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FACTSHEET

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# Impact of demographic development on public finances

SimPop and SimFin

Our models provide a sound basis for planning for cantons, cities  
and municipalities

## How do population growth and demographic change affect the public finances of individual cantons and municipalities?

Switzerland's population is growing and ageing – and this has far-reaching financial consequences. The proportion of people over the age of 65 is increasing rapidly, especially in rural cantons and municipalities. Urban cantons are growing strongly. The financial consequences therefore vary from canton to canton and from municipality to municipality: some can expect a sharp rise in education spending, others a multiplication of expenditure on long-term care or drastic changes in their revenue structure.

### For cantons, cities and municipalities, this means:

- **New challenges and changing conditions:** Different growth dynamics depending on the region and municipality, ageing population, different spatial planning conditions.
- **Increasing spending pressure:** Cantons and municipalities will face even greater challenges in financing our social, health and education systems in the future.
- **Forward-looking planning and early action are crucial!**

### Our solution: Data-based decision-making

With our proven models, we support cantons, cities and municipalities in forward-looking planning:

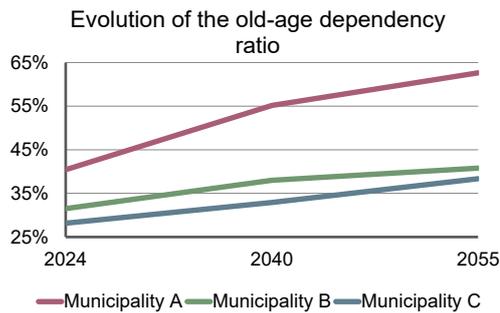
- **SimPop:** Simulates population development for each individual canton, city or municipality and is based on the population scenarios of the Federal Statistical Office and historical developments.
- **SimFin:** Simulates the long-term development of expenditure and revenue for individual cantons, cities and municipalities. Expenditure and revenue can be viewed in detail by individual item, based on the functional classification of public finance statistics.

### Our expertise

Ecoplan has extensive experience in developing population scenarios, public finance and supporting complex projects. This includes the following successfully implemented projects.

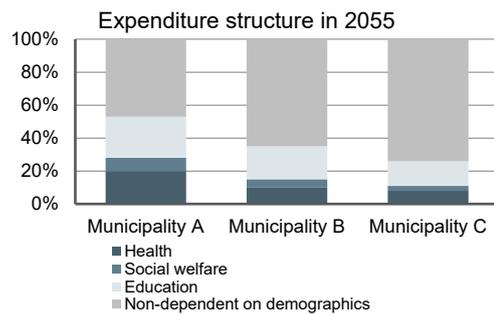
- [Long-term prospects for municipal finances \(2025\)](#) on behalf of the Conference of Municipal Finance Directors, available in German or French
- Population scenarios on the municipal level on behalf of a canton in Central Switzerland (ongoing)
- Financial impact of site development and the resulting increase in population on a municipality in the canton of Solothurn (completed in 2024, confidential)

**Ecoplan models and services**



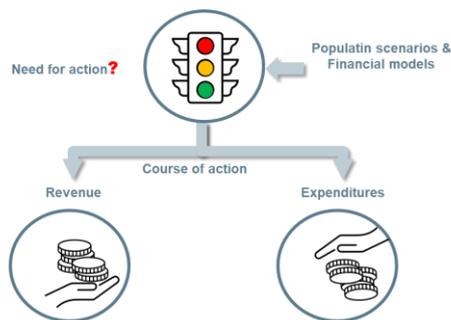
**SimPop – Understanding population development**

- Calculate regional and municipal population scenarios – aligned with the current population scenarios for Switzerland and the cantons from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
- Consideration of municipality-specific factors such as site developments, changes to building zones, fertility and migration movements



**SimFin – Assess the financial impact**

- Assessing the impact of demographic trends on public expenditure, revenue and debt
- Simulating various scenarios for long-term financial planning at cantonal and municipal level



**Support growth projects**

- Support with problem analysis and the identification of courses of action and measures
- Support for interdisciplinary project organisation and complex processes

**Your contacts**



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