



TooLS

Tools for developing comparable local surveys

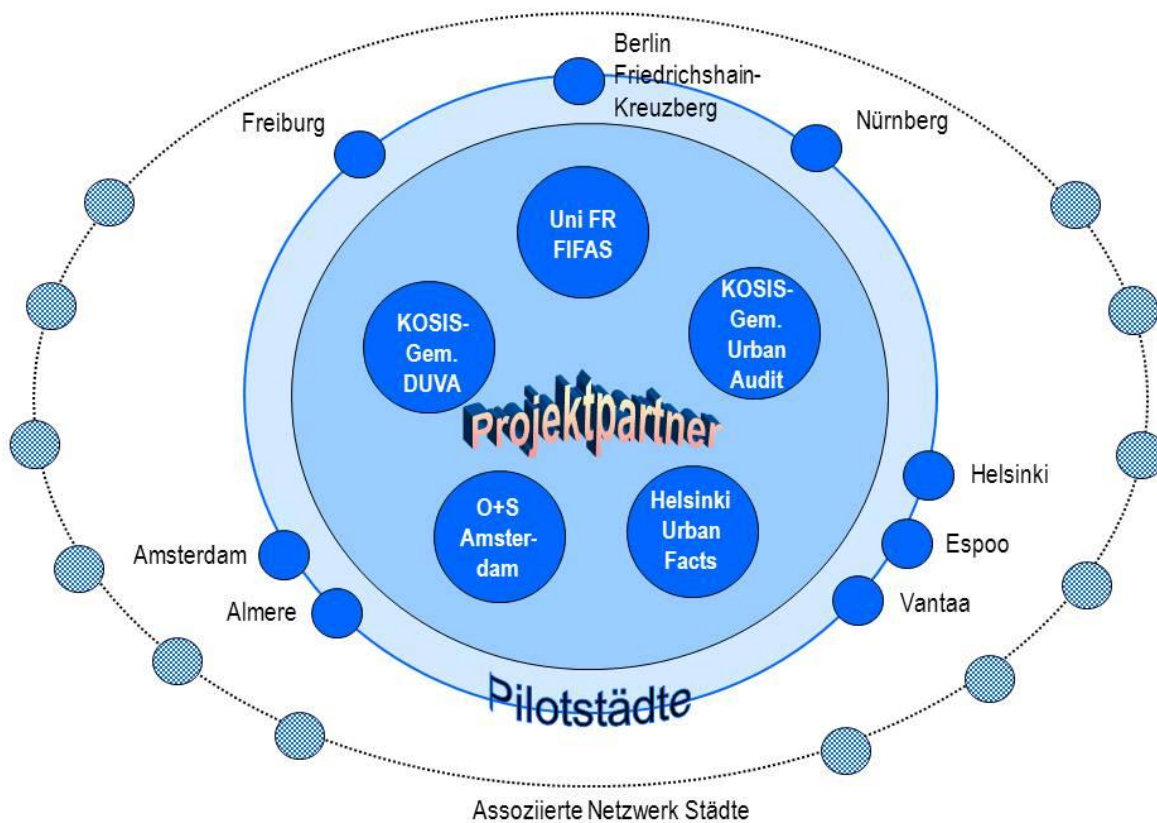
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Interim report on the joint project

"Tools for developing comparable local surveys (TooLS)"

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The appendices are for internal use. They are only available in German.

1. Introduction: Goals and organisation of the TooLS project

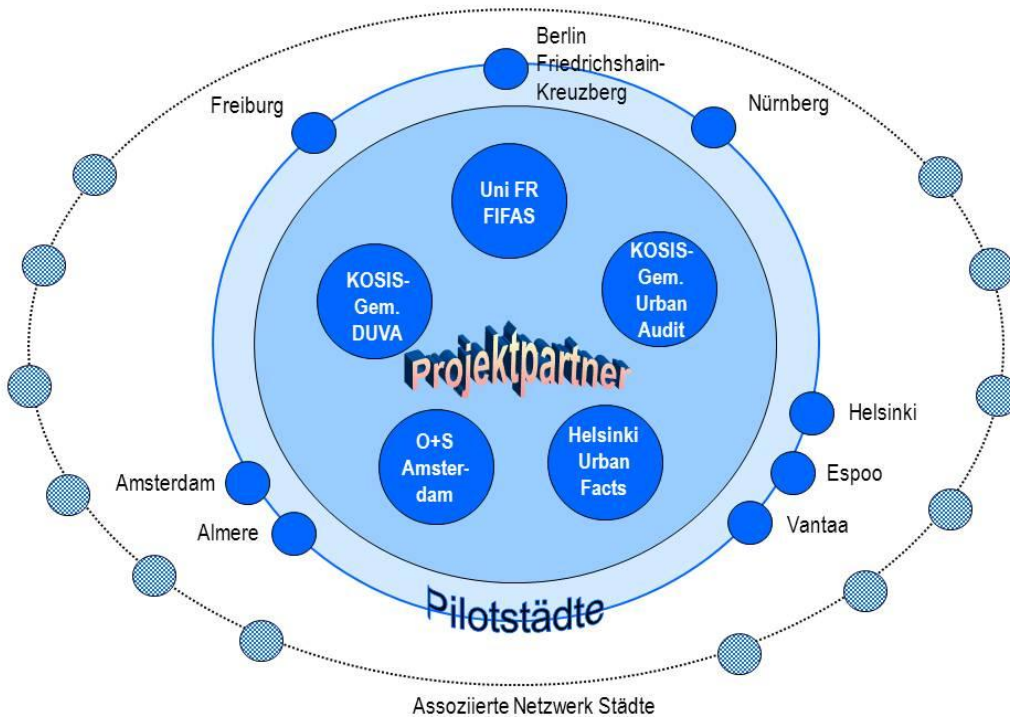
Demographic change is associated with far-reaching repercussions. These changes have an impact on the economy, culture and social living conditions in the European Union in diverse and complex ways. They alter the availability of resources. They influence the life quality. They require new strategies to deal with issues at the national as well as at the municipal level. They also enable and require individual adaptation efforts which are reflected in changed life concepts. Demographic change creates new situations, conflicts and problems as well as new opportunities. The local authorities in particular confront enormous and increasing challenges in order to cope with demographic change, to take advantage of its opportunities and face its challenges. These require a constant monitoring of developments and periodic structural examinations that build on existing secondary data and independent surveys.

For that reason the EU Commission invited tenders for a project titled "Tools for developing comparable local surveys" in summer 2009. The contract was awarded to a consortium under the direction of the Institute of Sociology at the University of Freiburg consisting of DUVA, Urban Audit, FIFAS, and the Offices for Urban Research and Statistics of the Cities of Amsterdam and Helsinki. The task of the European project (acronym: TooLS) is to develop an information system of data and survey tools on demographic change based on municipality comparisons, which can be operated and used cooperatively at the local level.

This information system to be developed by TooLS has instruments (tools in the narrow sense) for the collection, storage and processing of information and also has content, i.e. data and information. This data and information however only becomes *knowledge* if it can answer relevant questions. This is the crucial step that leads an information system from a "data graveyard" to meaningful insights and makes it useful for both scientists and practitioners, who can perhaps arrive at better political decisions on this basis: at the EU level, at the national level as well as at the municipal level.

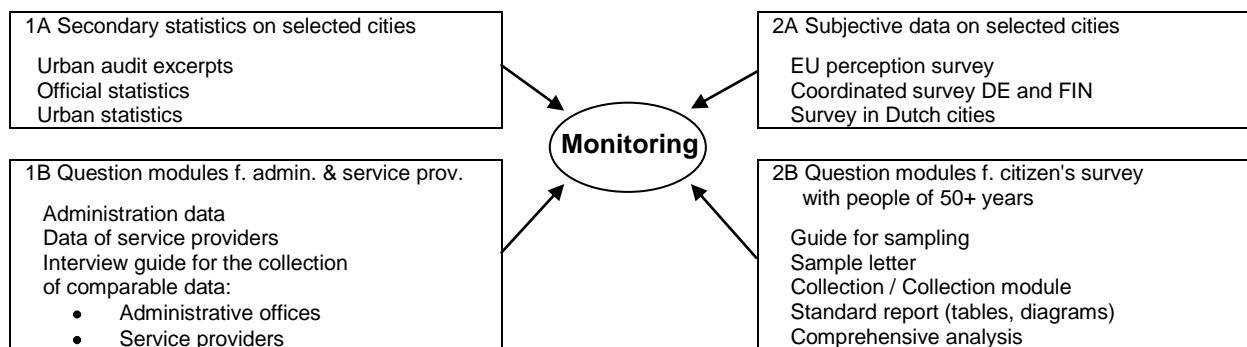
Also in view of its further development, TooLS is organised as a network in which several municipalities participate, besides the project partners: as "pilot cities" and as "associated municipalities". All partner municipalities participate in the surveys. The "pilot cities" have the additional task and possibility to test the DUVA system in practice and contribute their experiences to the project. Other tasks of the pilot cities are the execution of surveys in administrative bodies, the integration into the development of the concept and the instruments, and participation in the discussion of the results.

TooLS Network



There are two key topics in terms of content: They concern *opportunities* of demographic change. In that respect, the project focuses on the question, what could be the meaning of "active ageing" and under what conditions this is possible. *Challenges* are another major focus. These inter alia concern the fact that more and more people reach an age when the probability of dependency on care is relatively high. Data on these two thematic priorities will be collected and/or made accessible in the following manner:

Data types	1 "Objective" data	2 "subjective" data
A Existing (secondary) data	1A Supra-local: Urban audit et al.	2A Supra-local: Perception survey et al.
B Data to be collected primarily	1B Modules of questions to municipal administrations and service providers	2B Modules of questions to citizens (TooLS survey)



The results so far show that both the EU countries and the municipalities participating in the pilot project differ very distinctly both from the point of view of to what extent people of the 50+ age group lead an "active life" and with regard to the willingness to make commitments towards relatives who need care. These differences raise questions about the "why" as well as about the respectively practised strategies. The TooLS information system in this way encourages discourses which can aid in the utilisation of the opportunities of demographic change and in finding feasible and fair solutions to face the challenges.

The timetable on which the project is based has been largely met.

For the individual components of the TooLS project, the following services agreed in the project contract have been rendered so far in accordance with the plan.

1. Implementation and further development of DUVA as an information management system at a local level
2. Conducting surveys on key aspects of demographic change at a municipal level
 - 2.1 Surveys in partner municipalities in Germany, the Netherlands and Finland
 - 2.2 Surveys on infrastructure and services in administrative departments and service providers
3. Sorting, provision and adoption of information from publicly accessible data bases in the TooLS information system
4. Dissemination: Conferences, lectures, publications
5. Proposals for the continuation and further expansion of the TooLS information system

2. Implementation and advancement of the DUVA system

The aim of the TooLS project is to provide tools that allow for the development, implementation and presentation of comparable surveys at the local level in cooperation with a number of partners. According to the project application, the KOSIS association DUVA is responsible for the preparation and further development of an information management system, i.e. the technical means by which the knowledge accumulated in the TooLS project can be recorded, kept on stand-by and presented. To this end, the DUVA modules developed in recent years are incorporated and implemented in the TooLS project and further developed from within the project.

As part of the project proposal a total of nine areas have been defined under the heading "Programming to improve the technical tools of the DUVA statistical information system", in the scope of which the goals pursued in the TooLS project directly benefit from innovations and further developments. In turn, innovations and further developments are initiated based on the experience gained in the TooLS project. These innovations and further developments flow straight back into the ongoing work of the TooLS project and will become available for further use at the end of the project period.

In particular, the following works have been begun or completed in the project so far (for a detailed description see **Appendix I**):

- Support of the citizen's survey through the concept, implementation and maintenance of the necessary registration forms on DUVA's own server
- Provision and maintenance of a central information portal (TooLS web catalogue) on the DUVA server
- Technical innovations and further developments – in particular:
 - Improvement of the used input modules: Changes or enhancements such as the performance optimisation of input forms and newly integrated functions are in each case immediately used after their realisation for the optimisation of the collections of the TooLS project.
 - Functional extension of the DUVA module "web assistant": In the scope of TooLS, the respective current version of this module is available for web-based analysis and presentation of data either through direct access or via the TooLS web catalogue.
 - Multilinguality of the DUVA modules: With regard to the TooLS project, the web catalogue was the last DUVA module to be extended, so it is possible to switch to any language. Based on this, the TooLS web catalogue was made available as a German and English application. All other DUVA modules used in TooLS are also provided as German and English language modules.
 - Development and introduction of the "meta data navigator" module: The new module will clearly expand the research and selection options for information. The language capability was part of the required functionalities to be used in the scope of TooLS. Implementation of a new interface for data exchange by using the XML specification SDMX developed in the scope of the European INSPIRE project: The SDMX specification will not be available during the TooLS project period. The implementation must therefore take place later.

- New version of the DUVA reference system: Test versions of the new module were used in the context of TooLS; lessons learned from the experiences result in a number of requests for modifications and additions that will be implemented gradually.

Along with continued functional additions, a security certification based on the internationally recognised common criteria and the reprogramming of a module for generating maps are planned for 2012. Preparatory work has already been carried out for the latter projects. The cartographic representation of data will complement the graph and table display formats; the requirements of the INSPIRE project and the standards of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) will be implemented here. The new map tool is programmed in such a way that particularly the target audience (local decision-makers and officials, citizens) considered in the TooLS project can retrieve information in the form of maps or independently create maps for selected topics.

In the scope of the TooLS project, Mr. Thomas Willmann and Mr. Arno Schiffert (both in Freiburg) are working for DUVA. At the halftime of the TooLS project, the proportion of time spent for organisational tasks (creation/adaptation of surveys and analyses as well as data management, development and maintenance of the web catalogue, conception and execution of surveys, consultation with the other project partners) was greater than initially estimated. Simultaneously the time spent for the technical development of DUVA was kept lower than estimated at the start of the project. By mid-2011 less material resources were requested than provided for in the planning at this time. This is to a large extent due to the fact that a number of billable services that had been commissioned, delivered and disbursed in advance by DUVA were not yet invoiced to TooLS.

The KOSIS association DUVA is organised as a user community and development network. Besides the financial benefits of the TooLS project, DUVA thus benefits in a particular way from the practical experiences that derive from the international network of the TooLS project. Contacts with colleagues participating in TooLS enable a positioning of DUVA in terms of the used technology and provided functionalities as well as regarding the quality and sustainability of the metadata model used by DUVA. In particular, the participation of Mr. Willmann at the first national TooLS conference of our Finnish colleagues and its affiliated Open Data Conference in May 2011 has shown that DUVA need not shy away from international comparison.

3. Execution of surveys

3.1 Surveys in partner municipalities

With a questionnaire developed for the TooLS survey, surveys were conducted in the following 13 partner municipalities:

Pilot cities	Associated partner municipalities	Status of works	
		Surveys	Creation of a data record
Amsterdam		completed	completed
Almere		completed	completed
Helsinki		completed	still pending
Espoo		completed	still pending
Vantaa		completed	still pending
Freiburg		completed	completed
Nuremberg		completed	completed
Berlin, District of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg		ongoing	still pending
	Moers	completed	completed
	Dusseldorf	completed	completed
	Koblenz	completed	completed
	Much	completed	completed
	Saarbrücken	completed	still pending

A number of other cities had indicated a very strong interest in participating, but could not ultimately participate in the project for various reasons:

Augsburg, Lübeck, Berlin: District of Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Passau, Villingen-Schwenningen, Mannheim, Bielefeld, Frankfurt-Oder, Bautzen, Görlitz, Enschede (NL), Tampere (FIN), Turku (FIN), Jelenia Góra (PL).

Important reasons for not participating were among others: too much expenditure and effort for the surveys because of legal requirements (restrictive statistics laws in some German federal states), strong thematic overlap with own surveys recently conducted by the city.

The objective was to perform for each partner municipality at least 300 written surveys of the population group of 50 years and older in a random sample. The organisation and execution of these surveys was carried out by the partner municipalities. Data management and analyses were performed by DUVA, FIFAS and the Institute of Sociology.

The guideline regarding the desired sample sizes was largely complied with. Some of the partner municipalities made use of the option to incorporate additional topics and/or achieve a larger sample to enable local analyses as well:

Partner municipalities	Frequency of unweighted samples	Percentage	Frequency of weighted samples	Percentage
Freiburg	397	7,8	302	12,5
Nuremberg	324	6,4	301	12,5
Much	283	5,6	300	12,4
Koblenz	444	8,7	302	12,5
Dusseldorf	1790	35,1	304	12,6
Moers	439	8,6	299	12,4
Amsterdam	867	17,0	303	12,6
Almere	554	10,9	299	12,4
Total	5098	100,0	2410	100,0

The figures include only respondents who are 50 years or older

For the analyses, a total sample of 5098 cases is available up to now (as of 18/10/2011). For different analyses this sample is weighted in such a way that the partner municipalities are roughly equally represented.

The experiences with the implementation of the surveys reported by the partner municipalities are all positive. Both the personnel as well as the financial costs are kept within reasonable limits. Excluding the use of existing resources in the administration, additional costs of around € 3000 for a sample size of 300 cases would accrue for the local authorities. The willingness of the local authorities to carry out the organisational work was high and consisted mainly of the following: drawing a random sample from the age group 50+, sending the questionnaire with cover letter by the municipality, response control and shipping the completed questionnaires to the FIFAS Institute. All participating municipalities appreciated very highly the option to receive additional and complementary information through this survey with very little effort of their own. (see **Appendix III**: Progress reports of municipalities)

For the German cities, data acquisition was performed centrally at FIFAS using a web-based DUVA input mask (see Chapter 2 and Appendix I). Because of the necessary language skills, the major part of the Dutch and Finnish data was entered on site using own data collection software and imported into DUVA.

The data record is provided to the partner municipalities via the DUVA web catalogue¹. In addition, each city received its data in SPSS format to enable their own analyses that go beyond DUVA's potential. The included basic counting in tabular form facilitates an overview of their results for the municipalities.

The topics of the written questionnaire (Appendix V) refer to the two main priorities of the knowledge base to be developed for TooLS: on *opportunities* of demographic change that are found in possibilities of "active ageing" and on *challenges* of demographic change that inter alia can be seen in the increasing number of people in need of care.

The questionnaire focused on the following topics:

- Collection of indicators for "active ageing"
 - Labour participation
 - Participation in advanced training

¹ <http://k1z07s059.kivbf.de/webkatalog/tools/index.php>

- Commitment to civil society
- Dispositions on the life concept
- Questions on care in case the need for care arises
- Assessment of infrastructures and supply networks
- Assessments of life satisfaction and quality
- Sociodemographic data: age, gender, education and vocational training, household type, income, ...

Individual questions and/or batches of questions or statements have been adopted as far as possible from representative studies conducted all over Europe: European Social Survey, Eurobarometer, surveys by Eurostat. In this way, information about the situation in municipalities are largely comparable to the situation in Europe as a whole and in the respective countries.

The questionnaire is designed in such a way that local partners have the opportunity to incorporate their own individual questions. In a detailed pre-test that was conducted in the pilot cities, the practicality of the instrument was tested and confirmed. The final version of the instrument was first created in a German version and then handed over to the Dutch and Finnish partners in an English version for translation into the local languages.

Analyses are carried out in the following manner:

- The distribution in the partner municipalities of individual indicators is documented in tables and graphs that can already be created and accessed via DUVA.
- Indicators are combined with code numbers (indices, scales) that can be used to describe basic conditions and configurations for the partner municipalities and EU countries. These codes will also be made available through DUVA at the end of the project.
- Based on this, the profiles for partner municipalities and for EU countries will be defined and provided via the DUVA web catalogue later on in the project.
- For central topics ("active ageing", provision of care when needed) explanatory proposals and structural models are developed, which can be used to represent significant dependencies that may be relevant for the practical intervention of local actors.
- The information is prepared such that comparisons are enabled between local authorities and if possible also with the EU and individual countries.

As an example for the "active ageing" section and for the record available to date (as of 18/10/2011) **Appendix II** shows how results and a knowledge base that goes beyond pure data gathering can be expected. In a similar way, evaluations are carried out and interpretations are proposed for the focus "health care situation of people in need of care".

3.2 Surveys of administrations and service providers

The area of service providers and public administrations deals with their programmes and measures for the elderly. The spectrum of these programmes and activities is now so large that the provision and enabling of the necessary overview has been recognised as a major goal of this project. Therefore, in a first step, efforts are focused on structuring the various activities and services in such a way that they can be sensibly grouped for a supra-local comparison. Grouping by the areas of need of the elderly generation has turned out to be a viable option, despite the fact that abstraction was required when looking at the various options. One can assume the generation of optimal positive effects for the affected seniors as well as the citizens in general as the overarching goal of all programmes and activities, as they contribute towards utilising the opportunities related to demographic change and minimising the hardships to be expected from the associated changes. For these reasons, they should encourage older people

- (1) to live independently as long as possible,
- (2) to guarantee the daily care, thereby offering preconditions and measures that support both concerns, and finally
- (3) ensuring the necessary care when needed.

First drafts of the question modules for the administration and service provider survey were presented for discussion to the partner cities in late 2010 in German and English versions. Due to the citizen's surveys to be conducted simultaneously, these discussions however mostly took place in spring 2011. During this time the survey was further developed with local experts in Nuremberg, tested for their practicability and carried out so far by the middle of the year that the Nuremberg findings could be made available to the participating cities along with the question modules in German and English for practical trial. They were explained during the 2nd national TooLS conferences on 30 May 2011 in Helsinki and on 4/5 July 2011 in Freiburg. Arrangements have now been made on the basis of the Nuremberg data, so that they can be accessed over the internet and can be directly collected on the web. In this way, the database is continuously complemented and made available to the cities for independent use.

The Module "Surveys of administrations and service providers" is provided in detail in **Appendix IV**.

4. Sorting, provision and adoption of information from publicly accessible data bases in the TooLS information system

The modules for comparable local primary surveys to be developed in TooLS are meant to complement already existing information. The information that is comparable supra-locally mainly includes the Urban Audit and the associated Perception Survey of the EU. Also in the cities themselves, selected statistical data that prove to be particularly relevant for coping with demographic change should be collected in the project and made available for comparison.

In the chapter "Information bases relevant to seniors", the administration survey gives an overview about the locally available statistics, thereby allowing targeted queries. If necessary they should be added to the analysis of the administration surveys.

The already organised surveys of the Urban Audit comparing cities and of the Perception Survey shall be evaluated in the project based on seniors and included in the internet services. For that, the offered data was already checked for its relevance and compiled in a catalogue each in early 2010. The actual data extract has been postponed, as an almost complete availability of data for 2008/09 with Eurostat can only be expected by the end of 2011. The cities that are not included in the Urban Audit shall be requested to provide information directly and to make that comparable by adaption calculations.

The Perception Survey 2009 is already available for selected cities. It will be evaluated with regard to seniors in the second half of the project period. It is based on the individual data of the EU survey, the coordinated survey of 20 German cities, and where possible also on that of the additionally surveyed Finnish cities. They allow for the necessary distinction by age, so as to filter out the settings of those from age 50 or 55 years. This data is so far only partially available for the cities of the TooLS project.

The secondary statistical material, which can later be also related to the results of the citizen's survey, shall be compiled for the following areas:

Area	Primary source	Notes
Demography	Urban Audit	Migration data are missing and must be collected separately to allow at least an approximate projection later on.
Households	Urban Audit	There exists no information regarding the households in which elderly people live.
Living conditions	Perception Survey	Satisfaction with different conditions of life in the city, such as housing, security, medical care, public infrastructure.
Employment	Urban Audit	Work and unemployment of 55- to 65-year old people; lack of data for people of 65+.
Poverty	Perception Survey	In the Urban Audit, income is not differentiated according to age.
Leisure and recreation	Urban Audit	Green spaces, swimming pools, cultural institutions

Result: A statistical comparison between cities focused on the aging population will be available on the web. The indicators shown there are intended to help assess the situation in each city and its further development. Information can be offered for all cities only if the cities not participating in the Urban Audit and the Perception Survey will provide the missing data themselves.

Current position: The data collection is prepared conceptually and in part also organisationally and technically. The supra-locally unavailable data should be collected as soon as the citizen's survey has been evaluated and the administration survey has been largely completed.

5. Dissemination: Conferences, lectures, publications

A key concern of the TooLS project is to not only develop and make accessible the information and instruments comparing cities, but to develop these into a jointly supported and used knowledge base in urban networks within the European context. So far the following activities of the project partners have served this purpose:

a. Conferences in the project

The conferences planned for the project serve the coordination among partners and the promotion of other European cities' participation and subsequent use of the developed tools. Therefore not only the current project partners were invited to the conferences, but also representatives of other cities and city networks (including the association of Italian city statisticians USCI, of Dutch and Finnish city statisticians). As per schedule, the following conferences were so far conducted:

22.12.2009	Kick off meeting in Frankfurt a.M.
3.6. – 4.6.2010	1 st international conference in Amsterdam
24.6.2010	1 st German National conference in Villingen-Schwenningen (after the annual conference of the KOSIS association)
14.10.2010	1 st national conference for the Netherlands in Amsterdam
30.5.2011	1 st Finnish national conference in Helsinki (at the end of the City of Helsinki's Urban Facts' Centenary Conference – "Open Data, Open Access")
4.7. – 5.7.2011	2 nd German national conference in Freiburg
–	5 meetings of the participating Finnish cities

b. Lectures and additional public relations work

The project was presented at other conferences, meetings and at one press conference:

24.11.2009	General meeting of the KOSIS association Urban Audit
17.3.2010	KOSIS general meeting in Bonn
29.3.2010	Discussion of the project with representatives of the research area "Social Indicators" of GESIS (German Social Science Infrastructure Services) in Mannheim
29.4.2010	Presentation and discussion of the project at the meeting of the working group "Coordinated Surveys" of the VDSt (Association of German city statisticians)

11.6.2010	Baldo Blinkert: "Use of local surveys for local policy making". Lecture at the seminar of the European Commission "The role of local and regional authorities in the shaping of demographic change", Magdeburg
21.-24.6.2010	Meeting of the KOSIS Association in Villingen-Schwenningen (with DUVA general meeting)
12.7.2010	Care conference of local providers in Nuremberg (with TooLS presentation)
13.10.2010:	General meeting of the Association of German City Statisticians in the scope of the Statistics Week in Munich
12.4.2011	General meeting of the Association of German City Statisticians in the scope of the spring conference in Bielefeld Since then: Contacts with VDSt working group on population (demography)
26.5. – 27.5.2011	Klaus Trutzel: "Comparable Local Surveys. Experience of the TooLS Project" and Thomas Willmann: "Information management by metadata". Presentations at the City of Helsinki's Urban Facts' Centenary Conference – Open Data, Open Access
20.7.2011	Press conference of Freiburg University: "Demographic change – an EU-assisted project with participation of the City of Freiburg"

The dialogues with GESIS and VDSt were also helpful in coordinating the contents of the project with the already existing surveys of these institutions (among others online information system "SiMon²" by the Social Indicators Research Centre ZSi, coordinated citizen's surveys in German cities).

c. Publications

K. Trutzel: Das EU-Projekt TooLS: kooperative Entwicklung der kommunalen Informationsinfrastruktur, in: Stadtforschung und Statistik, Zeitschrift des Verbandes Deutscher Städtestatistiker (2011), 1, 55-59

Publications of the participating cities, mainly on the citizen survey, can be expected shortly

d. Homepage

Since March 2010, the first stage of the project homepage (<http://www.tools-project.eu>) is online. It offers important information about the project (project description, partners, dates, instruments, results) in German and English. In addition, a password-protected project work area for internal communication and provision of documents was set up on the BSCW³ server of the University of Freiburg.

² http://gesis-simon.de/simon_eusi/index.html: Monitoring of European social indicators.

³ "Basic Support for Cooperative Work" – a web-based platform for collaboration in work groups developed by the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft.

6. Prospect: Proposals for the continuation and further expansion of TooLS

With the TooLS project, the DG employment aims to begin with the establishment and operation of an information infrastructure at the local level in Europe. The project has a technical, content-wise and organisational dimension.

In the field of technical information infrastructure, TooLS is supported by the advancement of the DUVA system. In content it deals with the development and testing of survey modules for citizen's surveys and surveys for administrations and service providers on topics that play a key role in demographic change. The organisational objective is the development and strengthening of urban networks as supporters, content providers and information users of the information infrastructure to be built up.

The successes of the funding can be found particularly with regard to technology and content after two thirds of the project period; the efforts for the development of city networks beyond Germany have not yet progressed far enough. A future task will be to make the technical and substantive results so well-known that it will encourage cities to participate not only in Germany, but in other member states of the EU.

The development and use of the information infrastructure have to be understood as a process partially initiated and strengthened by TooLS, but which cannot be completed with this project.

The following tasks remain to be tackled for the individual parts of the project:

1. DUVA as a framework of information technology

It is the aim of TooLS to make the provisions existing in DUVA for gathering and presenting information accessible through a scientifically sound survey project. As discussed in Chapter 2 and Appendix I, the development and advancement of the DUVA modules has, as of now, already benefitted financially and to a certain extent also from the practical experiences of the TooLS project. The goal marked out in the Call for Proposals, to develop and provide tools for comparable surveys at a local level, has therefore been achieved during the period of the TooLS project. The DUVA web catalogue provides an additional portal that makes the collected information accessible to interested persons.

The pending development projects have to be completed, documented and made generally accessible. An important prerequisite for that is the production of English language versions. The DUVA managers will also take care of the practical testing of the system in trainings and through on-site support. This applies in particular to the implementation of DUVA in Finland and the Netherlands. Success in these places could lead to a snowball effect, which also promotes the formation of networks. This task will require significant strength and resources and it is foreseeable that it can be accomplished only to a certain extent in the period and with the resources of the project.

In terms of technology and functionality of the DUVA modules, there are no restrictions to the distribution, content and frequency of information surveys. Changing requirements and technological advances, however, require periodic adjustments to the state of the art and new functional demands. The current technical

position, achieved not least through the network of the TooLS project, thus would remain fragmentary if the development process set in motion in 2009 would end with the expiry of the TooLS project. The KOSIS association DUVA will continue to carry on with the technical and functional development of the DUVA modules. From the point of view of this developer's association, it would be a very welcome prospect if experiences going beyond that would continue to be included in the DUVA project.

2. Survey modules for establishing a relevant knowledge base for the demographic change at a local level

2.1 Citizen's survey

For the citizen's survey, a question programme was developed and tested in practice in cities in Germany, Finland and the Netherlands. The usefulness of this instrument must now be illustrated by a convincing analysis. In terms of information infrastructure, the survey results will be made accessible and available in DUVA. The basic data are meant to be used for the evaluations of the respective cities. Sets of indicators shall pave the way through relevant questions and provide tools for the detection of policy-relevant structures and developments. Therefore codes and profiles are made available as a means of structuring and concentration.

Based on the test experiences, question programmes about the quality of life in European cities are recommended for repeat surveys as well as supplementary modules to the Perception Survey of the EU. It also makes sense to maintain the strategy preferred for TooLS to possibly include indicators that have been collected in representative studies throughout Europe. In this way, local results can be compared with the results of higher aggregate levels (national, European).

The modular design of the citizen's survey facilitates an adaptation of content to specific local needs. A core module of the surveys should be retained in an unchanged form by all participating cities and across the various time points of survey. Topics that can be connected with both opportunities and challenges of demographic change should therefore also remain in focus in future. The contents of this core could be adapted or supplemented by new subject areas, if other aspects of demographic change prove to be more urgent over time. However, for reasons of acceptability and practicality, attention should be paid not to significantly expand the scope of the surveys.

In addition, there is the possibility for individual municipalities to extend the list of topics by issues that are particularly relevant locally, which was already done. This ensures that the way how various European municipalities are affected by the varied aspects of demographic change and their structural differences can be adequately taken into account. Extension modules of the survey can also be used to take into account current topics in the short term.

2.2 Administration and service provider survey

The modules for the administration and service provider survey are still being tested. The inclusion of results in the DUVA system is being prepared. The evaluation will be less about statistical and quantitative analyses than about comparisons between cities that make activity priorities and possible gaps visible to the cities and facilitate the inquiry for content and background information in the participating cities. Once results from several cities are available, the usability of the approach can be tested and the usefulness of the results be demonstrated in the coming months.

2.3 Inclusion of secondary statistical data

The information offered in the project is also supported by secondary statistical data. For this purpose, the information from the Urban Audit will be primarily used for international comparison. This data is now available on the internet for cities that are involved in this European city comparison for the years till 2008/9. In coming months these current concepts will be tested and the results examined for their usability as part of the information infrastructure of the TooLS project. For cities participating in TooLS that are not included in the Urban Audit, there is an attempt to collect relevant comparative data and incorporate them into the data base.

The data of the Perception Survey and of the coordinated studies of German and Finnish cities will be analysed in addition. For this, the data exchange with the Finnish cities needs to be organised and comparative city evaluations are planned, whose results will be merged with those of the citizen's survey.

3. Network creation and dissemination

The contacts in the KOSIS network are used for the TooLS project, but will have to be intensified with regard to key topics in the course of the advancement of the project. TooLS can become a regular topic on the agenda of meetings of the two participating KOSIS associations DUVA and Urban Audit and at the annual conferences of the KOSIS Association. This project will be facilitated by the project results that can be increasingly produced.

TooLS was registered as an item on the agenda of the spring conference of the Association of German City Statisticians. The contacts for the survey work group VDSt are used to coordinate question modules, which will be inserted in municipal surveys or can be combined with the upcoming Perception Survey 2012 by the EU. Contact was made with the association's work group for demography. The aim is to have consultations especially for the secondary statistical data catalogue and to agree on a closer cooperation.

Beyond the cooperation with the Finnish and Dutch cities, especially Amsterdam and Helsinki, several attempts have been made to create interest for the project with city representatives of other European countries. It appears that a stronger impetus is required for it, for instance with a specially targeted EU project for this purpose.

For all these efforts, it will be important to show convincing results and successes. One effort aimed at that goal will be the expansion of the TooLS website in German and English, which is meant to be promoted during the project period.

Another platform for promotion and dissemination are the various meetings at which TooLS is presented, specifically the proposed third national TooLS conferences and the second international TooLS conference in Helsinki in the summer of 2012.

For these efforts, at least a bilingual TooLS brochure will be useful, which shall be presented at the aforementioned international TooLS conference. For this it will be important that the DG employment is also involved in the conception to highlight the European interest in this project. The brochure can also be used later on other occasions, such as the Austro-German Statistical Week in Vienna in September 2012 and offered for distribution to other city organisations such as Eurocities.

4. Continuation of the TooLS project and follow-up of related goals

The EU Commission's approach of the comparability of information implies an expansion both in terms of geography as well as from the perspectives of time and content. Comparability can be achieved only when information is collected and provided on an equal basis and over a wide area. Without a regular repetition of the surveys and provision through the information system, a positioning in the course of time is just as impossible as the continuation of developments in the future. A multifaceted issue such as demographic change can only be comprehended in the overview of many factors. The goal of mutual learning associated with the project can only be realised if a geographic expansion into other countries and cities in the European Union is possible.

How intensely the objectives of the TooLS project can be pursued after its end in November 2012 depends not least on the support of the European Commission. The scientifically sound and practically tested infrastructure and the partnership with European municipalities that were formed in the course of the project form an exceptionally favourable base for a continuation of the project. The strength of the German urban communities and the few Finnish and Dutch cities involved so far, will however not suffice to expand and operate an effective European information infrastructure at a local level beyond the experimental stage. It should therefore be examined early on whether the European interest in this project is large enough to justify further funding.