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CENTRAL EUROPE
Arrival Regions

European Union
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TAKING
COOPERATION
FORWARD

Conference "Trends in Social Integration Policy and Research"
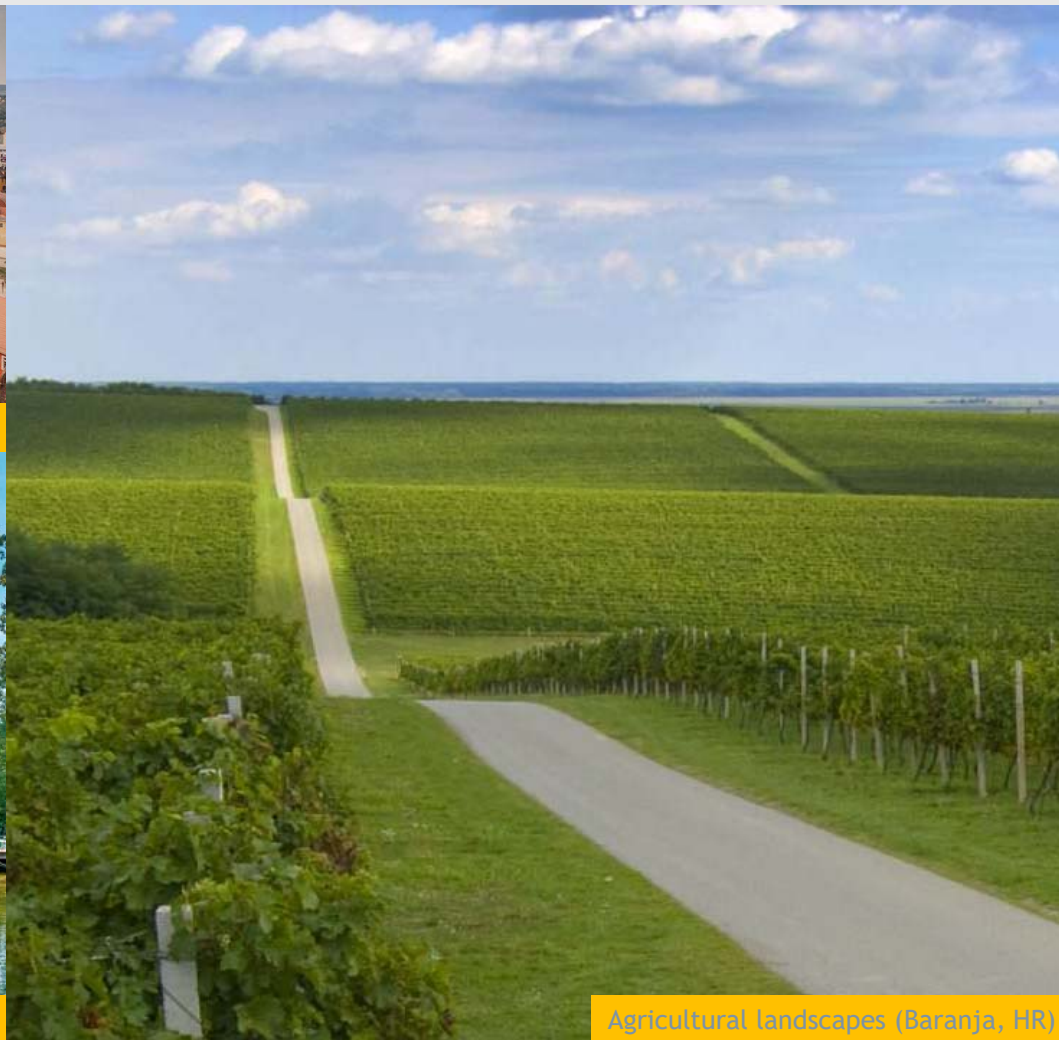University of West Bohemia, Plzeň, 09.11.2023

Can the migration of non-EU nationals to rural areas be turned from a challenge into a success story? Reflections from the Arrival Regions project
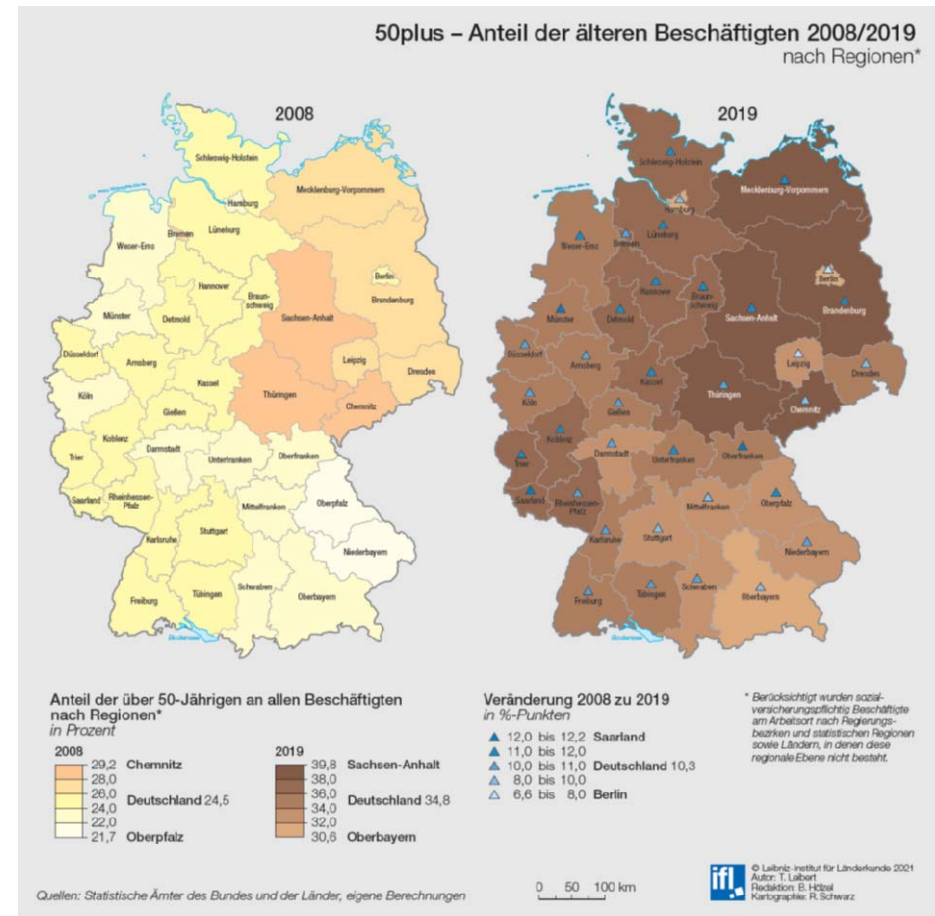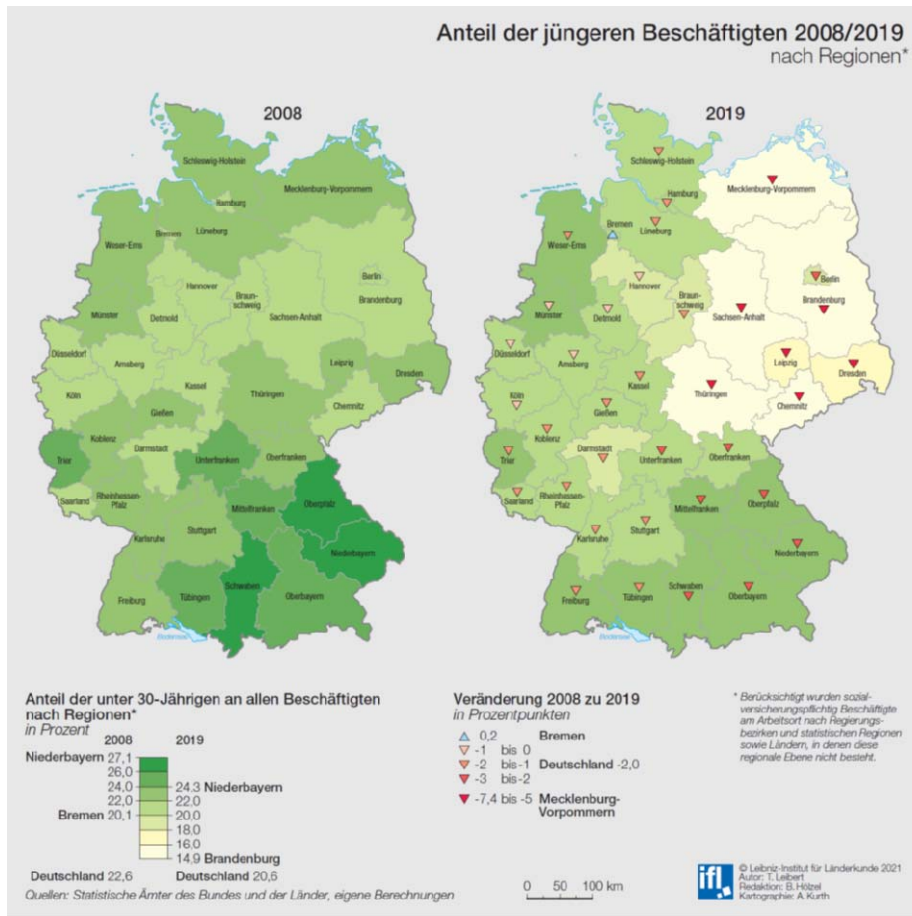
Serhii Svynarets & Dr. Tim Leibert

IMAGE OF RURAL CENTRAL EUROPE (?)

Historic small towns (Naumburg, DE)

Pristine nature (West Pomerania, PL)

Agricultural landscapes (Baranja, HR)

Source: Leibert 2021

2015 – START OF THE „REFUGEE CRISIS"

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Refugees' distribution quotas according to the Königsteiner Schlüßel (2015)

Schleswig-Holstein 3,4%

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 2,0%

Hamburg 2,5%

Bremen 0,9%

Niedersachsen 9,4%

Berlin 5,0%

Sachsen-Anhalt 2,9%

Brandenburg 3,1%

Nordrhein-Westfalen 21,2%

Sachsen 5,1%

Hessen 7,3%

Thüringen 2,7%

Rheinland-Pfalz 4,8%

Saarland 1,2%

Baden-Württemberg 13,0%

Bayern 15,3%
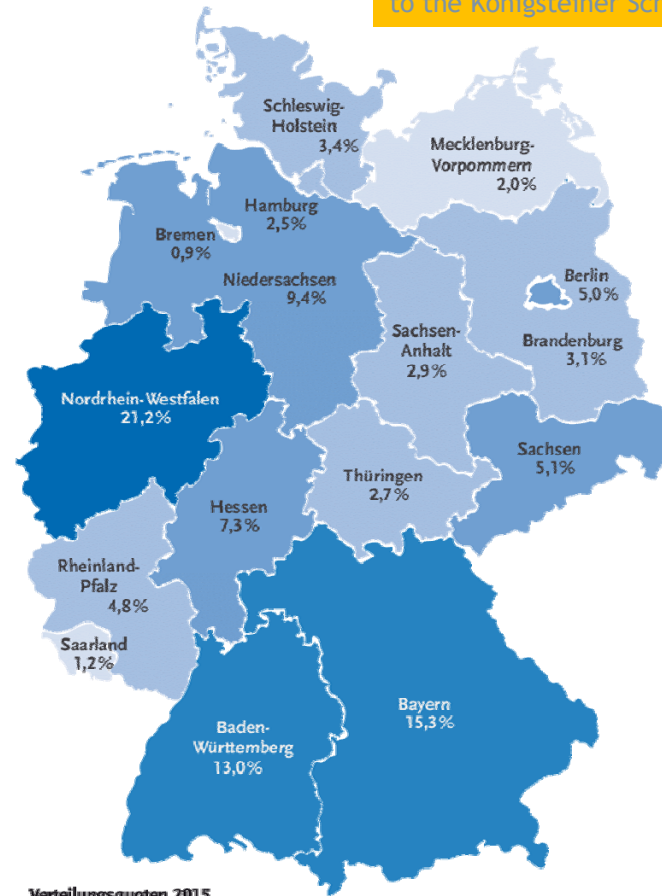
Verteilungsquoten 2015
- bis unter 2,5%
- von 2,5% bis unter 5,0%
- von 5,0% bis unter 10,0%
- von 10,0% bis unter 20,0%
- ab 20,0%

WHAT CRISES WE ARE DEALING WITH?

Demographic change in rural CE

Decades-long process of ageing and out-migration of local youth.

Rural areas in CE – new migration destinations

Since 2010's many rural areas in CE expereinced arrival of both refugees and labor migrants from non-EU coutries.

Lack of arrival infrastructure and welcoming culture

Intensive rural – urban migration among non-EU nationals, that firstly arrived into a rural place.

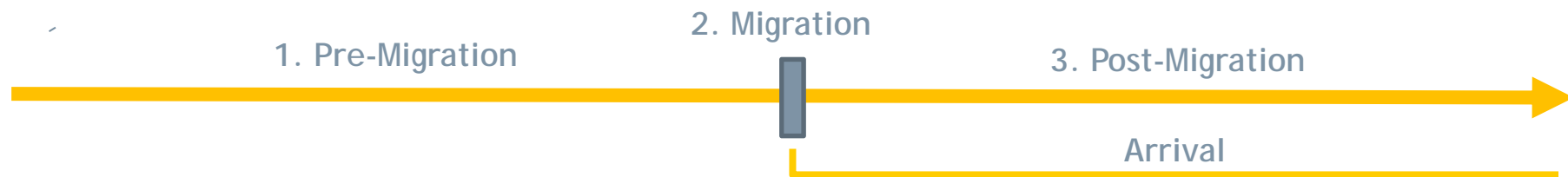International migration is an opportunity to counterbalance demographic change in rural CE

Rural regions in CE should be turned into effective Arrival Regions

ARRIVAL?

Stages of Migration (Bhugra & Becker, 2005)

2. Migration

1. Pre-Migration   3. Post-Migration

Arrival

Specifics of Arrival / Integration (Leibert & Svynarets, 2023)

1. Arrival is unlimited in time process.

2. Migrants arrive not only at a new place, but also into new social networks

3. There are multiple actors that take part in the arrival process (migrants, state authorities (both at places of arrival and departure), local society (both at places of arrival and departure).

Leibert, T. & Svynarets, S. (2023) Die Ankunftsregion. In: Ermann et al. Die Region: eine Begriffserkundung. Transkript Verlag, Bielefeld.

ARRIVAL REGIONS?

Arrival Regions: Top-Down Perspective

- Spatially defined by administrative borders spaces, where the governance of arrival takes place in.

Arrival Regions: Bottom-Up Perspective

- Assemblage of social, administrative and technical infrastructures, social networks and spaces where migrants learn the ground rules of local society, build connections to this society and plan their future and locals learn the rules of welcoming.

- From this perspective arrival regions are rather a constellation of living spaces, rather than a physical space that can be defined on the map.

Challenge

In order to assure successful integration of migrants, top-down and bottom-up perspectives on arrival regions should „overlap" as much of possible

→ Regions should search for local- and group-specific ways to govern and support arrival of migrants

Leibert, T. & Svynarets, S. (2023) Die Ankunftsregion. In: Ermann et al. Die Region: eine Begriffserkundung. Transkript Verlag, Bielefeld.

ARRIVAL REGIONS IN A NUTSHELL

Main goal

Support of integration of non-EU nationals living in rural areas of Central Europe with the help of social innovation approaches ➔ Turn migration to rural areas into a success story

Social Innovation

„Social innovation means developing new ideas, services and models to better address social issues. It invites input from public and private actors, including civil society, to improve social services" (EU Commission)

Integration

Integration is a two-way continuous process of adjustment and creation of the feeling of belonging in diverse society.

Study Trip to 'Nuevos Senderos' project, Spain

Inauguration of Starting Point Postojna, Slovenia

PROJECT TIMELINE

Spring 2019 – Winter 2019/2020
Learn about the best European practices of social innovation approaches, that support integration of non-EU nationals

Winter 2019/2020 – Summer 2021
Design and run pilot project that should address specific challenges connected to the integration of non-EU nationals in the region.

Fall 2021 – Winter 2021/2022
Develop a Tool Box of social innovative approaches supporting the integration of non EU nationals in rural areas of Central Europe
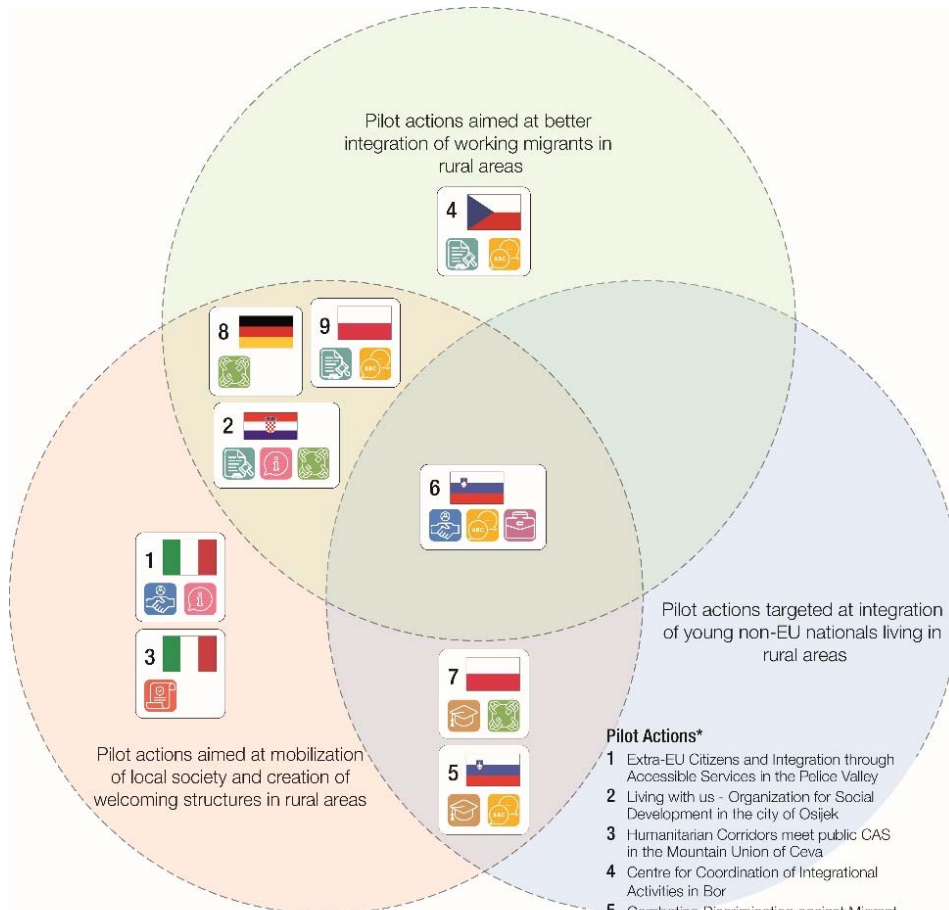

Study Trip to 'Ny på landet' project, Sweden Jan'20

First Camp of the EMI BLK project, Germany Oct'20

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Pilot actions aimed at better integration of working migrants in rural areas

4

8   9

2

6

1

3

Pilot actions aimed at mobilization of local society and creation of welcoming structures in rural areas

7

5

Pilot actions targeted at integration of young non-EU nationals living in rural areas

Pilot Actions*

1 Extra-EU Citizens and Integration through Accessible Services in the Pelice Valley
2 Living with us - Organization for Social Development in the city of Osijek
3 Humanitarian Corridors meet public CAS in the Mountain Union of Ceva
4 Centre for Coordination of Integrational Activities in Bor
5 Combating Discrimination against Migrant Women and Children in the municipality of Piran
6 Starting Point Postojna
7 Each of Us Unique and Important - Multi-cultural Education in the Classroom in the Koszalińsko Kołobrzesko Białogardzki Functional Area
8 EMI BLK - Empowering Migrants' Integration in the Burgenland District
9 Legal Support and Better Communication - How to Make Ukrainian Citizens Feel Better and Safer in the Lodzkie Region?

* For further details please visit the official website of the Arrival Regions project - (https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/ Arrival-Regions.html)

Cultural mediation

Educational tools

Information services or materials

Language courses

Legal services

Policy revision

Workshops, camps, trainings

Business consultations

These icons have been created with Flaticon.com

IfL 2022
Design: R. Mikhaylov
Draft: B. Hölzel

Nepalese cultural festival in Osijek, Croatia

Camp for labor migrants and locals, Germany

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LEGAL SUPPORT AND BETTER COMMUNICATION (LODZKIE REGION, PL)

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Challenges:

- Lack of intergation support experiences both among official organizations and civil society.
- Complex bureaucratic system in Poland → widespread exploitation of migrants.

Idea:

- Ukrainian language course for the employees of public organizations in Lodzkie regions;
- Free and anonymous legal consultations for migrants (available in Ukrainian, Rusian, English and Polish; took place in various regional centers).

CENTER OF COORDINATION OF INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES IN BOR (PILSEN REGION, CZ)

Challenges:
- Exisiting offer of integration support activities is not designed to satisfy the needs of the dominant migrant groups → segregation of migrants in local community

Idea:
- Czech language courses that:
  - Designed for the needs of migrants
  - Take place at the premisses of the biggest employers of migrants
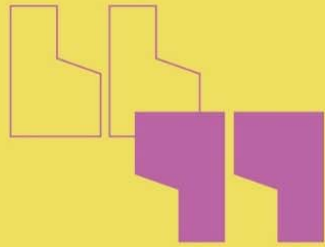 - Scheduled according to the existing shift time tables.

TOOL BOX: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT FOR?

Tool Box for Social Innovation provides practitioners with **9 empirical tools that can be used to support integration of non-EU nationals** living in rural areas of Central Europe

Each tool is **tested by at least one pilot action** within Arrival Regions

We provide reasoning **why** each tool should be used, **how** it should be implemented as well as give practical **recommendations** that people should keep in mind while using this tool
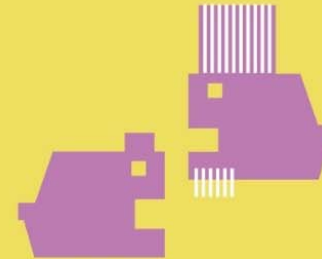
Tool Box
INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE_ARRIVAL REGIONS

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Arrival Regions

Partnered with: Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)
Written by Tim Leibert, Roman Mikhaylov, Lucia Mrazova and Serhii Svynarets

TOOL BOX

LANGUAGE LEARNING

LEGAL COUNSELLING
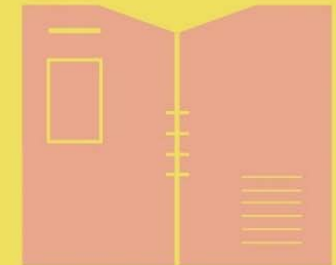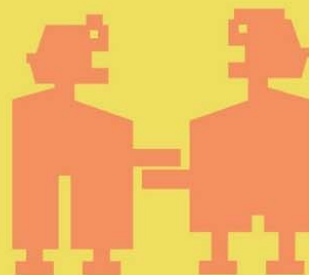
CONTACT POINTS

PLAN AND ORGANIZE ARRIVAL

ENCOURAGING INTER-GENERATIONAL LEARNING

NAVIGATING BEAUROCRACY

INVOLVEMENT OF LOCALS

SUPPORTING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING LOCALS

CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

- International migration can be one of the answers to the demographic crisis in rural areas of Central Europe.

- Integration can be supported by very simple „tools". Each region should choose its individual set of tools to meet its specific needs

- There is a constant need to develop and maintain arrival infrastructure and integration support.

  - Arrival infrastructure needs permanent funding and permanent staff.

  - Each region has a unique set of challenges they are facing and need a tailor-made approach.

  - Development of arrival infrastructure and integration support should be independent of political changes.

  - In many regions migration policies are a hot topic – need to focus on potential benefits of migration to guarantee political support.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
ARRIVAL REGIONS

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People behind the project