

# Population Change and Public Policy

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## Cluster Structure Design

Presentation at the Planning Workshop  
Idlewyld Inn, London  
February 3-4, 2005

# Topics

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- Models for the cluster
- Components of the cluster
  - Network
  - Organization
  - Research Cycle
- Some assumptions
- Funding requirement

# Models

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- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Metropolis Canada and its 5 Centres of Excellence
- Other Centres of Excellence (for example, Early Childhood Development)
- Population Institutes – NIDI, INED

# Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI)

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- Principal task – to study population issues, with a special emphasis on **population-related social issues and developments that are relevant to policymaking** at both national and international level.
- Up until 1987, NIDI functioned as an **interuniversity institute** in co-operation with virtually every university in the Netherlands.
- In 1987, an 'Act authorising the founding of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute' brought about the transition of NIDI's interuniversity status to that of an **independent foundation**.

# NIDI Staff

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- About 30 researchers in 3 departments
  - Projections and Models
  - Social Demography
  - Population, Migration and Development Department
- Director, Deputy Director, Management Team (3)
- Honorary Fellows, Ph.D. Students, ICT, **Information / Publication**, Financial and Human Resources Management, secretariat

# What have we got, in comparison?

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- Similar aims
- Diffuse resources
  - Researchers at various universities and government agencies
  - Good source of data: Statistics Canada
- Previous experience:
  - Review of Demography and its Implications for Economic and Social Policy

# The Network

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- Researchers in universities and government agencies
  - Formal commitment
  - Data base to include expertise or areas of research
- Stakeholders
  - Partners – main users of research output
    - ❖ “nuclear” – need for some kind of formal commitment, continuity of support
    - ❖ “extended” – participants in meetings
  - “Audience”
    - ❖ channels – media (journalists)
    - ❖ public

# The Network (Cont'd)

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- International links
  - Individual researchers / experts
  - Collaboration on comparative research particularly with countries facing similar population changes, and having comparable data sets
  - Population institutes
  - Other organizations: Offices of the United Nations involved with population issues (such as UNFPA, UNECE), Population Council, World Bank, and OECD, and academic associations such as the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), and the Population Association of America (PAA).

# Formal Organization

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## ■ Board of Directors

- set general direction
- 9 members: 6 academics, and 3 partners
  - ❖ government agencies,
  - ❖ non-governmental organization,
  - ❖ private sector (including business sector)
- needed: ideas on how to select of members of the board

## ■ Executive Board

- sub-set of the Board of Directors
- responsible for management of the cluster
- 3 academics (chair is also director)
- board of directors to select 3 from among themselves?

# Formal Organization (Cont'd)

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## ■ Research Committees

- to be formed as needed for the cluster's projects
- responsible for research cycle activities
- board of directors to decide on composition of members?

## ■ Administrative Office

- administrative and various types of support to the network, the Board, and the Committees
- preparation and maintenance of websites and the facilitation of research cycle activities, particularly, dissemination
- staff: manager (or co-ordinator), and a professional communications person

# Cycle of research

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- Identification of research topic
  - surveys to determine areas of priority
  - workshops to get inputs from researchers and stakeholders
  - Board of directors decide on research priorities and form committees
- The research proper
  - research committee to undertake activities to achieve assigned task
  - number of researchers and data will depend on complexity of research issues

# Cycle of research (Cont'd)

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- Dissemination of results.
  - academic communities
    - ❖ academic conferences
    - ❖ publications in academic print and e-journals of various disciplines, in particular, on public policy
  - public dissemination
    - ❖ conferences
      - meetings centered around certain themes or issues
    - ❖ publications (print and electronic)
      - research briefs, policy issues series, series on facts and fallacies about population change, news releases, and newsletters
    - ❖ website and the internet
      - network co-ordination
      - results dissemination

# Some assumptions / guiding principles

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- standard research grants and hence, basic research work will continue to be high priority of researchers and funding agencies
- policy needs are important in the identification of research topics
- research dissemination for policies are as important as peer-reviewed articles and research papers
- a collaborative process is an effective and efficient means of allocation of research funds
- cluster will be continually supported for 10 years or more

# Funding requirement

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- for research
  - ❖ remuneration of (or release time for) researchers, consultants, and experts within and outside Canada
  - ❖ graduate students and post-doctoral fellows
- for results dissemination
  - ❖ workshops and conferences
  - ❖ various publications, in print and electronic media
- for general administration of the cluster
  - ❖ release time for the director
  - ❖ salaries for staff
  - ❖ overhead - office space, equipment, furniture, etc (counterpart?)