

Municipalities in dealing with demographic decline

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HYPOTHESIS: Both large cities and small municipalities must take appropriate measures to reduce the demographic decline

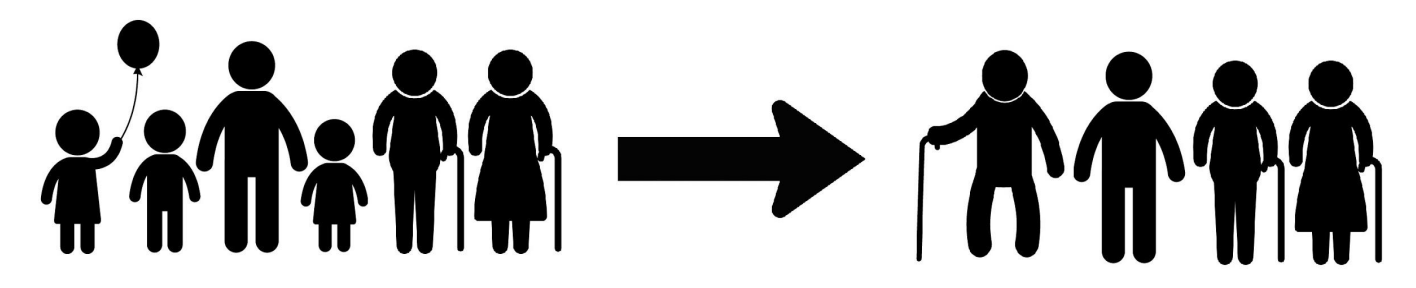
OBJECTIVE: To show the demographic decline in both large cities and small municipalities by means of secondary data analysis

INTRODUCTION

Europe. In 2019, the world's population was 7.4 mln inhabitants, and is forecast to continue rising. Aside from Japan, the EU is the world's most rapidly ageing region in the world. At the period of 2001 to 2016, the number of elderly people in the EU-28 rose overall by 26.6 %, while the overall population of the EU-28 increased by 4.5 %. In 2013 birth rate had fallen to 10.0 live births per 1 000 inhabitants; during the next three years, the EU-28 crude birth rate remained at this level. Among the 10 EU Member States Poland was unique insofar as it was the only Member State that recorded a natural increase in its population, which was exceeded by the negative level of net inward migration.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population/overview>

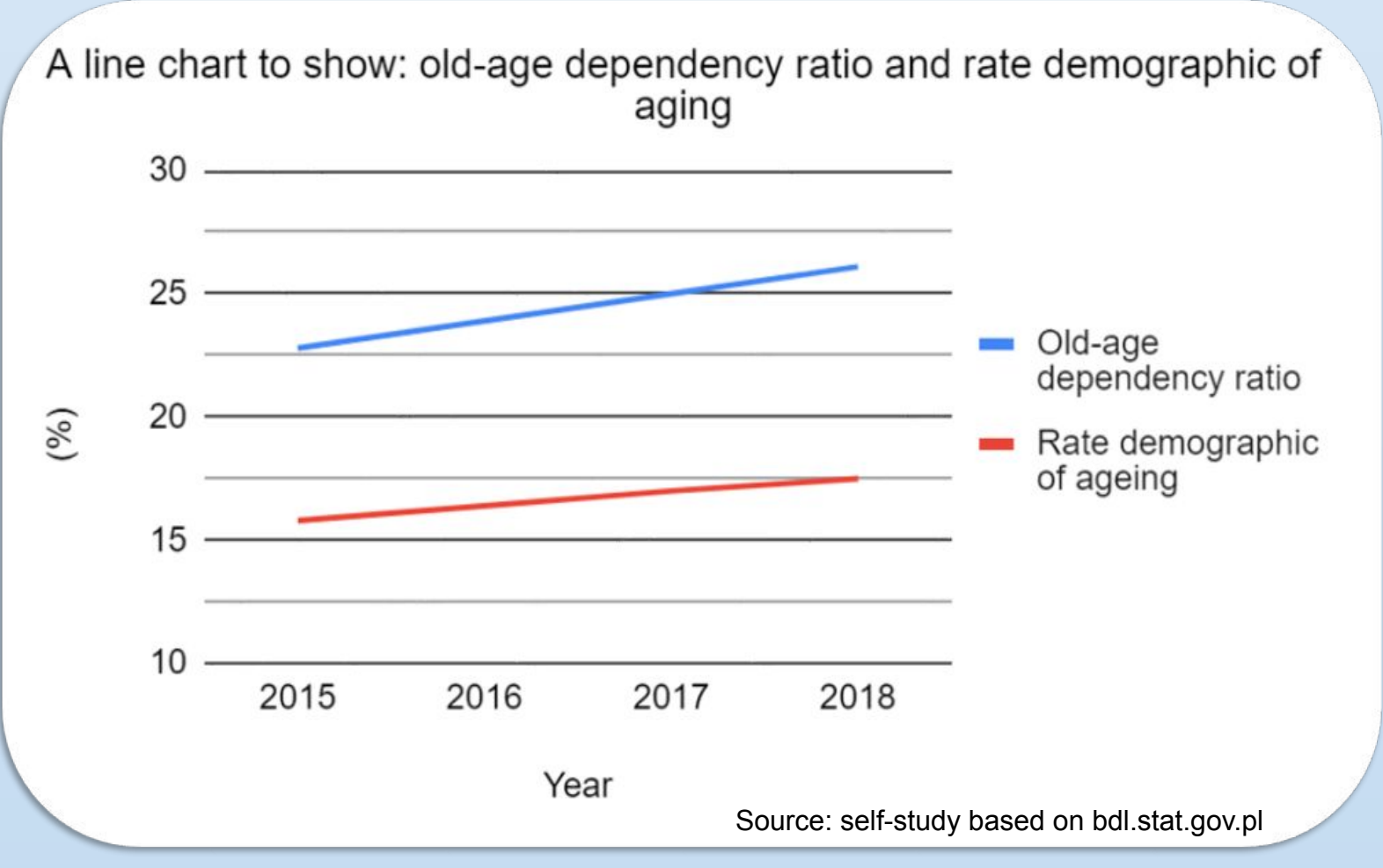
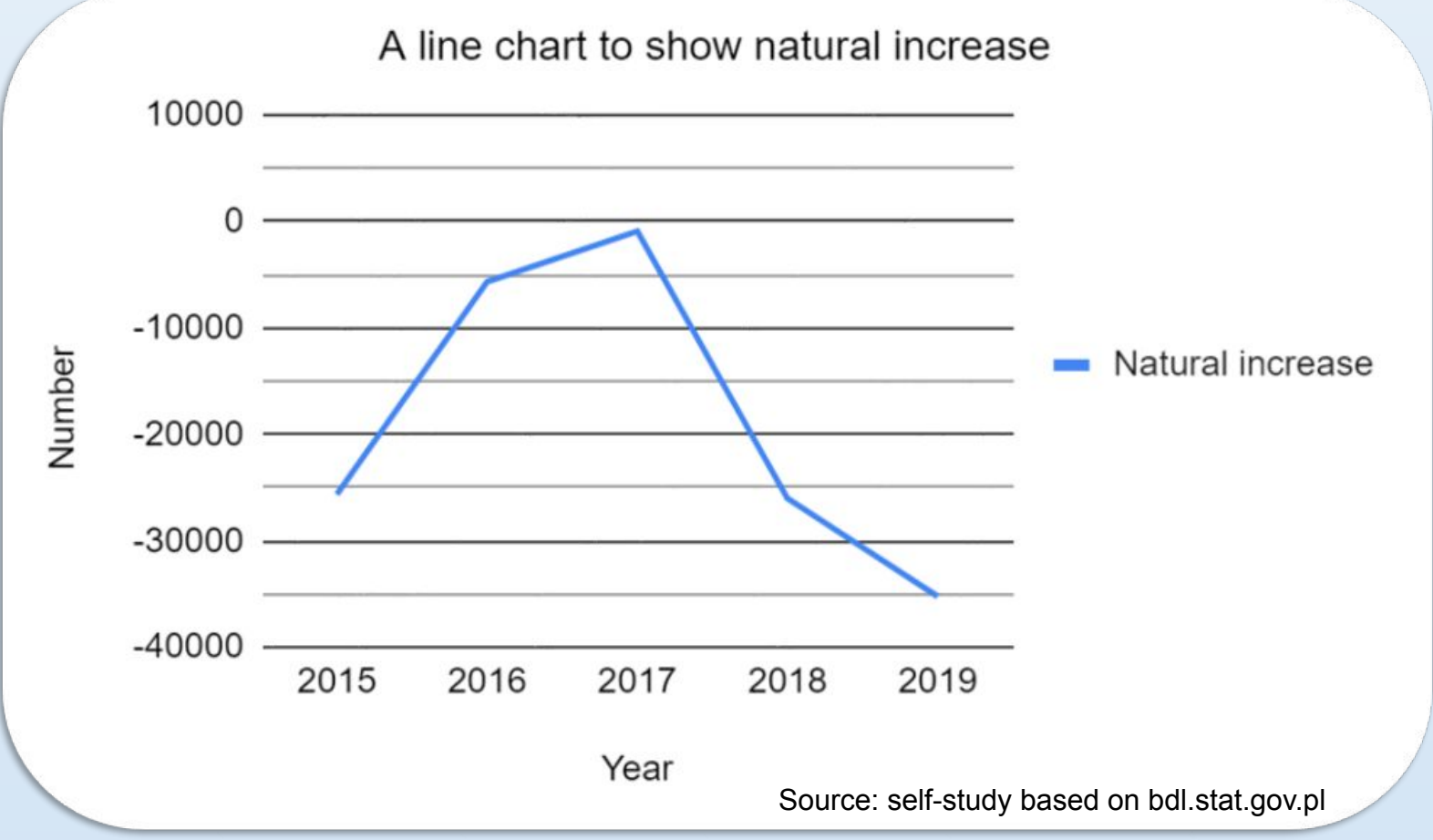
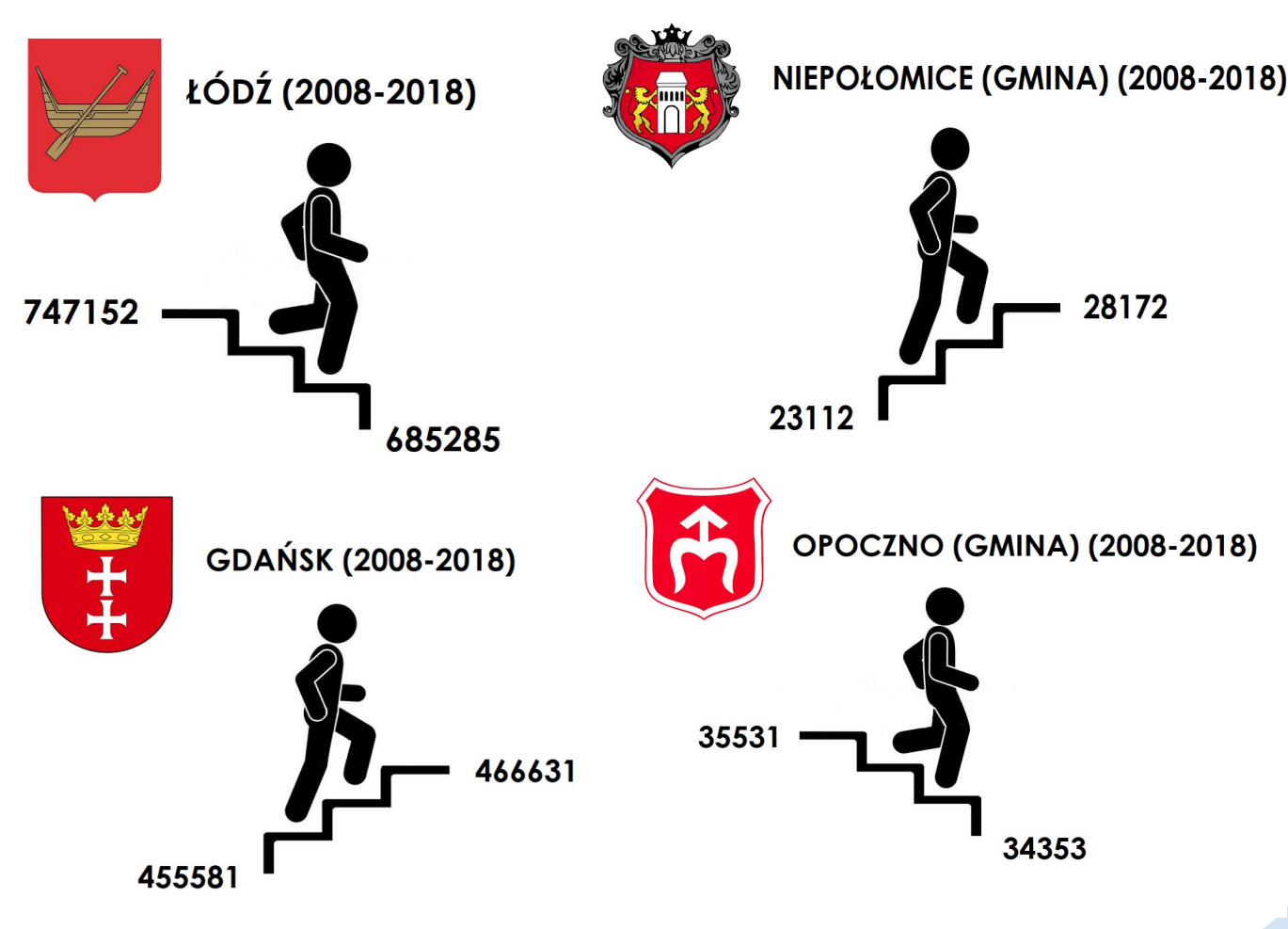


Poland. In the recent years in Poland we can observe a negative natural increase (chart 1). This means that just like many developed countries Poland is ageing - the number of elderly people is getting higher (chart 2). In addition to that it indicates that we can expect a higher mortality rate in the upcoming years.

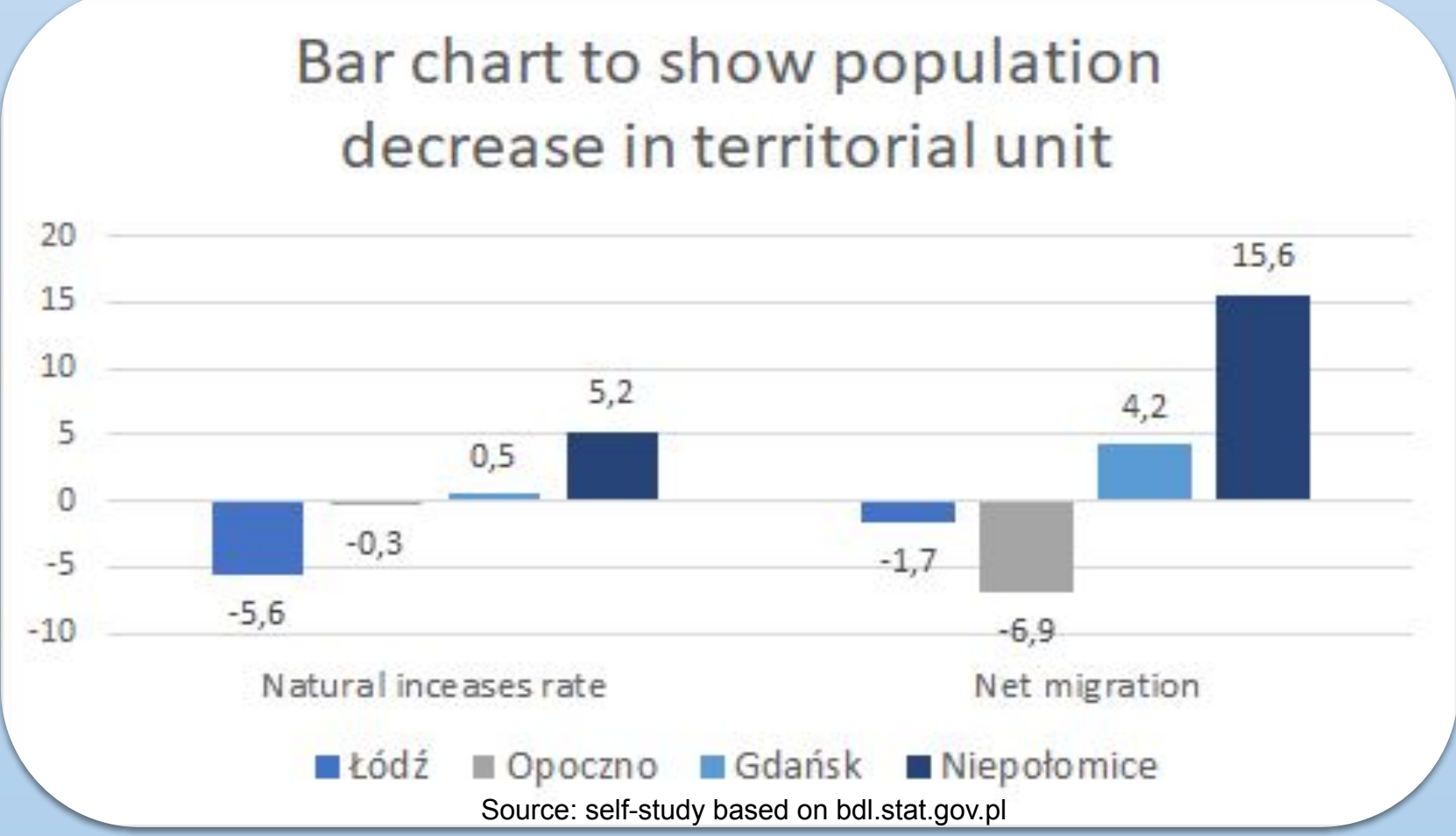
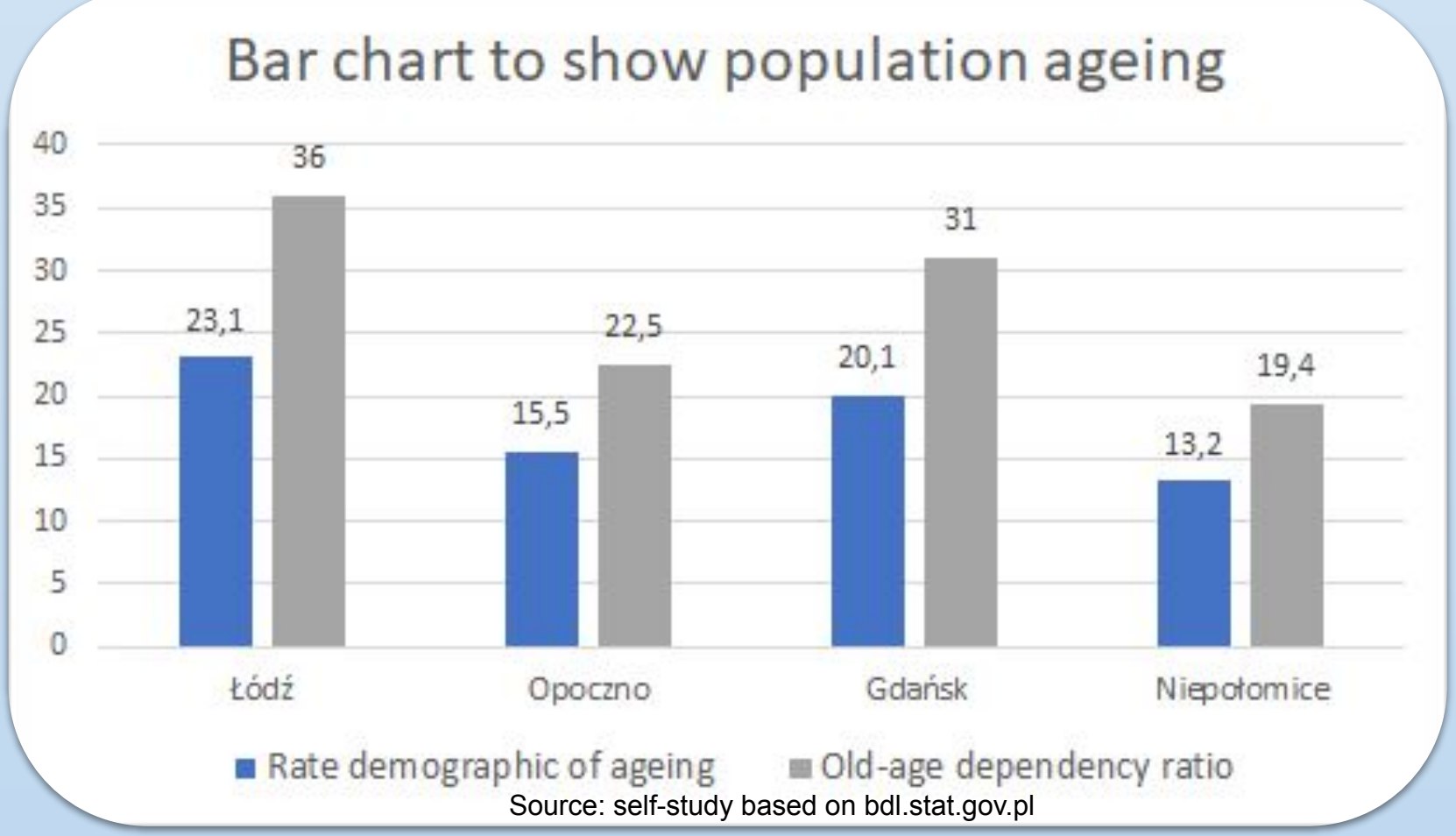
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Municipalities. A decrease in birth rate is a huge threat for cities and municipalities also leads to deterioration of local budgets, causes problems with infrastructure maintenance and as a result of these actions to impoverishment of large parts of country. This study contains the analysis of demographic data for Łódź (Łódź Voivodeship), Gdańsk (Pomeranian Voivodeship) and urban/rural municipalities: Niepołomice (Lesser Poland Voivodeship) and Opoczno (Łódź Voivodeship).

Population of analyzed units over 10 years



In order to improve the demographic situation, territorial units take appropriate actions, which are presented below. They will allow to keep current residents and attract new ones.



From abroad. When moving to Görlitz, in Germany, you can count on a welcome package (including renovated high-standard communal apartments). The city has been offering a new Resident Card for several years; at the signing of a lease agreement for at least 18 months with the municipal housing manager in Görlitz and with the electricity provider tenants will be exempt from basic rent charges for three months. The Municipal Transport Management Company exempts new residents of Görlitz from bus and tram charges for two months.

Łódź	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take action to protect the city's security. 2. High availability of housing for young people. 3. Wide access to kindergartens, nurseries, and other forms of pre-school education leading to job retention / parents return to the labor market.
Gdańsk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resident card - Free public transport for students, a package of 10 free entries or services. 2. Program to support the procreation of Gdańsk residents. 3. Long-term city development strategy GDAŃSK 2030 PLUS.
Niepołomice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building a stable economy based on the Niepołomice Investment Zone. 2. Making organized community by supporting young families and organization of community health prevention campaigns. 3. Introducing an integrated and attractive leisure offer: building Niepołomice Centre for Sport and Recreation, launch Niepołomicki News Porta.
Opoczno	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activating entrepreneurship in the rural areas. 2. Develops sport and recreation infrastructure by making outdoor gyms and ecological didactic areas. 3. The improvement of the education system, also new facilities like after-school club.

Source: self-study based on strategy reports of territorial units.

CONCLUSIONS

The problem of the demographic decline concerns both municipalities and large cities. Depopulating municipalities and cities should focus primarily on providing adequate living conditionals for their own residents, but also aim to attract new ones.

Bibliography:
GUS's reports regarding demography in years 2015-2019;
Eurostat reports regarding population in Europe.