

Seagull: Development programmes for rural areas

Rural Areas in Kaliningrad region: Perspectives and Strategies



The Seagull project is co-financed by the European Union
Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B programme



The main problems

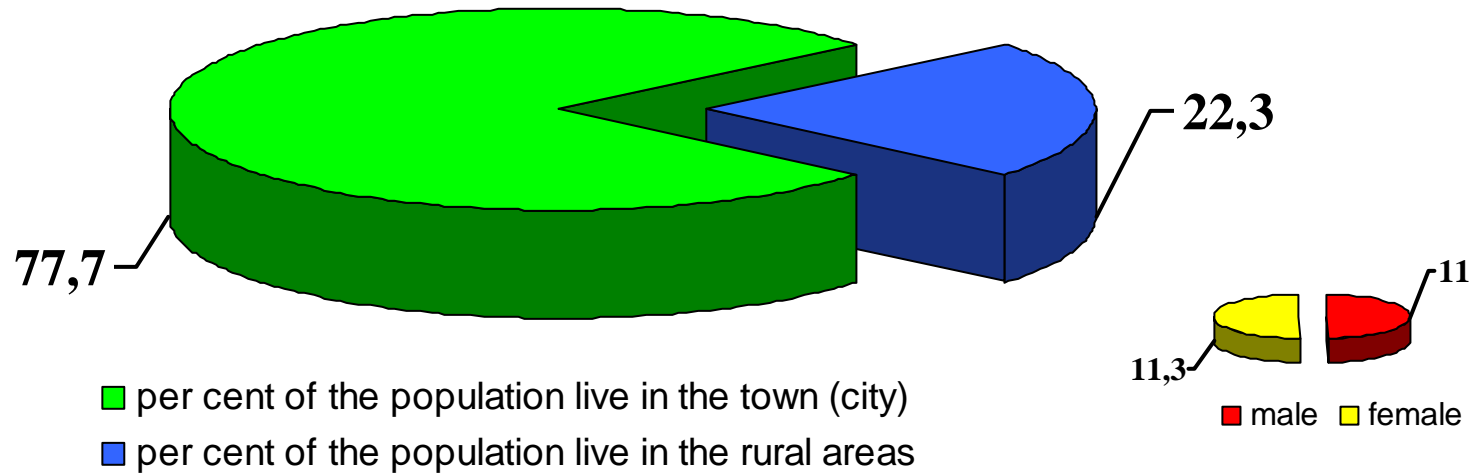
- ◆ Decrease of agricultural industry and its stagnation;
- ◆ Lack of development of industrial, social and engineering infrastructure;
- ◆ Domestic problems;
- ◆ High unemployment rate;
- ◆ Problem of social “purity” of the village (alcohol addiction, deliberate dependency and others);
- ◆ Migration to cities, pendulum migration;
- ◆ Employment of women and youth problems.





Gender structure

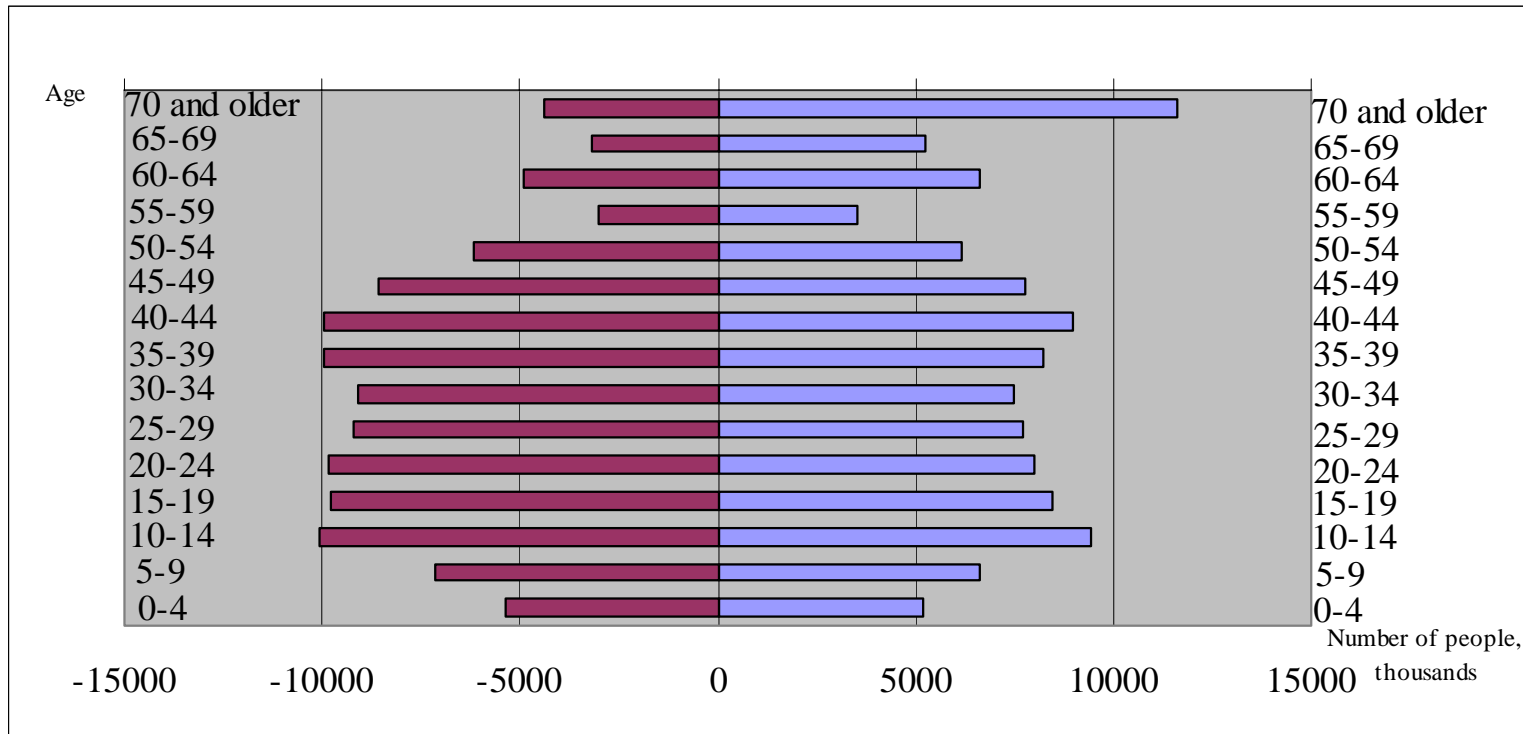
Picture 1. Gender structure of Kaliningrad region





Demographic setting

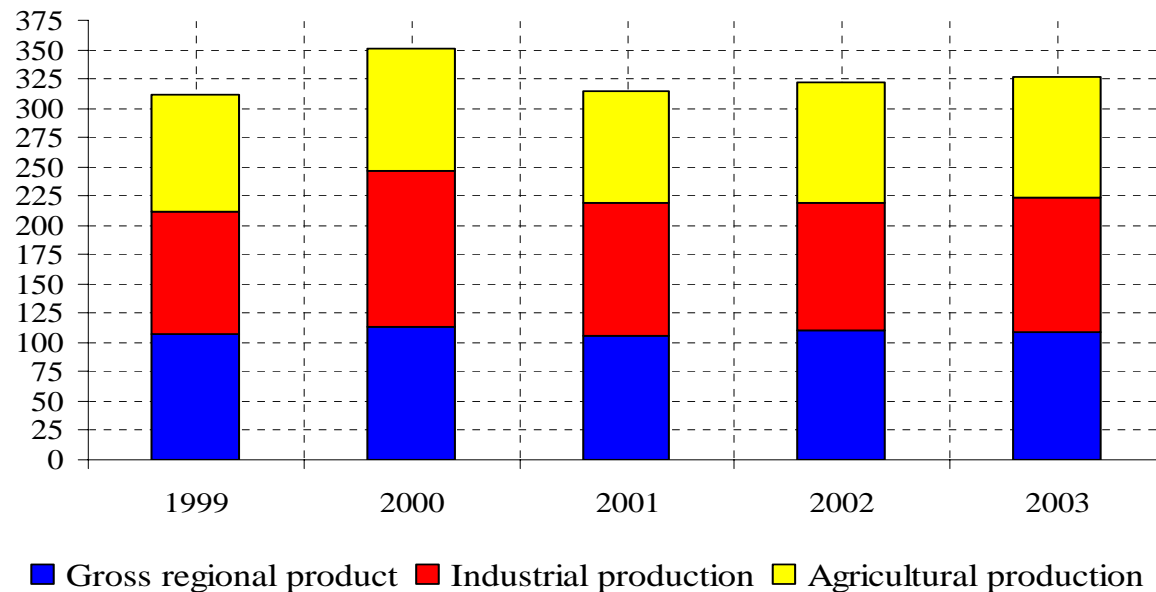
Picture 2. Gender and age pyramid of rural areas population of Kaliningrad





Agricultural development

Picture 3. Dynamics of economic development of Kaliningrad region, shown in % to preceding year





Strategic Priorities

- ◆ A. Development of *SME* in both agricultural and non-agricultural rural economics. Support from state authorities and direct participation and account of non-governmental organizations and businesses.
- ◆ B. Development of non-agricultural activities (agro tourism e t.c.) .
- ◆ C. Transition of agricultural industry into high-tech based branch of economy, the basis of which are large vertically integrated trade industries





Strategy

- Readjustment of unprofitable enterprises
- Development of consulting centers for SME
- Support and development of business community by favorable taxation and loans, ownership institute
- Development of vertical integration of cooperatives and other structures, including production of raw materials, processing and production of integrated products, organization of wholesale and retail trade
- Land survey – the deliverance of free land
- Social development of the rural areas
- Vocational training for human resources, including compulsory training, for the specialists of collective farms, with partial financing from regional and federal budgets;
- Development of agricultural science
- Development of certification, standardization and metrology
- Expansion of the international cooperation, realization of the international projects aimed at maintenance of self-employment among youth.

