Population decline in the Netherlands

The opinions expressed in the presentation are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of housing, physical planning and environment of the Netherlands.

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Population decline on Dutch policy agenda

- First signals in 2006; but issue ignored

- Since spring 2009: a ‘national issue’

- Now rethinking the national report on physical planning (2006), because:
  - no attention to population decline: physical planning should be based on scenario with 20 million inhabitants in 2040!
  - new government
Content

Part 1
Population decline in the Netherlands

Part 2
Spatial developments regarding population decline
• spatial structure
• shrinking regions
• planning

Part 3
Policy issues and strategies
Population development 1970 to 2050

- 65 years or older
- 20 to 64 years
- 0 to 19 years

Part 1

Population changes

Migration patterns
Part 1

Population changes

Population development per municipality

2010 - 2025

2025 - 2040

Brussels 08-10-"10
Part 2

Spatial impacts of demographic decline

1) Concentration of population in the western parts of Holland

2) Increase of out-migration from border regions

3) Concentration of population in the cities: re-urbanisation

4) Loss of population in rural areas

5) Perforation of cities and villages in areas of population decline
Part 2

Spatial developments

Problems in shrinking area’s
Opportunities in shrinking area’s
Physical planning for shrinking regions

The agreement of the new Dutch government:
“In physical planning policy attention will be paid to population decline. In cooperation with shrinking regions will be looked for measures aiming at new impulses and possibilities for development of shrinking regions”

Political Context:
Economic recovery is the government’s first objective.

Supply of services in rural areas is a topic for all political parties.
Issue: Economic decline in shrinking regions

Goal: Economic recovery in shrinking regions

Strategy: The city as engine for economic recovery

Key elements in a urban strategy:
- quality of housing & area
- supply & quality of services in citycentre
- supply of higher education (university)
- accessibility of jobs
Policy issue: Diminishing supply of services in rural areas

Goal
Improve access to services and maintain quality of services

Spatial strategies:
1. Concentration of services in regional centres
2. Improve accessibility of these centres
Some administrative conditions

1. Strengthen the provinces as central government level for physical planning

2. Improve of regional alignment of regulations

3. Anticipate financial shortages in the future
Part 3

Issues and strategies

To summarize: a new policy agenda

Spatial strategies:
1. The city as engine for economic recovery in shrinking areas
2. Concentration of services in regional centres in rural areas
3. Improve accessibility of cities and regional centres

Some administrative conditions
1. Strengthen the provinces as central government level for physical planning
2. Improve of regional alignment of regulations
3. Anticipate financial shortages in the future
Expected tipping points: from population growth to population decline
## Statistical information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inhabitants per municipality (2008)</th>
<th>Total number of municipalities</th>
<th>Number of municipalities with population decline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 100.000</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2, 3, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-100.000</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8, 13, 22</td>
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<td>20-50.000</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>87, 104, 123</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-20.000</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>100, 109, 110</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Perifery</th>
<th>Intermediate zone</th>
<th>Centre (Randstad)</th>
<th>The Netherlands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>13,12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>16,36</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16,88</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Actual migration patterns