The New Demographic Regime
Population Challenges and Policy Responses

Edited by
Miroslav Macura, Alphonse L. MacDonald and Werner Haug

UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, 2005
NOTE

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Population Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication includes the keynote and background papers prepared for the European Population Forum 2004, which was subtitled Population Challenges and Policy Responses. This meeting was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and was held on 12-14 January 2004 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The costs of the Forum and this publication were underwritten by funding provided by several institutions. The core funding was given by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, UNFPA and the UNECE. The UNECE and UNFPA greatly appreciate the financial support of the two Swiss government agencies. Additional financial and in-kind support, which the UNECE and UNFPA also acknowledge with gratitude, was provided by several non-governmental organisations, in particular the International Planned Parenthood - Federation-European Network (Brussels, Belgium) and the International Foundation for Population and Development (Lausanne, Switzerland).

The authors of the keynote and background papers prepared in-depth scientific and policy-relevant material for the Forum, greatly contributing to the productive discussions during the event. Chairs and members of the various panels made a particularly valuable contribution to the debate. The Advisory Group, established to assist with the preparation of the Forum, provided invaluable help to the organisers of the event during the planning stage. The Friends of the Chair helped greatly in the preparation of the Summary of Deliberations, a final document of the Forum. The UNECE and UNFPA greatly appreciate the contributions of all these experts.

Much of the conceptual and organisational work leading to the success of the Forum was carried out by Miroslav Macura and Alphonse L. MacDonald of the UNECE, in collaboration with Hedia Belhadj-El Ghouayel and Linda Demers of the UNFPA, and Werner Haug and Jacques Martin of the Government of Switzerland. For the production of this volume, Werner Haug, Alphonse L. MacDonald and Miroslav Macura were instrumental in assembling the keynote and background papers ready for publication. Marion Burkimsher, a freelance editor, ably performed the linguistic editing of the material. Jelena Torbica and Sylvia Dick of the UNECE prepared a camera-ready copy of the publication. The organisers of the Forum would like to thank all these individuals for their dedicated work.
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Explatory notes</th>
<th>xi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xi</td>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xiii</td>
<td>Country lists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xv</td>
<td>Preface</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1
POLICY CHALLENGES OF EUROPE’S DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES:
FROM PAST PERSPECTIVES TO FUTURE PROSPECTS
Paul Demeny

- Overview of the current situation ................................................................. 1
- Historical context .......................................................................................... 2
- Perspectives from the first half of the 20th century ...................................... 4
- The challenge for population policy ............................................................... 6
- Future demographic prospects ...................................................................... 7
- References ....................................................................................................... 9

## CHAPTER 2
FACING THE 21ST CENTURY: NEW DEVELOPMENTS, CONTINUING PROBLEMS
David Coleman

- Introduction: trends and concepts of the 1990s ............................................. 11
- The second demographic transition ............................................................... 11
- Population ageing and population decline ..................................................... 18
- Immigration and its discontents .................................................................... 25
- The demographic effect of migration – immigrant, foreign and ethnic minority populations in 2000................. 32
- Concluding remarks ....................................................................................... 34
- References .................................................................................................... 39

## CHAPTER 3
RESPONSES TO THE NEW DEMOGRAPHICS: PRESENT AND FUTURE STRATEGIES
FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION
Jérôme Vignon

- A coordinated policy response to demographic ageing .................................. 45
- Limits to adjustment – new European views on immigration policies ............ 48
- Increased fertility as an explicit aim of European policies? ............................ 51
- Conclusion ..................................................................................................... 56

## CHAPTER 4
POPULATION CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES: THE AUSTRIAN APPROACH
Ursula Haubner

- Introduction .................................................................................................. 57
- Consequences and challenges of the demographic developments .................. 58
- Importance and tools of family policy ......................................................... 60
- Résumé and outlook ..................................................................................... 62
**CHAPTER 5**

PARTNERSHIP, CHILDBEARING AND PARENTING: TRENDS OF THE 1990s ................................................. 63
Francesco Billari

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situation and trends in the UNECE region during the 1990s</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family formation and its interrelationships</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different families of explanation</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlook</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 6**

TRENDS IN POLICIES FOR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES................................................................. 95
Anne H. Gauthier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: Geneva, Cairo, and the policy context</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An overview of the social, demographic and economic contexts and the policy responses</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types and levels of state support for families across the UNECE region</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends in financial assistance to families since 1994</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trends in state support to working parents since 1994</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The effects of state support for families</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions and future trends</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 7**

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND LABOUR MARKETS: THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS ................................................................................................... 111
Thomas K. Bauer, John P. Haisken-DeNew and Christoph M. Schmidt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour migration</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The performance of migrants</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of migration</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future prospects</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 8**

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS.................................. 137
Rinus Penninx

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of migration and integration policies in Europe</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration and integration policies in Europe: pressures for new approaches?</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 9**

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN THE TRANSITION COUNTRIES OF EUROPE ..................................................... 153
Ellen Nolte, Martin McKee and Anna Gilmore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The health impact of transition</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterns of mortality in transition countries</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 10

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN THE TRANSITION COUNTRIES OF EUROPE .................................................. 177

Florina Serbanescu, Howard Goldberg and Leo Morris

Introduction .................................................................................................................. .............................. 177

The context for reproductive health .................................................................................... 177

Selected reproductive health issues.......................................................................................... 183

Key challenges to be addressed ................................................................................................. 194

References .................................................................................................................... ............................ 197

CHAPTER 11

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LEVELS AND SPENDING ON SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS SINCE THE ICPD ............................................................. 199

Vicky Claeys and Eef Wuyts

Introduction .................................................................................................................. .............................. 199

Background: What is the DAC Watch Project?..................................................................................... 200

Levels of official development assistance in DAC countries: a decade of history......................... 200

Funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights in development: an overview since the ICPD... 205

Sexual and Reproductive Health policies as part of the development aid strategies of European
donor countries (plus Canada and the United States)............................................................................. 215

New trends in development and upcoming political challenges: what are the consequences
for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action?................................................................. 219

Conclusion .................................................................................................................... ............................ 224

References .................................................................................................................... ............................ 226

Appendix 1: Definition of the costed population package........................................................................ 227

Appendix 2: The Mexico City Policy ............................................................................................. 228

Appendix 3: Description of the international sexual and reproductive health policies of
European countries, Canada and the United States ............................................................................. 229

Appendix 4: European snapshots - individual country tables providing an overview of each donor’s
commitments to ODA and SRHR................................................................................................................ 231

CHAPTER 12

PROGRESS IN POLICY-MAKING IN POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES ................. 251

Jörg F. Maas and Christian Resch

Preface ....................................................................................................................... ......................... 251

Introduction .................................................................................................................. .............................. 251

The national political scene................................................................................................... 252

Ageing ........................................................................................................................ ........................ 254

Immigration .................................................................................................................... ............................. 255

The ‘next wave’ – HIV/AIDS as a growing problem of reproductive health in the UNECE region................................................ 256

The regional dimension......................................................................................................... 256

The current political situation: a UNECE region divided?............................................................... 263

Conclusions and recommendations......................................................................................... 266

References .................................................................................................................... ............................ 268
### CHAPTER 13

A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE WITH IMPLEMENTING THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION: THE UNFPA FIELD INQUIRY IN THE UNECE REGION

Tomas Frejka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries in transition</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western countries</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concluding thoughts</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE FORUM

- Executive summary: 279
- Summary of deliberations: 281

---

**ANNEX 1**

PROGRAMME OF THE FORUM: 295

**ANNEX 2**

ADVISORY GROUP: 299

**ANNEX 3**

FRIENDS OF THE CHAIR: 301
LIST OF TABLES

CHAPTER 2
TABLE 1 Stable populations with given levels of period fertility................................................................. 21
TABLE 2 Evolution of the age structure 2000-2050, selected countries ...................................................... 21
TABLE 3 Employment and unemployment, selected countries 2001, ages 15-64 ........................................ 24
TABLE 4 Population stocks - citizens from Central and Eastern Europe in selected OECD countries (2000) and all foreign citizens in selected UNECE countries ......................................................... 32
TABLE 5 Foreign population 1971-2001 ........................................................................................................ 33
TABLE 6 Foreign and immigrant population compared, mid-1990s ............................................................ 34

CHAPTER 5
TABLE 1 Mean age at first marriage (women).............................................................................................. 65
TABLE 2 Total first marriage rate (women) .................................................................................................. 67
TABLE 3 Per cent of women who have experienced demographic events by their 25th birthday; two cohorts 10 years apart; estimates from the FFS ........................................................................ 68
TABLE 4 Countries by their different roles of cohabitation and related indicators ...................................... 70
TABLE 5 Proportion of women aged 20-39 “living apart together” among never partnered women ............ 70
TABLE 6 Total divorce rate (female) ............................................................................................................ 70
TABLE 7 Cumulative per cent separated, by exact time since union formation ........................................ 71
TABLE 8 Percentage of women who entered a second union by age 35 ...................................................... 72
TABLE 9 Total period fertility rates ............................................................................................................ 72
TABLE 10 Mean age at first birth ................................................................................................................ 73
TABLE 11 Total cohort fertility rates .......................................................................................................... 73
TABLE 12 Adolescent birth rates and abortion rates .................................................................................. 75
TABLE 13 Percentage of the total fertility cumulated after the 27th birthday, birth cohorts 1940, 1950, 1960 and 1965 ............................................................................................................................................... 76
TABLE 14 Percentage childless, birth cohorts 1940, 1950 and 1960 ............................................................ 77
TABLE 15 Childhood expectancy .............................................................................................................. 78
TABLE 16 Changes in the average number of years lived by a child in selected family structures over a 9- to-15-year interval ........................................................................................................ 78
TABLE 17 Percentage of non-marital births ................................................................................................. 79
TABLE 18 Selected women’s characteristics at the birth of the first child and the birth of the second child in five countries ........................................................................................................... 81

CHAPTER 6
TABLE 1 Indicators of cash benefits, selected countries and years .................................................................. 99
TABLE 2 Classification of countries according to the duration of the maternity/parental leave and cash benefits paid during the leave ........................................................................................................ 101
TABLE 3 Childcare/parental leave provision regarding the first child .......................................................... 102
TABLE 4 The gender dimension in parental/childcare leave programs in selected countries as of 2002 ...................................................................................................................................... 103
TABLE 5 Provision of early childhood education expressed as the gross enrolment rate and characteristics of the public early childhood education ................................................................................... 104

CHAPTER 7
TABLE 1 Cumulative net migration flows in Europe ...................................................................................... 116
TABLE 2 Inflows of permanent residents/composition of admissions 2002 ................................................ 117
TABLE 3 Composition/inflows of migrants .................................................................................................. 117
TABLE 4 Projected population decline and labour force participation rates .................................................. 120

CHAPTER 9
TABLE 1 Age-standardised death rates (per 100 000) by sex, cause and age group in selected regions and countries in Europe, 2000 ........................................................................................................... 162

CHAPTER 10
TABLE 1 Comparative demographic and social indicators for selected countries in several European regions and Central Asia ...................................................................................................................................... 178
TABLE 2 Comparative reproductive health indicators for selected countries in several European regions and Central Asia ...................................................................................................................................... 180
TABLE 3 General abortion rates from the surveys and from government sources ....................................... 181
TABLE 4 Per cent distribution of current use of specific methods of contraception among women aged 15-44 years currently married for selected countries in several European regions and Central Asia ...................................................................................................................................... 185
TABLE 5  Unmet need for any contraception and unmet need for modern contraception among all women and currently married women of reproductive age for selected countries in several European regions and Central Asia................................................................. 186

CHAPTER 11
TABLE 1  The ICPD resource allocation goals ............................................................................. 206
TABLE 2  ODA levels and ODA/GNI ratio of the accession countries, 2000-20013 .................................................. 222

CHAPTER 13
TABLE 1  Selected social, economic and demographic measures, transition countries, 1995-2003................................. 272
TABLE 2  Selected social, economic and demographic measures, western countries, 1995-2003................................. 276
LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 2
FIGURE 1 Total first marriage rate, groups of European countries, 1960-2002 ................................................................. 12
FIGURE 2 Total divorce rate trends, groups of European countries, 1960-2000 ................................................................. 12
FIGURE 3 Per cent of persons cohabiting, selected countries, 1996 ...................................................................................... 13
FIGURE 4 Births outside marriage per 1000 live births, selected countries, 1946-2001 .............................................................. 13
FIGURE 5 Correlation of different SDT variables ......................................................................................................................... 14
FIGURE 6 Correlation of fertility rates with divorce rates and illegitimacy ratios ................................................................. 15
FIGURE 7 Total first marriage rate, selected countries 1960-2002 ...................................................................................... 16
FIGURE 8 Major UNECE regions and their neighbours - demographic contrasts across the Mediterranean, the steppes of Central Asia and the Rio Grande ............................................................... 20
FIGURE 9 Population aged 20-24, selected European countries, 2000-2050) .............................................................................. 22
FIGURE 10 Ageing vulnerability index, 2003 ......................................................................................................................... 23
FIGURE 11 Net annual immigration required to maintain UK potential support ratio, 2000-2100 .................................................. 23
FIGURE 12 Potential increase in EU 15 workforce, 1999, given Danish participation rates .................................................... 25
FIGURE 13 EU 15 net foreign immigration 1960-2001 ................................................................................................................ 26
FIGURE 14 Gross labour inflows, selected Western European countries, 1989-2000 ................................................................. 27
FIGURE 15 Proportion of immigrants entering selected countries categorised as workers, family reunification and refugees ......................................................................................................................... 28
FIGURE 16 Spouse migration by sex and New Commonwealth origin, UK 1973-2001 ................................................................. 29
FIGURE 17 Migration trends to Western European countries, 1980-2002 .............................................................................. 30
FIGURE 18 Projected growth of population of foreign origin, 2000-2050 as per cent of population .............................................. 35
FIGURE 19 Projected growth of population of immigrant or foreign origin 2000-2050 ........................................................................ 36

CHAPTER 3
FIGURE 1 Change in certain age groups between 2000 and 2015 and between 2015 and 2030, EU 25 ............................................. 47
FIGURE 2 Employment rates and the Lisbon and Stockholm targets (2002) .............................................................................. 48
FIGURE 3 Change in the average age of working-age population (age 20-64), EU 15 ........................................................................ 49
FIGURE 4 The swing from baby-boom to baby-bust in 5 EU states ................................................................................................. 50
FIGURE 5 EU 15 total population trends at regional level ........................................................................................................... 50
FIGURE 6 Lisbon employment objectives and potential for employment growth, EU 15 ................................................................. 51
FIGURE 7 Total fertility rates EU-15 and new member states, 1991-2001 .................................................................................. 52
FIGURE 8 Annual increase of migrant stock needed after having fulfilled the Lisbon target of 70 per cent employment rate by 2010 .............................................................................................................. 53
FIGURE 9 Ideal and actual number of children among women with completed fertility (age 40-64) .................................................. 54
FIGURE 10 Percentage of population that has completed at least upper secondary education, by age-group, 2001 ......................................................................................................................... 55
FIGURE 11 Median age of population aged 18+, EU 25 .................................................................................................................. 55

CHAPTER 5
FIGURE 1 The postponement of first marriage and motherhood during the 1990s in Europe .......................................................... 66
FIGURE 2 The "postponement transition" for first marriage in some European countries with reference to the Netherlands ........................................................................................................................................ 67
FIGURE 3 The postponement of leaving the parental home and first union in Europe ........................................................................ 69
FIGURE 4 Relative risk of union dissolution for women in different types of union ............................................................................... 71
FIGURE 5 The impact of entering a union on instantaneous rates of transition to first birth ........................................................................ 80
FIGURE 6 The correlation between total period fertility rates and female labour force participation (OECD countries) ......................................................................................................................... 82
FIGURE 7 The correlation between total period fertility rates and other family-related behaviour (countries of the Council of Europe) ......................................................................................................................... 83

CHAPTER 7
FIGURE 1 Typology of migrants ............................................................................................................................................... 114

CHAPTER 8
FIGURE 1 A typology space of migrant integration policies ........................................................................................................ 139

CHAPTER 9
FIGURE 1 Trends in life expectancy at birth in Europe, 1980-2000 .......................................................................................... 154
FIGURE 2 Trends in life expectancy at birth in the member states of the European Union, 1980-2000 .................................................. 154
FIGURE 3 Trends in life expectancy at birth in selected countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, 1980-2000 ......................................................................................................................... 155
EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following symbols have been used throughout this document:

.. = not available or not pertinent
– = nil or negligible

References to dollars ($) are to United States dollars unless otherwise stated.
### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE</td>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe (the countries in this grouping vary between authors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSU</td>
<td>Former Soviet Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPF</td>
<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COUNTRY LISTS

UNECE: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan

OECD: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America

EU 15: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

EU 25: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

CIS: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Council of Europe: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
PREFACE

In the European context of low fertility, issues such as childbearing and parenting, morbidity and mortality, reproductive health and international migration – as well as global population and development trends – represent major challenges. These were the subjects discussed in depth at a high-level expert meeting entitled The European Population Forum 2004: Population Challenges and Policy Responses.

This publication includes the keynote and background papers prepared for that Forum. Hosted by the Government of Switzerland, the Forum was jointly organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 12 to 14 January 2004. One of its tasks was to appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, as part of the worldwide decennial review.

Three hundred and sixty experts attended the Forum. They were from the executive and legislative branches of government, academic and research institutes, civil society organisations and the private sector, and they came from 47 UNECE member states. There were also experts from the United Nations secretariat, United Nations funds, programmes and specialised agencies, as well as from other international and regional intergovernmental organisations. Given the nature of the event as a forum of experts, the participants took part in a personal capacity.

The programme of the Forum (Annex 1) was decided in consultation with the Government of Switzerland, the host of the event, several intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and the Advisory Group (Annex 2), which was established to assist the organisers with the preparatory process. Four themes were decided upon:

- Global population and development trends: the European view
- Childbearing and parenting in low fertility countries: enabling choices
- Morbidity, mortality and reproductive health: facing challenges in transition countries
- International migration: promoting management and integration.

Population ageing was not included as a theme as it was the topic of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held only just over one and a half years earlier.

The Forum recognised the diversity of national circumstances and the continued high relevance of the Cairo Agenda for the UNECE region, together with other regional agreements such as the Recommendations of the 1993 European Population Conference, the Conclusions of the 1998 Regional Population Meeting and the Regional Implementation Strategy of the 2002 Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The Forum stressed the links of the Programme of Action with other international development objectives, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and the Health Sector Reform.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action and the other regional consensuses reached in this field. Recommendations on future policy directions and options for policy development and implementation were outlined. It was noted that earlier pledges for ICPD financing were never fully met and that additional resources are now required both for international assistance, and for the domestic implementation of the Programme of Action. Newly developed approaches to official development assistance (ODA) funding are being explored.

Demographic changes are affecting all countries in the UNECE region, but in a variety of different ways. It was recognised that the countries in transition are facing some particularly critical trends, especially regarding health and mortality. Persistent low fertility rates continue to influence the population dynamics of the whole region, with possible negative consequences for its future economic well-being. Forum participants stressed the importance of removing barriers for men and women to freely decide on their reproductive behaviour and parenting status, and emphasised the importance of creating national policies that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment as well as providing services that support families and family formation.
In general, the status of women has improved considerably in the region in recent years; however, gender inequity persists to varying degrees. In many countries access has significantly improved to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. However, in several countries effective access is still limited. In addition, more could be done to provide contraception, protection from reproductive tract infections (including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS) and safe abortion (where not prohibited by law). The special needs of young people in these areas were highlighted, in order to ensure they can exercise their reproductive rights. In countries experiencing economic instability and armed conflicts, human rights infringements have occurred. These include the trafficking of human beings and the forced prostitution of young women and girls. A coordinated global and regional strategy was recommended to address this problem.

Migration and the integration of migrants continue to be of concern. In some countries recent negative reactions to migrant groups have led to an intense social and political debate about the future of migration. Nevertheless, international migration is increasingly perceived as an important resource for national economies in a global world. While better integration of migrants into their host society is an agreed objective across the region, in many instances policies to facilitate this remain to be developed and implemented. Reliable information on the situation of migrants is a pre-requisite for the development of such policies. Migration and integration policies have the potential for maximum positive impact if they are coordinated not only at the local and national levels but also internationally. It would also be of benefit if all stakeholders, including the immigrant groups themselves, participate in the conception, implementation and monitoring of the relevant policies.

The Forum discussed the role of the state in the newly emerging institutional environment, an issue that is particularly relevant in the current context of EU enlargement and ongoing social and economic reforms. It was emphasised that the state should design coherent policy and regulatory frameworks, promote human rights, and adhere to the rule of law, good governance and accountability. It was recommended that new forms of partnership between the state, civil society and the private sector be established and deepened. The Forum emphasised the need for reliable and timely statistical information and scientific research as prerequisites for comprehensive policy formulation and monitoring. Cooperation between countries within and outside the region was deemed essential in order to address the new social and development challenges and to achieve the ICPD and MDG objectives. All countries were called upon to live up to their commitments to support the ICPD and MDG agendas.

Given the expert nature of the meeting, the UNECE, Government of Switzerland and UNFPA agreed that, shortly after the Forum, a Summary of Deliberations would be published under the auspices of the Chair of the Forum, Ambassador Walter Fust of Switzerland. A first draft of the Summary was prepared during the Forum by the Friends of the Chair (Annex 3). On its completion, the Swiss authorities submitted this document in February 2004 to the Secretary General of the United Nations, requesting that it be circulated at the 59th session of the General Assembly and made available at the 37th session of the Commission on Population and Development. The latter session was devoted to the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Summary of the Deliberations is included towards the end of this volume.

It is hoped that this publication will serve as a valuable reference source for all those concerned with European and global population issues and policies. We believe that it will serve the needs of many people who are seeking effective solutions to the population challenges our societies are facing, whether they work in governmental or non-governmental organisations, or academic institutions.

Brigita Schmögerová  Walter Fust  Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Executive Secretary  Director-General  Executive Director
United Nations  Swiss Agency for  United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe  Development and Cooperation  Population Fund