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Regine Fischer

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Adaptation to Change: Aging as a Challenge to Urban and Regional Development

Volunteerism and Representation

Project Report



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Project Report from the year 2009 in the subject Urban and Regional Planning, grade: 1,3, Dresden Technical

University (Lehrstuhl für Raumentwicklung), course: Raumentwicklung im internationalen Vergleich, language: English, abstract: For sure it can be said that the present images of aging, working and learning has to be reconsidered and, further more, has to be restyled. The questions will be discussed in three chapters. First an overview of (voluntary) programs and initiatives (referring demographic aging) is going to be presented. They are all initialized by the Federal Government and are supposed to point out the situation of the elderly in Germany. This part of the paper is going to deal with the question "What (volunteer) programs have been established to utilize the skills and labor that seniors have to offer?" The second chapter concentrates on volunteerism of seniors in Germany and on the local level, presenting figures, motives and importance of senior engagement. This will lead to answers to the question "What programs have local governments established to motivate seniors to participate?" Basically this one is closely connected to the third question. In the last chapter the topic of governance will be examined, referring to engagement of seniors in political and societal issues ("How are seniors engaging in governance and societal issues?"). Focal point shall be the example of the senior committee and its work in the city of Dresden. It is to be mentioned at this point that the third chapter should only give a short overview on that part of the topic (political engagement) and will not be explained in further details. Due to the limited frame the focus of this paper will be on the topics of chapter one and two (voluntary engagement of seniors). The paper will conclude with a summary of findings and some potential recommendations for the future.