



Managing Population Decline in Europe's Urban and Rural Areas (SpringerBriefs in Population Studies)

By Gert-Jan Hospers, Nol Reverda

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This book explores the challenges population decline presents for Europe's urban and rural areas. It features recent demographic data and trends not only for Europe as a whole, but also for selected countries, and compares growth and shrinkage from a historical as well as a theoretical perspective. In addition, the book critically reviews relevant notions from geography, sociology, and public administration. It also identifies good practices across Europe.

Throughout, theories are complemented with concrete examples and proposals are made on how to tackle demographic shrinkage in European cities and villages, from attempts to attract new residents to the countryside to innovative ways to guarantee public services. In the end, the authors conclude that solving the challenges caused by population decline require novel ways of thinking and provide answers to such future-oriented questions as: how to ensure the quality of life in an environment that is inhabited by fewer and older people, what investments are needed, and which actors should be involved.

Managing Population Decline in Europe's Urban and Rural Areas offers detailed coverage of an underestimated and complex governance issue that asks for solutions in which citizens have to play an important role. It concludes that shrinkage requires a rethink of the specific tasks and roles of government and presents a way forward based on initiatives currently underway throughout Europe. The book will be a valuable resource for population policy makers as well as students and researchers interested in human geography, urban planning, rural development, European studies, public administration, and other social sciences.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Gert-Jan Hospers teaches economic geography at the University of Twente and has a special chair in place marketing at Radboud University, the Netherlands. He has published a lot on the urban and regional development of North West Europe. Nol Reverda is sociologist and full professor at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands, where he runs a research centre on social integration. Besides, he is scientific director of the Netherlands Research Centre of Demographic Change, Neimed.

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