



Human capital in European peripheral regions: Brain - Drain and Brain - Gain



Project goal

The overall goal of the project is to build a legitimate transnational network to transfer ideas and experiences and implement measures to reduce brain drain and foster brain gain while reinforcing the economical and spatial development of peripheral regions in NWE. This means a higher quality of life for the inhabitants of these regions combined with a healthy environment.

To reach this goal, the project group will study the effects of brain drain/brain gain, co-ordinate appropriate measures and diffuse this information in the whole NWE.

In reality the project will address three groups of goals. The first group of goals are strategic and oriented towards the entire NWE-Region. The project aims to contribute to a more balanced growth and spatial development of medium and small towns in NWE and to a more systematic approach in reducing the negative effects of brain-drain in NWE.

Knowledge of brain drain

The second group of goals may be summarized as extending the knowledge base about the phenomenon of brain-drain and brain-gain:

- Better and more robust knowledge including reliable information about the qualitative and quantitative effects of brain-gain effects and their importance for economic and social development (especially effects on gender) in peripheral regions of NWE and their cross border regions;
- Evaluation of the effects of certain institutions (schools, universities) on brain drain;
- Evaluation of existing measures to cope with the brain-drain process;
- Development of a standardised method to describe and analyse the brain-drain and brain-gain effects in peripheral regions in NWE and their cross border regions.

Partners

Lead partner

University of Twente, School of Business, Public Administration and Technology, Enschede, The Netherlands

Regional partners

- IHK Zetis, Kaiserlautern, Germany
- Fachhochschule Zentralschweiz Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit, Institut WDF, HSA Luzern, Suisse
- Interface Institute for Policy Studies, Luzern, Suisse
- Conference of the Cantons Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Zentralschweiz, Suisse
- Career Center Twente, Hengelo, The Netherlands

Practical measures

The third group of goals concerns the practical measures in fighting brain drain and fostering brain-gain.

One subset wants to improve the procedures to develop practical measures:

- Cooperatively providing a method for the participatory development of measures against brain-drain;
- Creating new methods and instruments to make use of a participatory approach and stimulate stakeholders in peripheral regions;
- Testing and evaluating instruments to reduce brain-drain and to foster brain-gain;
- Supporting the development of measures in peripheral regions which are sustainable and organised by stakeholders;
- Providing a manual for the design, planning and implementation of programmes combating brain drain.

A second subset focuses on the best substantive measures, given the brain-drain brain gain analyses. Some examples:

- Improving collaboration between universities and education units in peripheral regions to cope with brain-drain and brain-gain effects;
- Improving the international care of spin-offs from Universities;
- Enhancing trans-national knowledge of Internet and eCommerce;
- Developing the 'alumni' idea in Higher Education Institutes;
- Setting up trans-national networks of Senior Coaches and Business Angels;
- Setting up a Career Centre that attracts highly educated people to the region and facilitates a broad range of settlement factors.

