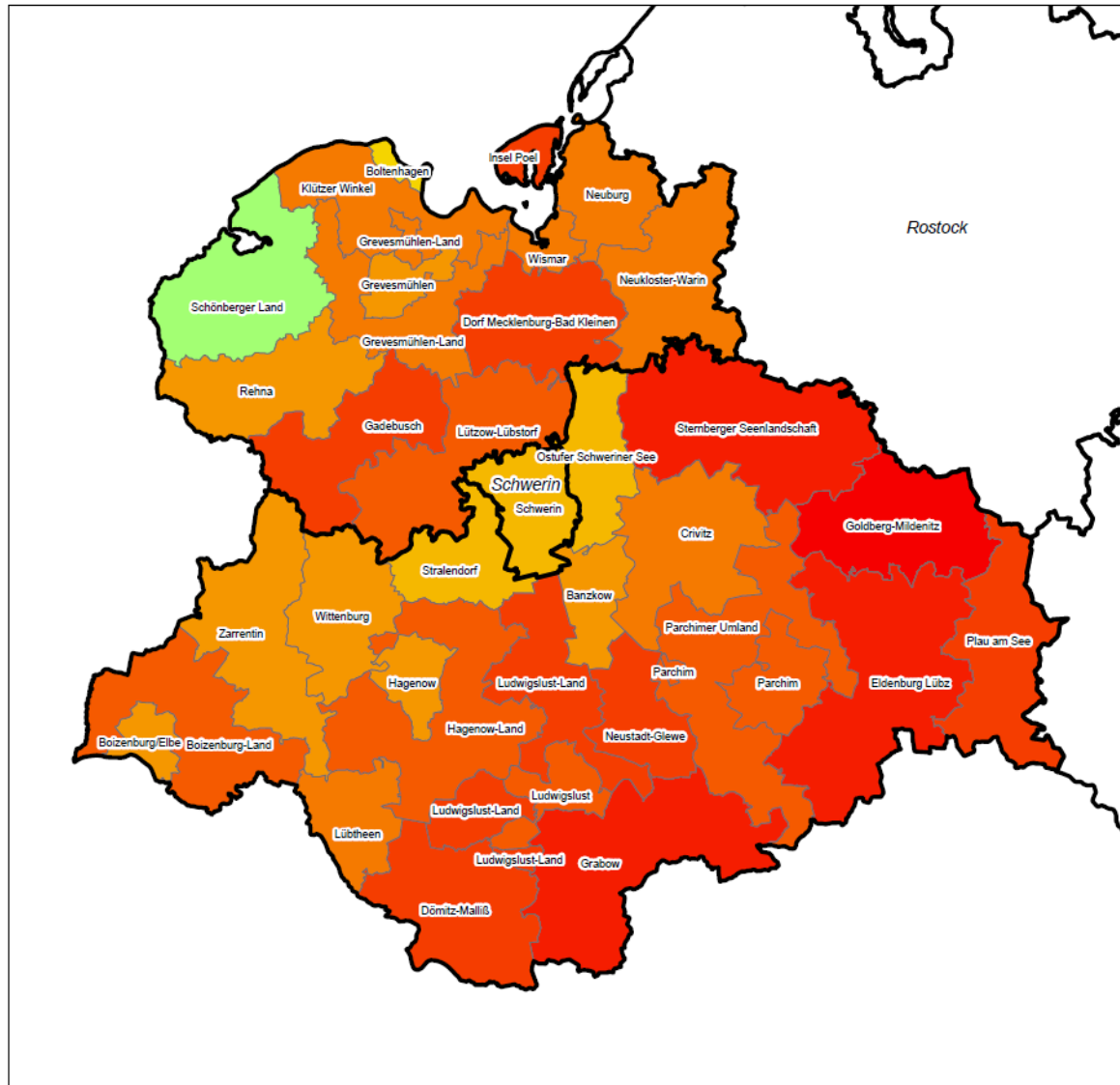
- Small sized population forecast
- Detailed mapping of settlement structure
- Accessibility modelling
- Needs assessment



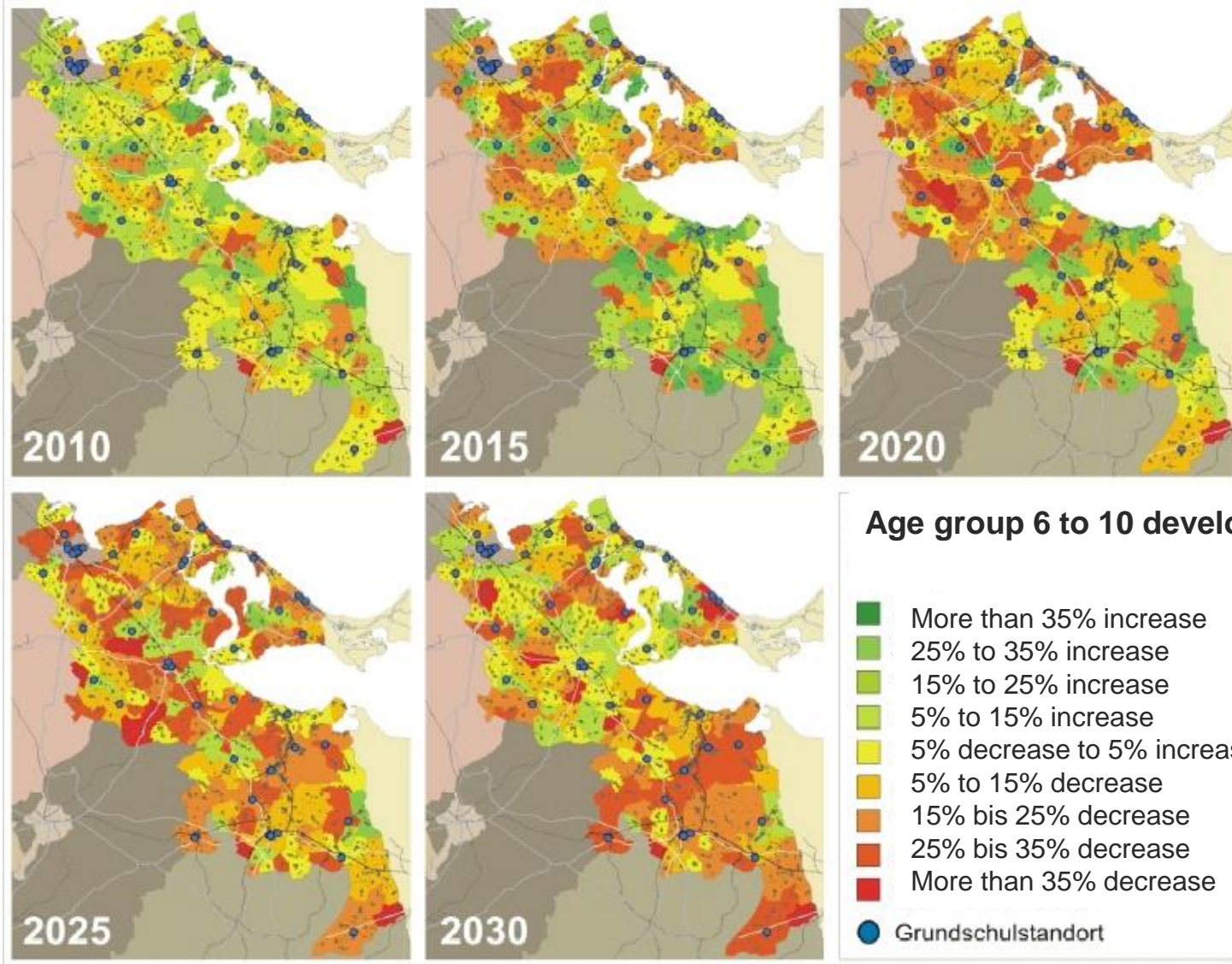
## Basic moduls

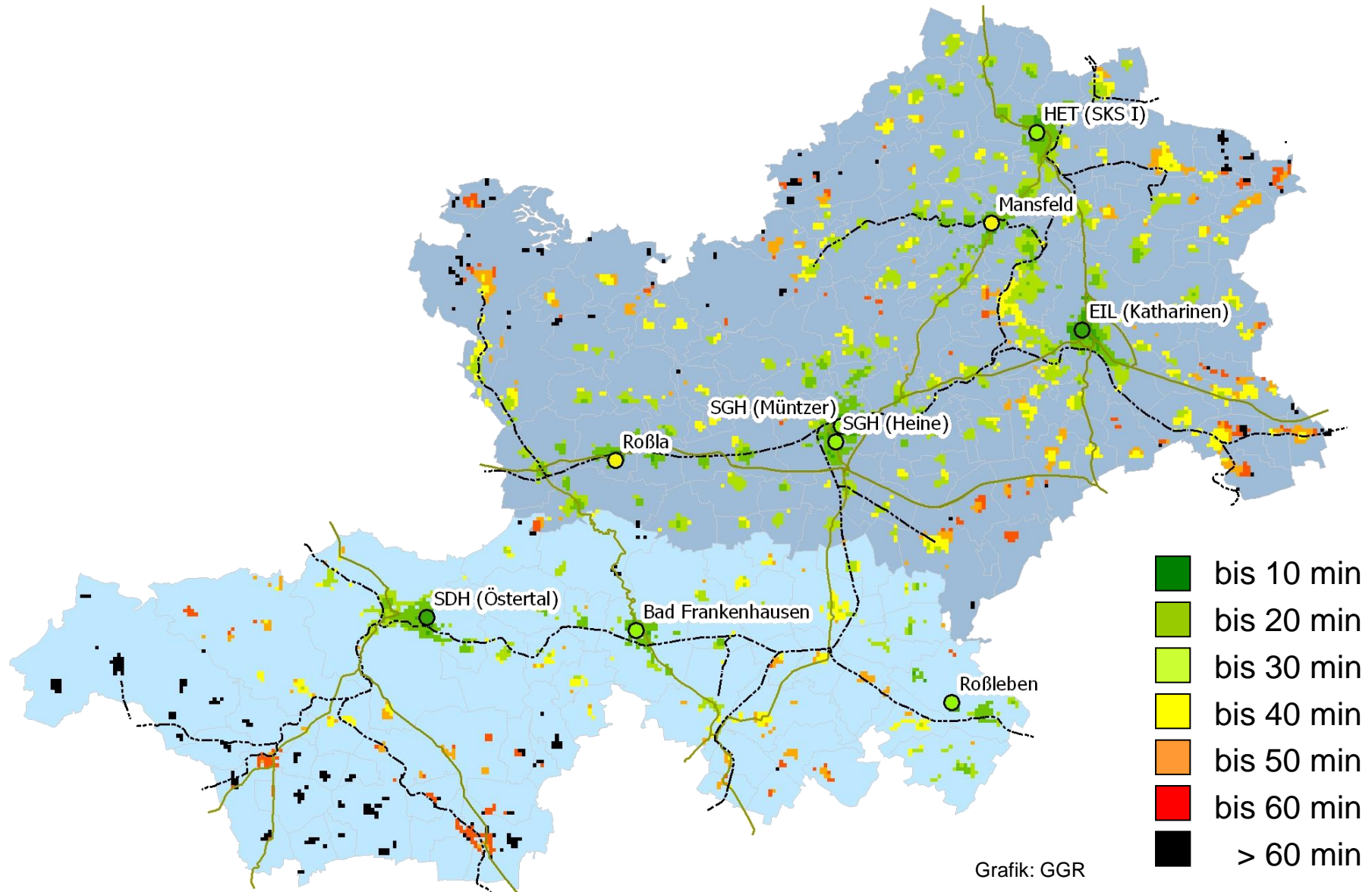






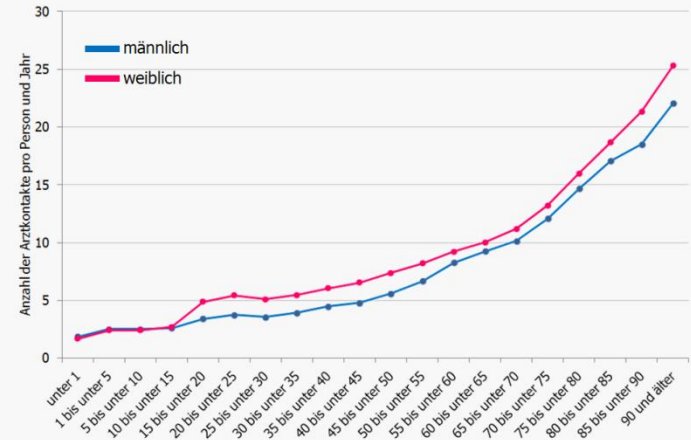
**GERTZ GUTSCHE RÜMENAPP**  
 Stadtentwicklung und Mobilität  
 Planung Beratung Forschung GbR  
 Ruhrstraße 11  
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# Example Health Care (General Practitioners)

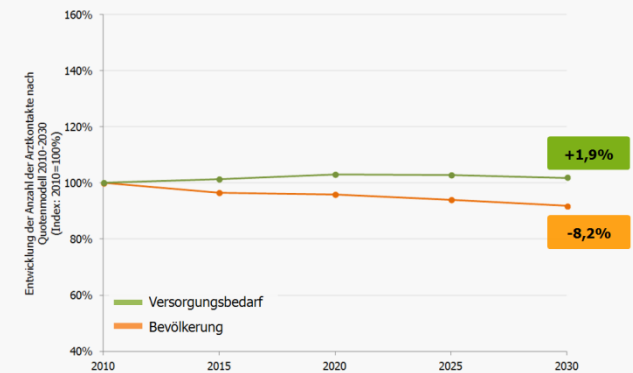
- The older we get, the more we (have to) go to the doctor
- More demand for health care despite population decrease
- All over rural Germany: Problems with the replacements of General practitioners to save local surgeries
- Leads to under-supply with health care and longer ways to general practitioners



Datenquelle: GEK-Report 2008

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## Vorausschätzung des Versorgungsbedarfes – Allgemeinmedizin Planungsregion Westmecklenburg



Datenquellen: Statistisches Landesamt Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, GEK-Report 2008

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Planung Beratung Forschung GdL

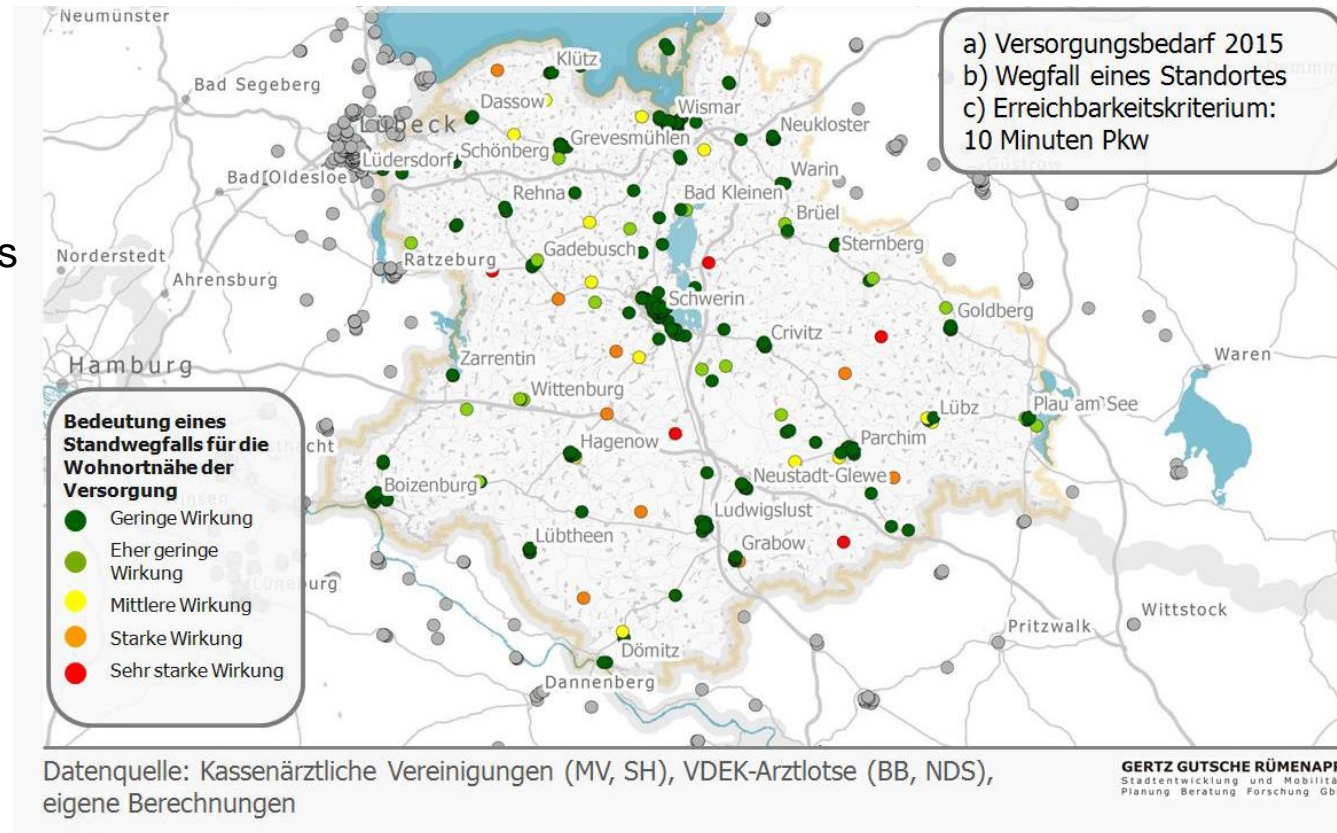
Source: Jens-Martin Gutsche, GGR

## Assessing the impact of lost general practitioners/local surgeries on the supply of the local population

Combination of several analysis and scenarios:

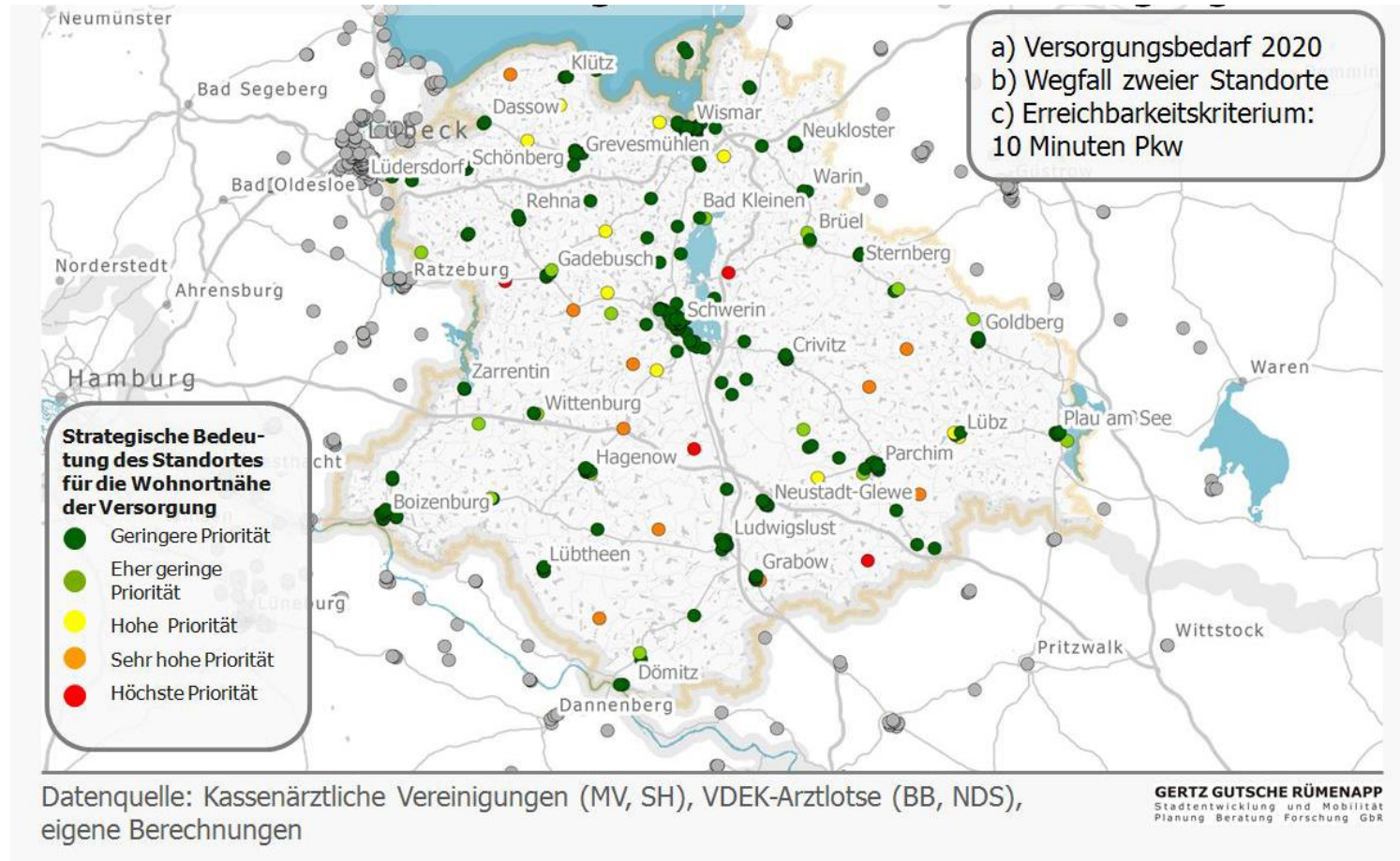
- Forecast of medical needs
- Analysis of doctors' age and projection of retirement
- Change of accessibility in case of lost of local surgeries

all with spatial differentiation and visualisation



Source: Jens-Martin Gutsche, GGR

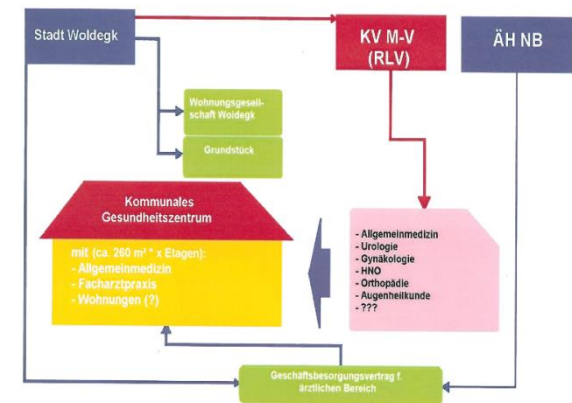
## Using the assessment as a priority list for coordinated replacement efforts



Source: Jens-Martin Gutsche, GGR

## Possible measures and adaptation strategies:

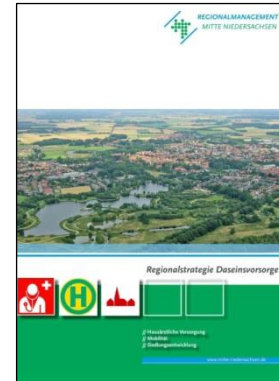
- Co-operation between municipalities to support the recruitment of rural doctors.
  - Concentrate the support on the replacement of the best strategic locations in the region
  - Provide good living conditions and infrastructure for the doctor and his/her family (schools, kinder-garden, cheap housing)
- Joint establishing of Integrated medical centres (municipalities, doctors, hospitals, health insurances ...)
- Establishing structures to support for the general practitioners such as e-health-assisted community nurses, local caretakers for the elderly etc.
- Temporary local surgeries (weekly doctor)
- Improve the accessibility of surgeries – special weekly bus for patients
- Measures of prevention
- ....



Regional strategy of public services = discursive process and strategic document

- Integrated approach leads to better inter-municipal, multi-level and cross-sectoral cooperation
- Broader scientific basis for future planning and decision
- Comprehensive strategic concept with recommendations for the adaptation of infrastructure facilities
- Sensibilisation of decision makers and citizens
  
- Basis to be proactive

In times of uncertain development such an integrated approach with a broader focus can be helpful for rural regions





# Thank you for your attention!

## Further information:

[www.regionale-daseinsvorsorge.de](http://www.regionale-daseinsvorsorge.de)

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