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

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ICPD Beyond 2014 – The regional process

- Global survey and UNECE regional report

- Academic research (IIASA/Wittgenstein report)

- Preparatory experts meetings

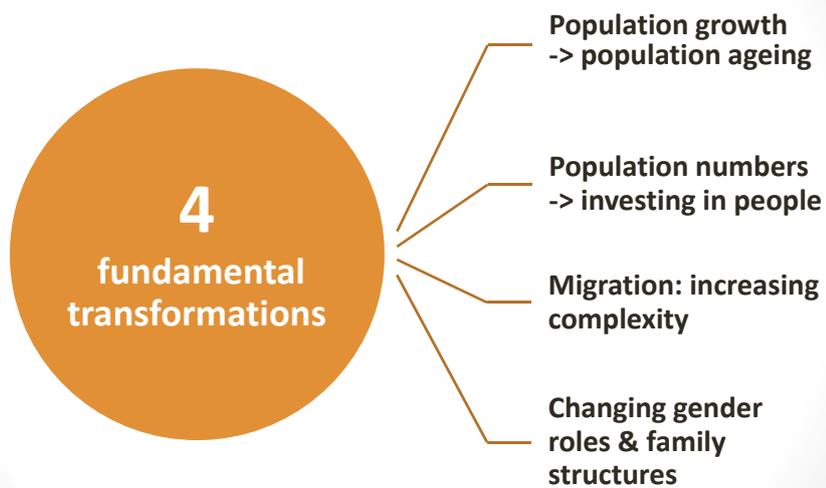- Consultations (civil society, youth, parliamentarians)

- Regional conference

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Trends

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The region

- 56 states, 18 % of world population

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The regional story

4 fundamental transformations

Population growth -> population ageing

Population numbers -> investing in people

Migration: increasing complexity

Changing gender roles & family structures

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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

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Regional trends: population

This has led to:

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

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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
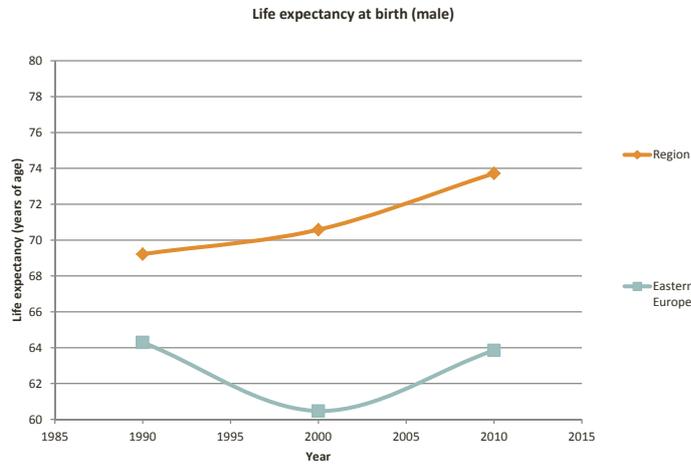- invest in people's education , health, employment opportunities

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Challenges and barriers

- Huge differences in mortality, morbidity (between east & west, men & women)
- Non-communicable/lifestyle-related diseases
- STIs/HIV infections
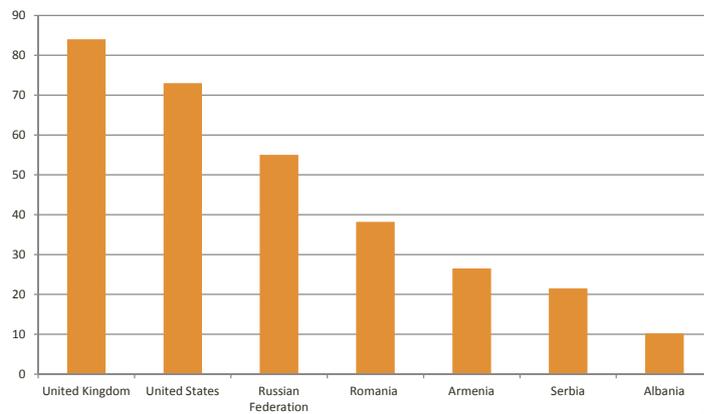- Barriers to access SRH services, including modern contraceptives

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Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth (male)

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Modern contraceptives prevalence

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Challenges and barriers

- Youth unemployment
- Gender inequality and violence against women persisting
- Non-traditional family settings insufficiently recognized
- Economic inequalities between and in countries on the rise

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Policy responses:
now & beyond 2014

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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

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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

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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

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FACILITATORS	BARRIERS
effective partnership with stakeholders at the national level	the consequences of the financial and economic crisis
involvement of civil society and community-based organizations	national budget constraints
support provided by the government to different organizations (e.g. funding, logistics, coordinating mechanisms)	existing economic/political environment
public-private partnership	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

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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 and 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

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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 (i.e. child & forced marriages, etc.)
- 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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Policy responses:

Sexual and reproductive health & reproductive rights (1)

Progress/Achievements

➢ Autonomy over personal reproductive choices supported by policies & programmes
➢ Scope of SRH services enlarged
➢ SRH services coverage of population increased
➢ Safe abortion is generally accessible
➢ Information and counselling on SRH&RR widespread
➢ Integrated SRH in primary health care common
➢ Policies/programmes addressing HIV/AIDS and other STIs

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Policy responses:

Sexual and reproductive health & reproductive rights (2)

Challenges/Issues to be addressed

➢ Access to SRH services for persons with disabilities, the poor, migrants, marginalised groups, older persons
➢ Access of adolescents and youth to comprehensive SRH information, _education_ and services (youth-friendly services)
➢ Quality of SRH services
➢ Prevention and treatment of infertility (and ART)
➢ Rising incidence of HIV and other STIs
➢ Capacity to respond to the needs of people living with HIV
➢ Operative breast and cervical cancer screening programmes

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ICPD beyond 2014

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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ICPD beyond 2014

• 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

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Thank you

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