

ICPD Beyond 2014: The UNECE Region's Perspective

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ICPD Beyond 2014 – The global framework

- General Assembly extended ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014
- UNFPA mandated to lead global review of implementation
- Regional reviews conducted with UN regional commissions
- Commission on Population and Development and Special General Assembly Session to assess status of implementation in 2014

ICPD Beyond 2014 – The regional process

- Global survey and UNECE regional report
- Academic research (IIASA/Wittgenstein report)
- Preparatory experts meetings
- Consultations (civil society, youth, parliamentarians)
- Regional conference



Trends

The region



- 56 states, 18 % of world population

The regional story



Population growth
-> population ageing

Population numbers
-> investing in people

Migration: increasing
complexity

Changing gender
roles & family
structures



Regional trends: population

People in the region:

- live longer
- are healthier
- are better educated
- have fewer children, and later in life
- live in more diverse family settings
- have higher incomes
- are more mobile



Regional trends: population

This has led to:

- Population growth slowing or negative
- Ageing societies
- Increasing diversity



How to respond?

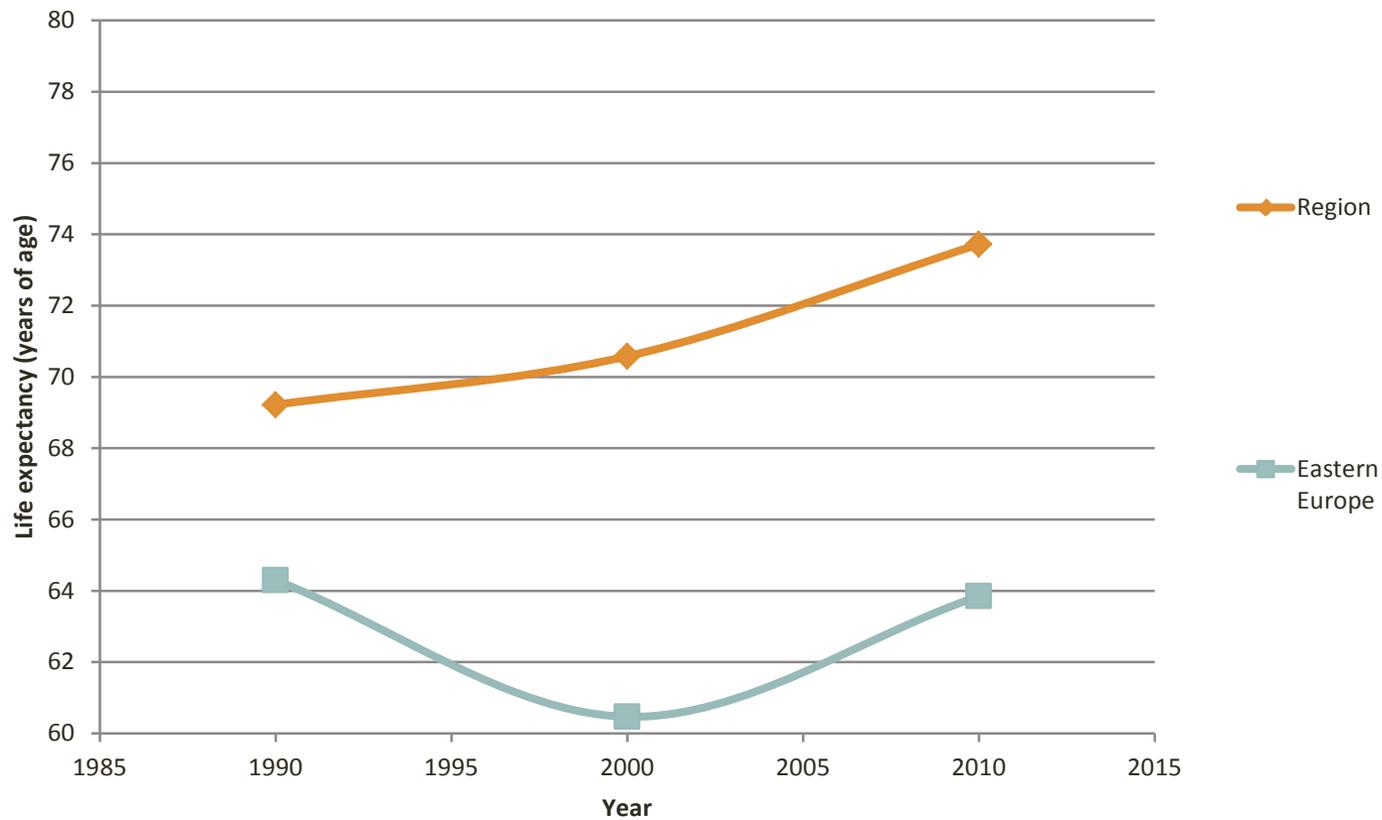
- societies can prosper with slow/negative population growth
- ageing is not a threat

if societies:

- anticipate change and prepare for it
- adapt institutions & systems
- invest in people's education , health, employment opportunities

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth (male)



Policy responses: now & beyond 2014

UNECE Regional Report

based on:

- Country Implementation Profiles (CIP)
- ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey questionnaire
- Available studies and international statistics

45 UNECE Countries submitted their responses to the questionnaire

Implementing ICPD PoA: Policy Approaches

- **Cross-sectorial**

- Comprehensive coverage of an issue through a variety of “cross-sectorial” public policies
- Generally supportive in realizing people’s individual choices

- **Population (demographic) Strategies**

- Macro-level regulation with quantitative goals (population growth, fertility, mortality, etc.)
- Complemented with specific social & other policies addressing ICPD PoA issues

Implementing ICPD PoA: Overall Policy Responses

Achievements

- Harmonization of national legislation, policies and programmes in line with international agreements, including ICPD PoA
- Stronger focus on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
- Attention to the needs and human rights of vulnerable groups

Challenges

- Translating policies into actions supported by budget allocations
- Reaching out to individuals & marginalised groups
- Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation



FACILITATORS

effective partnership with stakeholders at the national level

involvement of civil society and community-based organizations

support provided by the government to different organizations (e.g. funding, logistics, coordinating mechanisms)

public-private partnership

BARRIERS

the consequences of the financial and economic crisis

national budget constraints

existing economic/political environment

complexity of legislation and bureaucracy



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Policy responses

Population growth → population ageing

Older people: Priorities

- provision & quality of social services including long-term care
- pension reforms
- dignity & independent living
- adapted health care services
- participation in community life & decision making process
- lifelong learning

Issues of concern

- neglect, abuse and violence against older persons
- employment opportunities and utilization of older people's skills and competences
- healthy & active ageing, including SRH

Policy responses

Population numbers → investing in people

Youth: Priorities

- investing in education (formal & informal):
 - environmental, civic, SRH, life-skills
- creating employment opportunities
- improving health:
 - access to quality health care
 - youth-friendly SRH services
- combating violence & exploitation

Issues of concern

- reaching out to underserved, vulnerable & disadvantaged children and youth
- **matching labour market needs with education, vocational and lifelong learning**
- participation in decision making
- poverty & rising inequality



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Policy responses

Changing gender roles & family structures

Families: Priorities

- 3 pillars of support: allowances, parental leave and child care
- poor families with children, single-parent families, families caring for members with specific needs
- combining employment and parenthood
- gender equality within family

Issues of concern

- lagging legal basis for non-traditional living arrangements
- rights related to fatherhood
- child abuse and neglect
- **feminisation of care work within family**



Policy responses

Changing gender roles & family structures

Gender equality: Priorities

- women's participation in the formal and informal economy
- representation in political processes & decision making
- addressing gender stereotypes
- bridging the gender pay gap
- ending gender-based violence & trafficking in human beings

Issues of concern

- Persisting harmful traditional practices
- sex selective abortion in some countries
- **gender gap in old age pensions**
- **adequate budgeting and gender-sensitive monitoring of policies & programmes**



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Concluding remarks (1)

- Priorities and policy recommendations need to be updated in the light of changing societal concerns and emerging issues in population dynamics across countries
- The lasting impact of the recent economic and financial crisis on the social and economic environment has to be taken into account
- Policies should help people by alleviating barriers that hinder them from enabling their personal choices in life

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• Concluding remarks (2)

- Achievements in contemporary governance need to be furthered (involvement of civil society organizations & citizens' participation in civic matters)
- Design of policy scope and application requires sound evidence that should be provided by relevant data and rigorous research
- Many of the ICPD PoA goals (related to sustainable environment, economic development, migration, etc.) can only be achieved with strong regional coordination and agreement about the way forward

Thank you