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Pilot Projects and their Significance in Approaching Challenges – Exemplified by Refugee Aid

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Agenda

Pilot Projects in German Spatial Planning

Stages of a Pilot Project

Stage 1 – Identification of a novel Challenge in Spatial Planning

Stage 2 – Creation and Public Bidding

Stage 3 – Applications

Stage 4 – Evaluation by the Initiator

Stage 5 – Execution

Stage 6 – Completion and final Evaluation

Conclusion

Pilot Projects in German Spatial Planning

- In various scientific disciplines: development of models to reduce complexity of reality
- In spatial planning: real world experiments, realized in form of pilot projects
- Pilot project
 - Small-scale, short-term experiment
 - Important research instrument for spatial planning
 - Employed to study novel challenges
 - Does not follow pre-defined processes to achieve a target
 - Attaining statements about suitability and practicality of urban or spatial planning concepts
 - Carried out in multiple regions or municipalities
 - Scientific monitored by academic or private institutions
 - Activities are continuously evaluated

Stages of a Pilot Project

1

Identification of a novel challenge in spatial planning

Scientific questions cannot be answered in another way

2

Creation and public bidding

Criteria and parameters are given

3

Applications – individually or in groups

Pilot regions/municipalities

Stakeholders interested in the scientific monitoring role

4

Evaluation of the received applications by the initiator

Generally valid criteria: innovativeness, the region's potential pilot function, sample function, generalizability and transferability of results.

On-topic criteria relevant to the proposal

5

Execution

In-process examination of research questions, implementation of strategies and measures

Process orientation: collaboration of participants, exchange of experiences between simultaneous pilot projects, and continuous communication of running pilot projects to expert audience

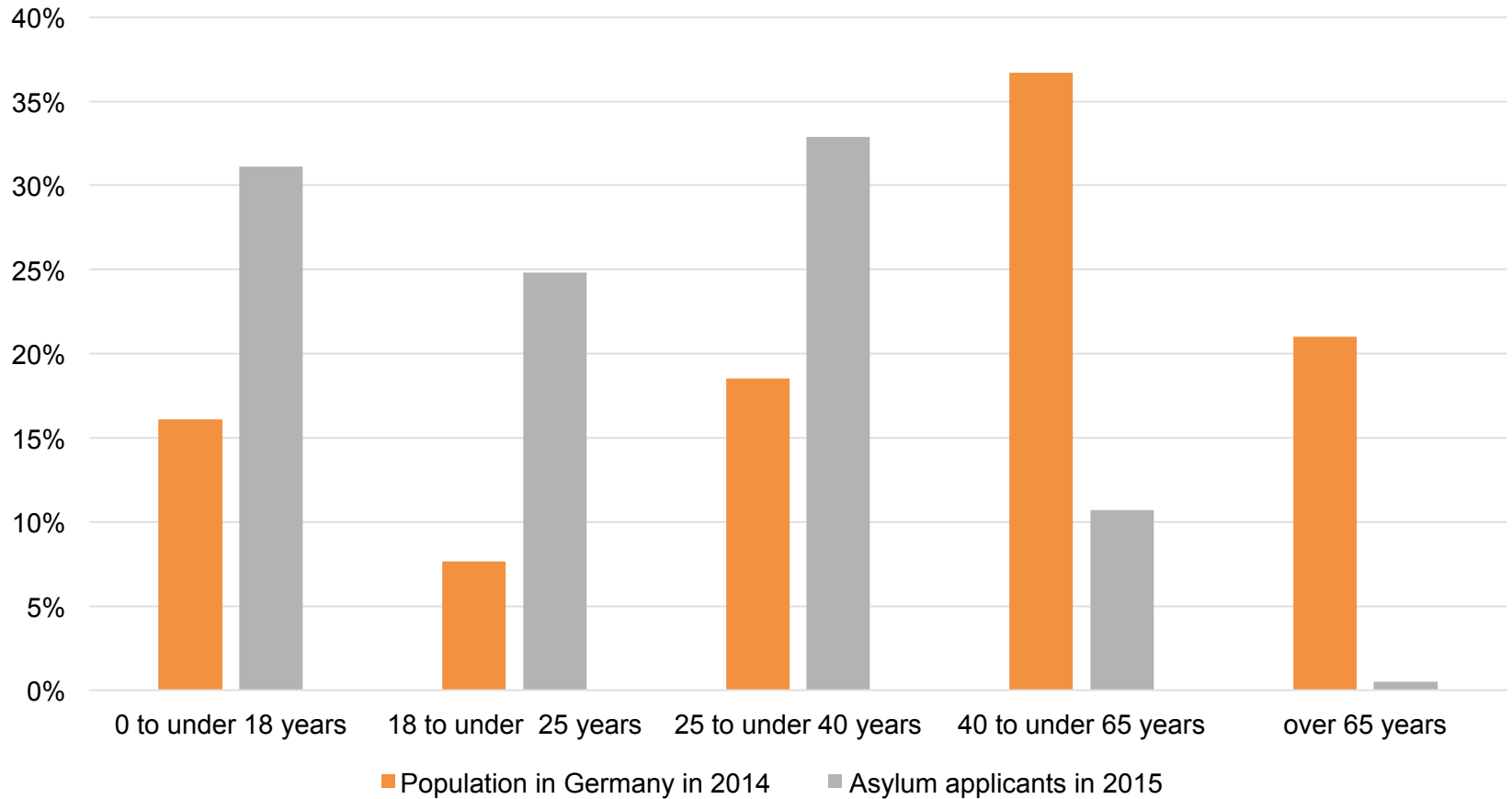
6

Completion and final evaluation

Final presentation and final report

Identification of generally applicable criteria and their transferability to large-scale problem solutions

Stage 1 - Identification



Based on Folkerts-Landau, 2015.

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Stage 2 – Creation and Public Bidding

Overall aim

- development of perspectives and approaches for successful and permanent integration of refugees and asylum applicants in decentral located municipalities with high demographic challenges

Research questions

- What measures can be taken to facilitate the reception of refugees and asylum applicants in the municipalities?
- What are factors for refugees and asylum applicants to stay in rural areas?
- What kinds of measures offer particularly good conditions for the integration on the (local) labor market?
- What are spatial implications of the reception of refugees in regions with high demographic challenges in periods between initial reception and recognition as well as afterwards?

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Stage 3 – Applications

- Institutions interested in scientific monitoring role have to find pilot municipalities
- Municipalities are selected on the basis of various criteria
 - Facing outstanding challenges due to demographic change
 - Located in structurally weak rural areas
 - Keen interest as well as initiatives of civic participation
 - Open-minded towards innovative solution approaches and collaboration formats
 - Vivid interest of local stakeholders in participating
- Involvement of the funded project partners, associated collaboration, transfer partners and group of experts

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Stage 4 – Evaluation by the initiator

- Innovativeness
 - Linkage of “integration of the refugees and asylum applicants” and “demographic change” in the light of a sustainable local and regional development is novel
 - No practical and innovative solutions, drawing on the overwhelming engagement of the initial reception and distribution of refugees in Germany
 - No mid- and long-term strategies and options for permanent accommodation
 - No strategies for integration into civil society and labor market, especially in peripherally located municipalities
- Transferability and applicability
 - Advisory panel ensures scientific quality of the research services and the implementation of the developed solutions

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Stage 5 – Execution

Measures for a facilitated reception

- Commitment and open-mindedness of local population and motivation of the refugees and asylum applicants
- Engagement of an refugee coordinator and welcome sponsors
- Development of a software

Integration into civil society

- Development of a “Welcome App” for refugees and asylum applicants
- Distribution of refugee families in structurally weak rural areas
- Guiding refugee children required to attend school by professionals

Integration into labor market

- Offering internships in local companies

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Stage 6 – Completion and final Evaluation

- Structurally weak rural areas affected by emigration can benefit from the current rush of refugees
 - Inhabitation of vacant buildings
 - Preservation of local social and technical infrastructure
 - Compensation of the shortage of skilled workers
- Central requirements in integration: open-mindedness, civic engagement and volunteering
- Development of innovative solution approaches by various stakeholders
- Transferability and applicability of findings is of central importance

Conclusion

- Continuous and final evaluation of pilot projects is crucial
 - Continuous exchange of gained information, knowledge and experiences
 - Adjustment of aims and measures during the pilot project
- Including current findings in future work
- Taken changing external conditions into account
- Scientific criteria and applicability, affordability and transferability are considered in the project
- Formed solutions, ideas and research results can be used for transfer to other municipalities

Thank you for your attention

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