



Ageing and Migration as Challenges for Sustainable Development in South - Eastern European countries

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**SEE countries are Albania, Bosnia and
Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro,
Serbia, Turkey**

In brief

- **The main characteristics and consequences** of ageing and migration phenomena in SEE countries
- **Policies and practices** which ageing population and international migration could turn in favor of, or to make loses less influential on sustainable development

Ageing and International Migration in SEE

- Data is not complete: missing Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina and also some other data
- **Ageing can not be avoided** - Lower birth rates and increasing life span made ageing the most important population process for whole UNECE region countries, also in SEE
- SEE countries experienced **large negative net of international migration** – migration out that crosses international borders and could influence country-level demographic change

Median population age - WIC projections

Source: Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

	2010	2030	2050
South - Eastern Europe	Median age 30,0	Median age 36,8	Median age 42,2
UNECE Region total	37,7	42,5	45,5

Life expectancy at birth by sex

Source: Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital

	2000	2010	2030	2050
SEE Men	68	72	75	79
Total UNECE Men	71	74	78	83
SEE Women	73	76	80	84
Total UNECE Women	78	80	84	88

Median population age Statistical offices estimates, 2011

Albania	30,4
Macedonia	36,2
Montenegro	38,3
Serbia	42,7
Turkey	28,8

Life expectancy at birth by sex Eurostat, 2011

	Men	Women
Albania (2012)	74,9	80,4
FYR Macedonia	73,1	77,2
Montenegro	73,4	78,9
Serbia	71,6	76,8
Turkey (2012)	70,8	74,7

Main characteristics on Ageing in SEE

Two opposite sides: countries with **younger** population on one side and on the other side **older** population countries

Turkey and **Albania**, have younger population and also slower ageing process.

On the other side in the most parts of **Serbia**, **Montenegro** and **FYR Macedonia** have older populations and faster ageing process.

International Migration in SEE

- In last decade in all SEE the volume of migration stock shows that international migration rate slowly decreases - from **3%** international migrants in 2000 to **2.6%** in 2010
- In whole UNECE region **only SEE and Central Asia** still have negative migration net, but also decreasing in comparing two periods: 1996/00 **-130.147** with 2006/10, and **-46.429** emigrants (2,8 times less)
- I. M. rate of tertiary educated is high **8 %**

International Migration in Serbia

- In 2011 Census (Kosovo and Metohija exc.) loss of population was **4,15%**
- Beside the negative rate of population grow, I.M. has been recognized as one of the ageing accelerating factor (since 1992).
- In 2011 Census **4,1%** of population (**338.000** persons) were registered to live abroad
- In average, migrants are 10 years younger and much better educated compared to the total population

Main characteristics of I.M. in SEE

- In relation to total population - Serbia, FYRMacedonia, and Albania experienced massive international migration
- Migration losses have negative affects on: population ageing, family support, productivity and sustainability of development
- Remittances by migrant workers have supporting role only if they are used in developing purposes
- Contributions lost through migration of educated young adults can not be remittent by investments in physical capital or infrastructure

Messages and Policy Recommendations

- Population ageing is not a threat for sustainable development **if appropriate social policy is established:** investments in education and health. educated and healthier, active and longer living older people
- Help to grow awareness that today's older people have much more potential than previous generations
- **Support to older, most vulnerable groups:** reducing poverty, services for persons with disease or disabilities, decrease a number of abused or discriminated people

Messages and Policy Recommendations

- **Education and training** against ageism
- **Collecting more ageing related data** for better policies and better implementing practices
- **Securing a minimal income** for poor older people (especially women)
- **Equal access to social and health** security and humanitarian aid
- Ensuring long term care **services in community**
- **Empowering cooperational international policies** to overcome international migration losses