Model Region „Nidwalden“

The whole canton is representing the Model Region „Nidwalden“ and is located in Central Switzerland. Its borders are formed by the Lake Lucerne and the Bernese, Uri and Obwalden Alps. It comprises 11 political municipalities.

Key Issues

An ageing society The trend of increasing population is combined with trend of over-ageing and decline of younger population in the canton of Nidwalden. While all 11 municipalities have grown in population since 1994, those bordering the lake have grown fastest. The proportion aged 65 and older is set to rise from today’s 21.3% to 31.4% in 2050, whereas the proportion of young people aged to decline from today’s 21.3% to 16.3%.

Decreasing household sizes The households are becoming smaller. In 2005 the average was 2.33 persons for a private household and 2.25 in 2010 and is set to fall further to 2.02 in 2030.

Decreasing fertility and constant mortality rate The fertility rate in the model region is lower than on the national level and has decreased from 1.43 in 1995 until 1.32 in 2009.

Increasing migration The population growth of the canton is mainly a product of positive inward migration from other cantons of Switzerland and abroad.

Pilot Actions

Title: Platform 45+
Objective: Awareness raising of the phenomenon of demographic change in general and the meaning for oneself
Description: In the future there will be a raising number of elderly, and especially the number of elderly living in single households.. Therefore the elderly of the future should already look into the topic to actively create their own future. For that reason an exchange platform should be created, where project ideas can be developed and synergies be used.

Title: Future living facilities
Objective: Creation of affordable housing possibilities, especially for elderly as multi-generational living
Description: As there is a decreasing financially feasible living place in Nidwalden, a multi-generational living should be realised in all communities of Nidwalden. Those places should have a high level of possibilities of interaction and neighbourly help, so that elderly keep integrated in the society.

Title: Revitalise old knowledge
Objective: Preservation and revitalisation of ancient artisanry in the old convent and to make it accessible for the public
Description: The old convent Maria in Niderickenbach / Nidwalden is an oasis of quietness. Though due to the ageing of the residents in the convent it runs the risk that ancient artisanry and knowledge get lost. Therefore different offers should be developed to preserve and diffuse the artisanry knowledge and also to rise the awareness level of the convent.

Title: «Landdienst» for elderly
Objective: Installation of an exchange platform, where farmer and voluntary elderly get in contact
Description: Relief of work for farming families through the voluntary workforce of elderly people, who are willing to carry out a meaningful work in the field of landscape protection. The aim of the project is to integrate elderly into a new social environment as well as to reduce seasonal work peaks on farms.

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