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URBAN-RURAL POLARIZATION AND SOCIAL COHESION: the case of Kaliningrad

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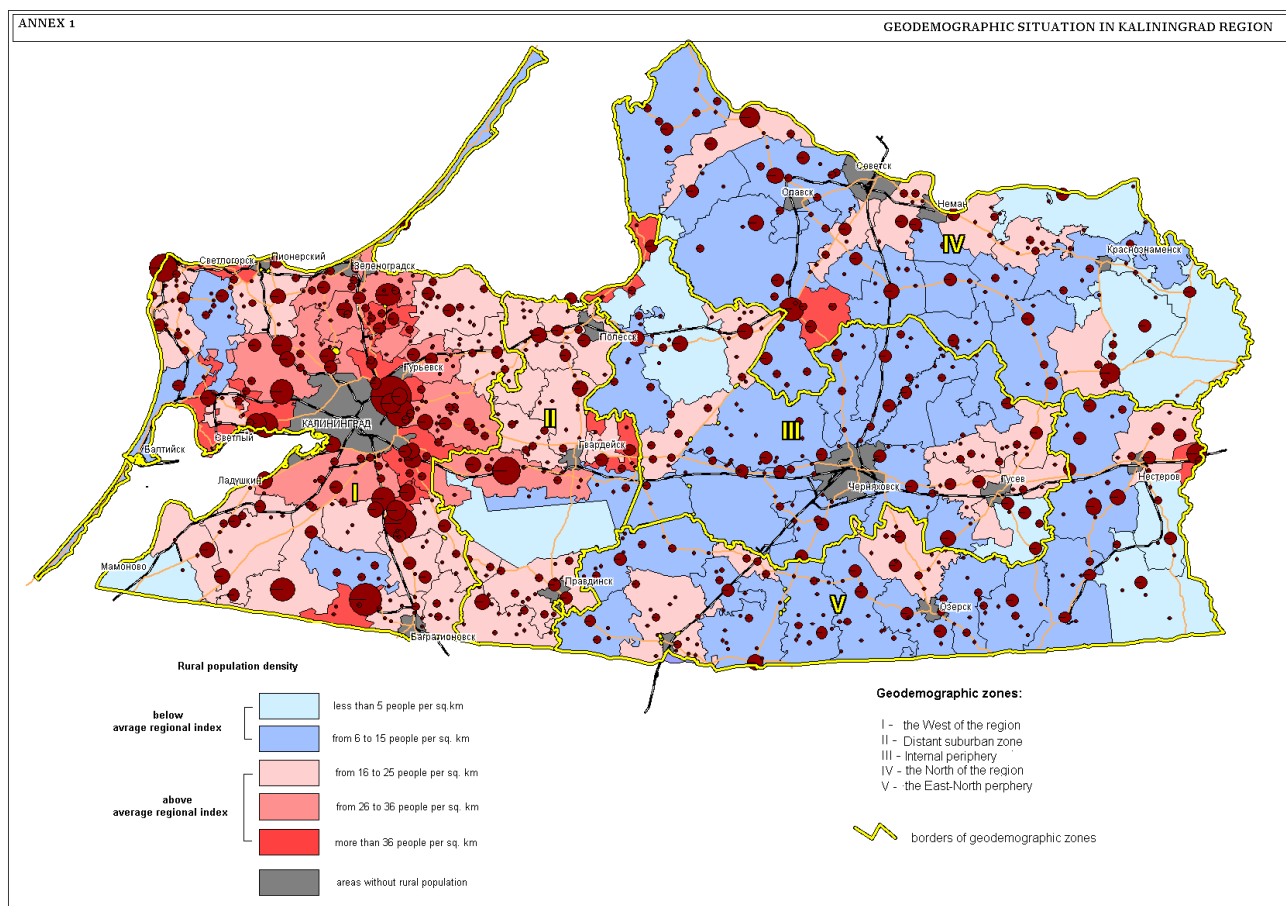
Kaliningrad agglomeration

Territory: **3,7 thous. sq.km** (28% of the region)

Population: **688,6 thous. people**(73%), incl.: urban- **593, 4 thous. people**(81%)
rural- **95,2 thous. people**(44%)

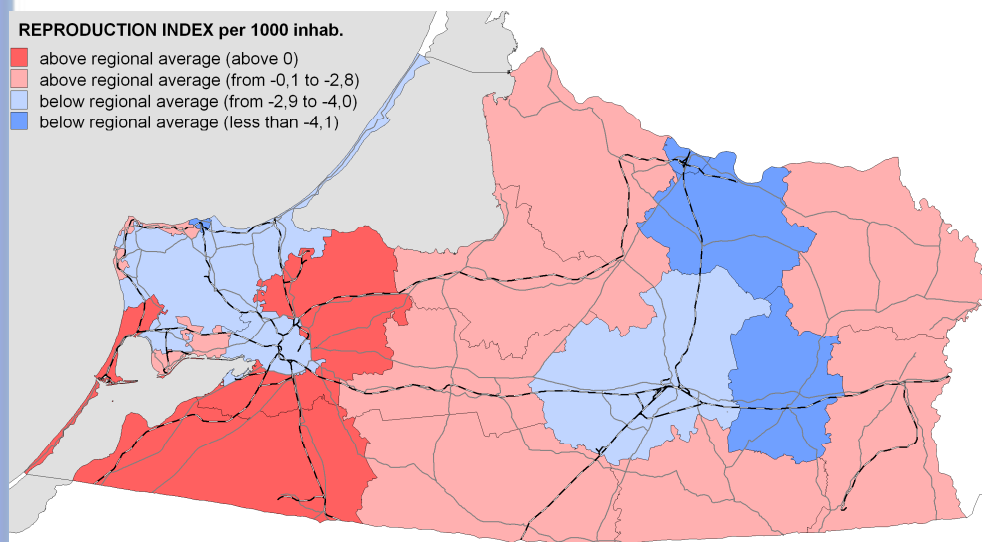
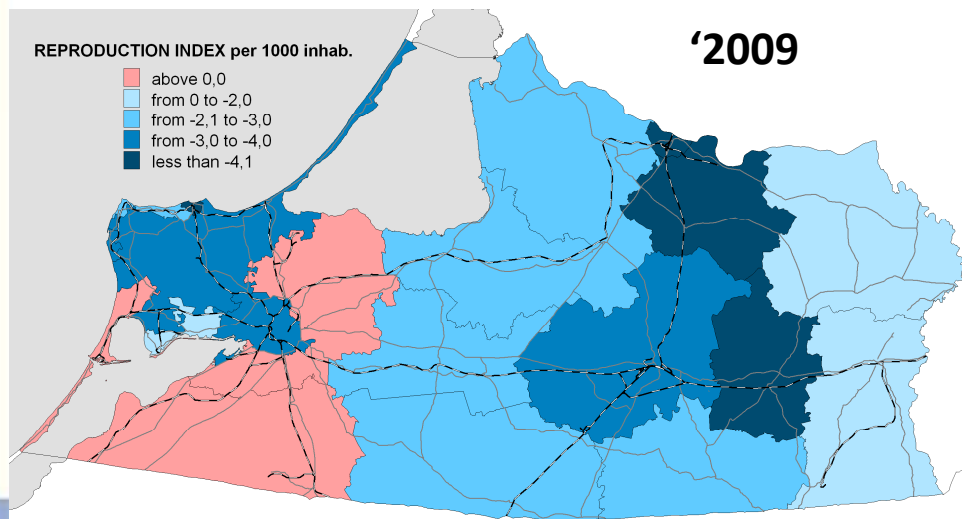
Population density: **186 people/sq.km** (71 **people/sq.km** – regional avreage)

Situated **12** of 25 **urban** and **385** of 987 **rural settlements**





REPRODUCTION: Spatial dimension



- steady natural decline (about 3 thousand people annually)

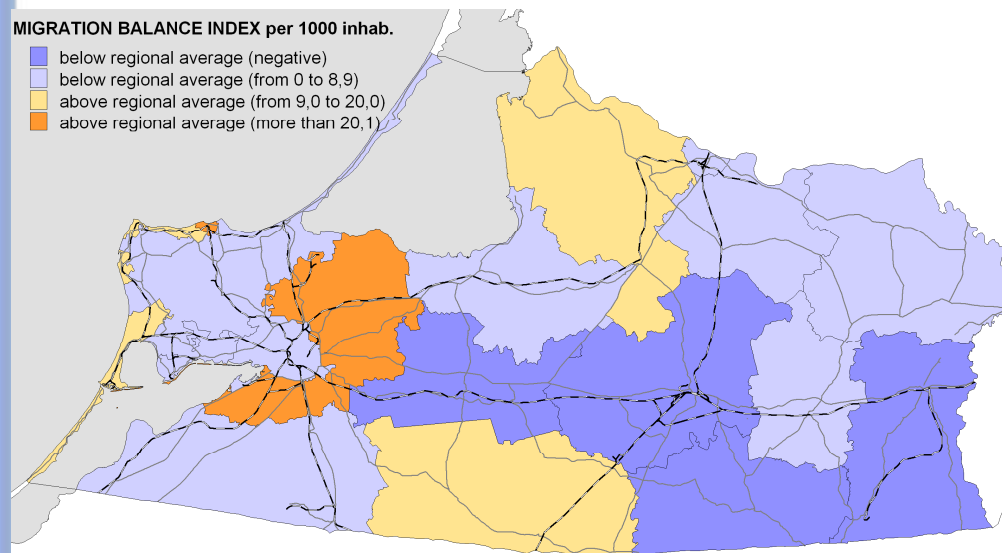
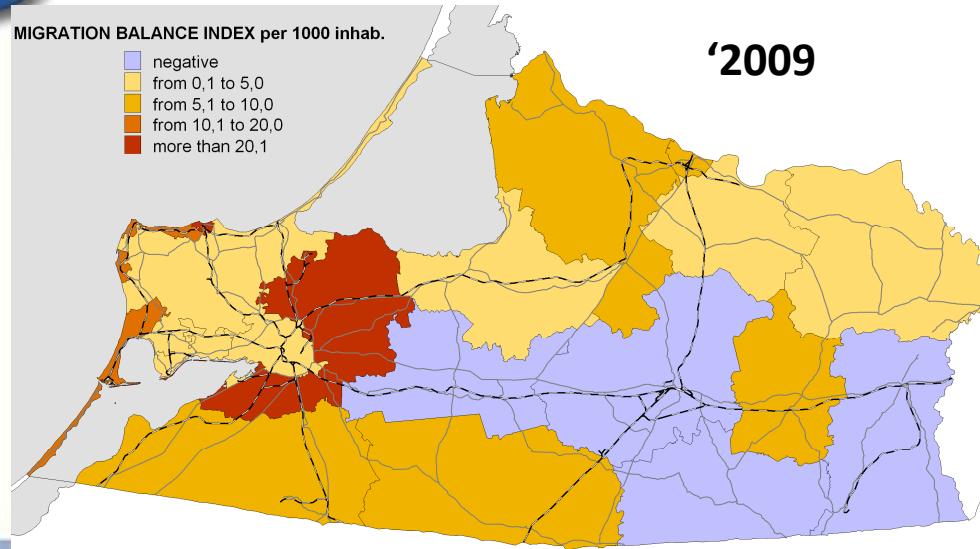
- regional average index of reproduction per 1000 inhab. **-3,1**

- cities are major contributors in term of depopulation (**-3,8** per 1000 inhab. in average)

- declining east and growing west in the countryside (**-0,5** per 1000 inhab. in average)



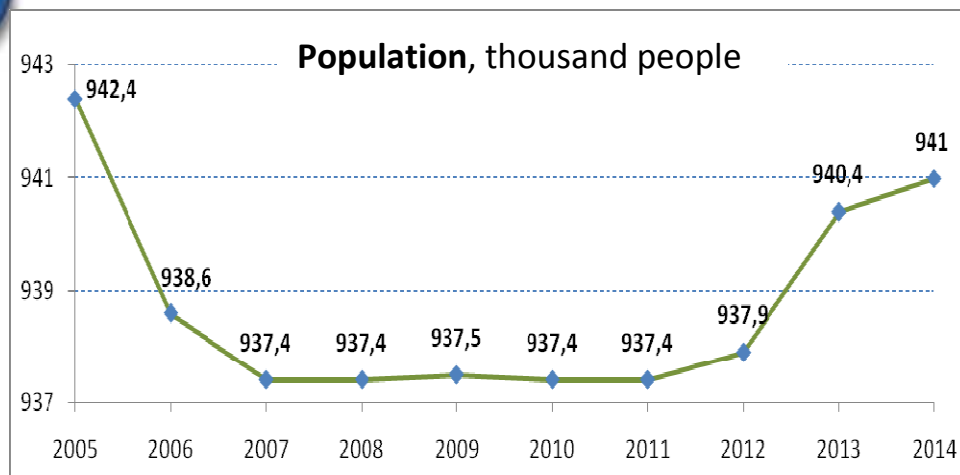
MIGRATION BALANCE: Spatial dimension



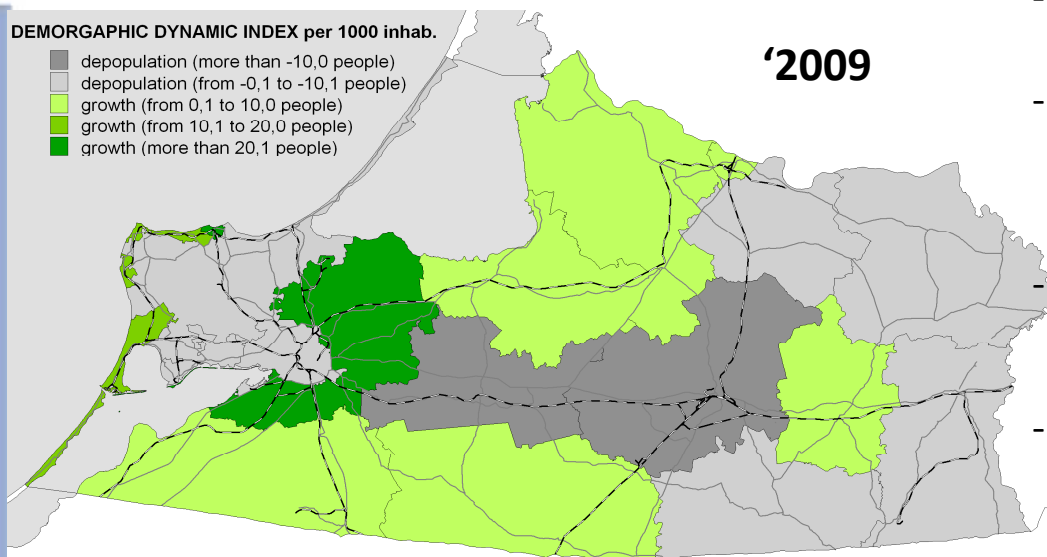
- **positive migration balance** (about 3,4 thousand people annually)
- **regional average** index of migration balance per 1000 inhab. 8,9
- **Kaliningrad suburb is major magnet for external and internal migrants** (1/3 of migrants goes to *Gurievsky rayon*)
- **The State promotion program on resettlement of fellow nationals** since 2006



DEMOGRAPHY: main trends



Source: Annual report of Kaliningrad region Government, 2009

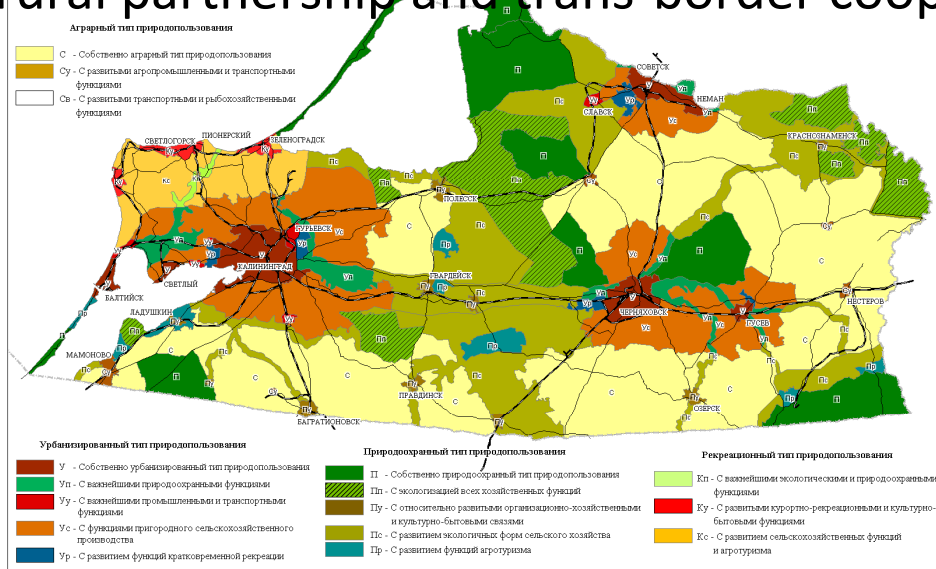


- **Stable population size** by means of external migration and narrow reproduction
- **steadily overcrowding West** (Kaliningrad agglomeration) and **depressed, depopulating periphery**
- **Lack of medium-sized cities**
- **urban-rural disparities**
- **about half of rural population does not deal with rural lifestyle**
- **high level of spatial and social mobility**
- **Exclave condition, spatial isolation, transit problems**



Challenges for social cohesion: policy recommendations

- Balanced system of settlement – sub-regional center in the eastern periphery
- Free migrational exchange with rest of Russia and neighboring countries
- Development of transport infrastructure and accessibility
- Leveling living conditions between cities and the countryside
- Balanced labour market of the region
- Urban-rural partnership and trans-border cooperation





Thank you for attention!

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