



ENSA General  
Assembly  
5/3/2025





DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE  
REGIONS NETWORK

## The **Demographic Change Regions Network (DCRN)**

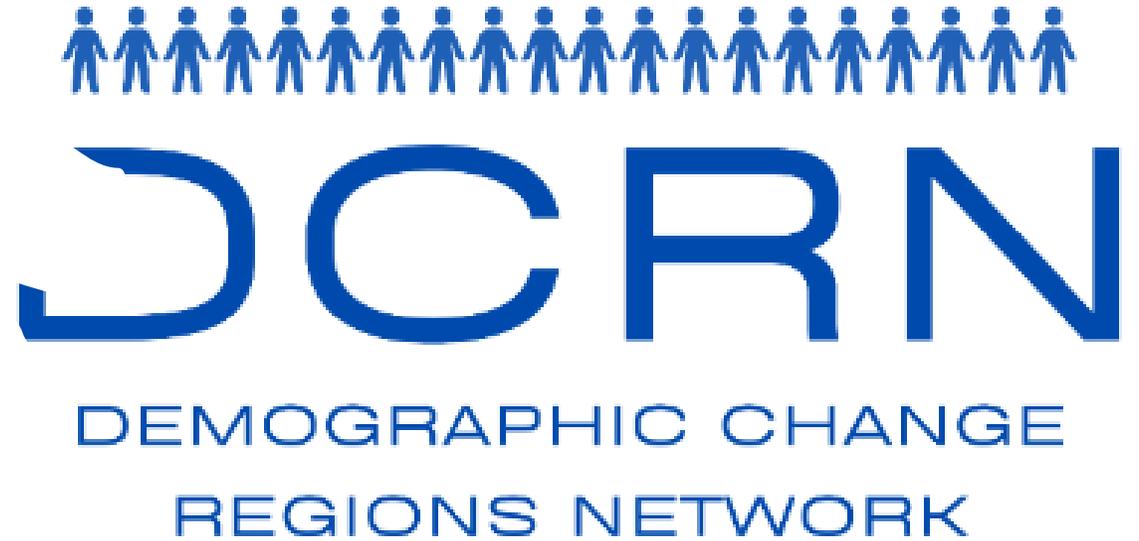
was founded in 2006 as an informal network of regions affected by demographic challenges such as ageing, population decline, and increasing emigration of young people.





The main objectives of the network are:

- ✓ To raise awareness among European institutions to the specific needs of regions affected by demographic change
- ✓ To share information and experiences on issues related to demographic change
- ✓ To promote cooperation between regional stakeholders such as regional governments, universities and other actors.



How do we work:

- Partners meetings
- Thematic workshops
- Contact with European Institutions



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## DCRN position paper on the future of cohesion policy:

- Awareness
- Needs
- Requests

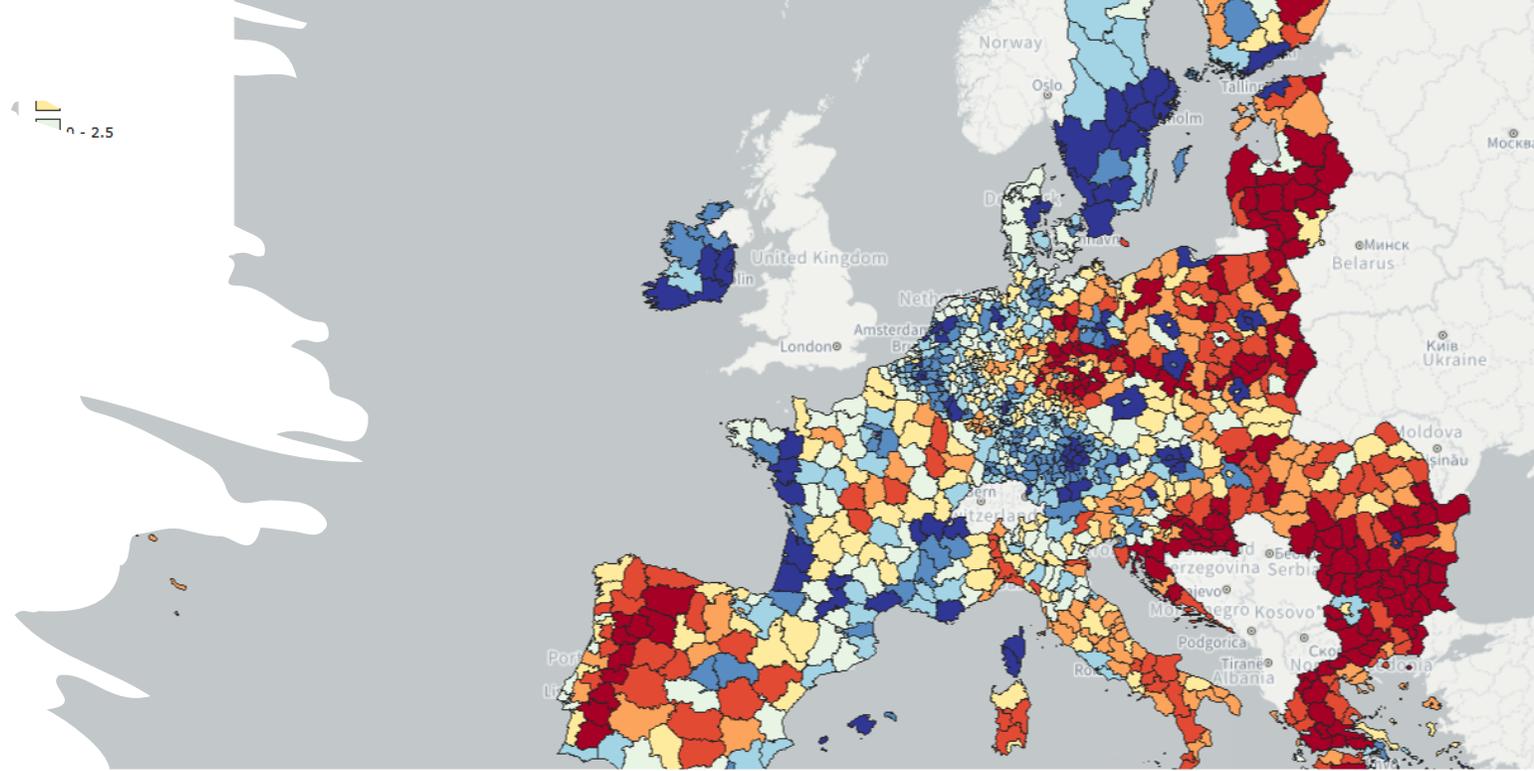
Demographic Change Regions Network

### Position Paper on the Future Cohesion Policy Post-2027



# Awareness

- Overall EU population decline
- Unequal distribution of the population
- Ageing
- Declining working-age population



# DCRN

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# Needs

The main needs of the demographically challenged territories are:

- **Maintaining quality public services.**
- **Boosting digital infrastructure and skills**
- **Regions with smaller, isolated, ageing population depend on a good transport network.**
- **An attractive business environment:**
- **Need to retain or to attract students and skilled people**
- **Affordable and accessible quality housing:**
- **Services and facilities related to culture**



# Requests



- A **European deal for demographic change** (Demographic Deal) in which Cohesion Policy has a major role to play.
- An institutional governance that reflects the importance of the demographic transition.
- A cohesion policy post-2027 that takes a leading role in the Demographic Deal and foresees a consequent budget allocation
- A shared management and multi level governance approach to deal with demographic change: every region is different
- A serious debate about criteria supplementary to GDP to take into account demographic challenges
- Technical support for the development or revision of regional demographic strategies (based on experiences of the Talent Booster Mechanism DG REGIO and the Technical Assistance Instrument of DG REFORM)
- Possibility of CP financing reforms and investments identified in the regional demographic strategies
- Better compatibility between cohesion funds and other European funds

**SIGNATORY REGIONS**

The following regions have expressed their specific support to this paper:

\* As of 27/1/2025



- Dissemination actions for the position paper:

