

Demographic change in Poland – Development trends in selected voivodeships

Results of student internships in early summer of 2015 and 2016

In early summer of 2015 and 2016, students from the Wroclaw University of Economics completed academic internships of several weeks at the IFAD in Berlin through the university-related department for development projects. The content of the students' activities was coordinated with the Polish teaching staff in particular to:

Preparation of data research to create socio-demographic overviews or monitors
a.) for the Republic of Poland as a whole,
b.) for western Polish voivodeships / counties and
c.) on this basis, the creation of selected West Polish district portraits.

(Templates: IFAD DART-Monitor / IFAD Socio-demographic portraits of German federal districts).

The main question should be addressed here: Which fundamental socio-demographic structural changes are currently taking place in Poland as a whole or in the western Polish municipalities that lie in the border area to the Federal Republic?

With this task during the internships / study visits, learning success should be achieved like:

- Improving linguistic communication skills in general and subject-specific;
- Insight into the structure, working methods and work organization as well as the research fields of an independent German social science research institution;
- Expansion of ready-to-use knowledge and individual skills regarding social science data acquisition systems of the official Polish statistics (main office) and application of this data in the description and analysis of socio-demographic structural changes of the population at state and regional level;
- Expansion or application of knowledge in the representation of data and document research in texts, layout and graphics.

In the present IFAD Edition No. 139, the work and research results of the Polish students have been revised and summarized. These provide an overview of fundamental demographic change processes in the aforementioned West Polish voivodships as a whole.

All data used were researched at the main statistical office of Poland GUS (headquarters in Warsaw). Socio-demographic indicators, which were developed by IFAD as part of the work on the EU DART project, served as a template for this research (see IFAD editions No. 131-133).