

Central European Forum  
for Migration Research



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# Replacement Migration Revisited: Migratory Flows, Population and Labour Force in Europe, 2002–2052

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# 1. Aim and scope

## Aims of the study:

- To analyse relations between international migration, population ageing and labour force dynamics for selected European countries in 2002–2052 using the ‘replacement migration’ concept
- To evaluate on that basis various policy options regarding population, migration, and labour force

## Scope:

- 27 European countries: EU (without Cyprus and Malta), plus Bulgaria, Romania, Norway and Switzerland
- Time horizon: 2002–2052



## 2. Background

- ‘Replacement migration’ report of the UN (2000) and its critique (Espenshade, 2001; Coleman, 2002)
- Other similar studies (Lesthaeghe *et al.*, 1988; Wattelaar & Roumans, 1991; Gesano, 1994; Feld, 2000; McDonald & Kippen, 2000)
- What this study adds:
  - It focuses on a wide selection of European countries, including Central and Eastern Europe
  - It partially addresses the critique of the UN report by including scenarios of economic activity and produce ‘replacement’ simulations for targets of various aggregate demo-economic indicators



### 3. Data, model, and assumptions

#### Data:

- Demographic data: Eurostat and Council of Europe
- Labour force participation: ILO (Laborsta)

#### Model:

- Multi-regional model of population dynamics  
“MULTIPOLES” (Kupiszewski & Kupiszewska, 1998)

#### Assumptions:

- Demographic and labour force scenarios for 2002–2052: presented yesterday in the first session on demographic projections by Prof. Marek Kupiszewski
- ‘Replacement migration’ computed in addition to the Base forecast scenario



## 4. Simulations performed

Four 'replacement' scenarios, with non-decreasing:

- **Total size of the population**

- **Potential Support Ratio (PSR)**

Number of persons aged 15–64 to the population aged 65+

- **Economic Elderly Support Ratio (EESR)**

Ratio of the size of the economically active population aged 15-64 to the economically inactive population aged 65+)

– measures the economic burden of the retired on the active pop.

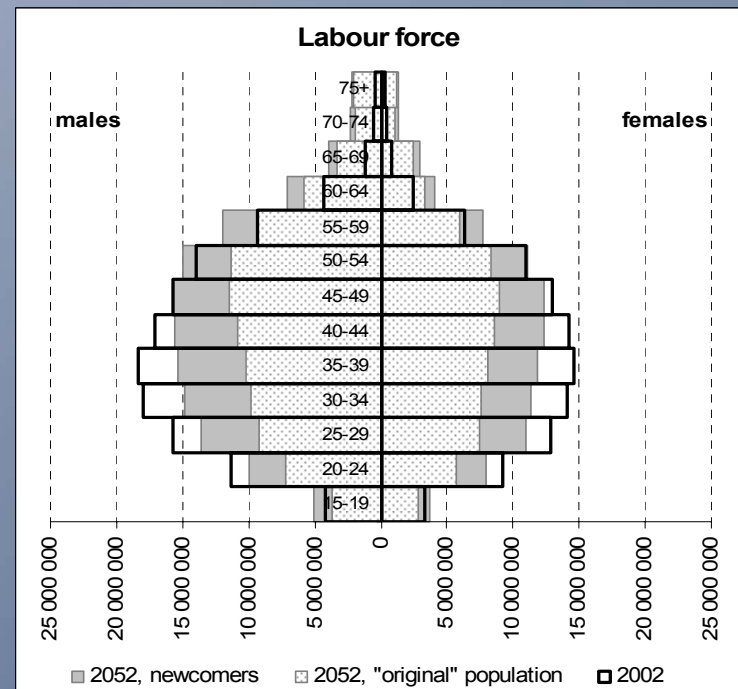
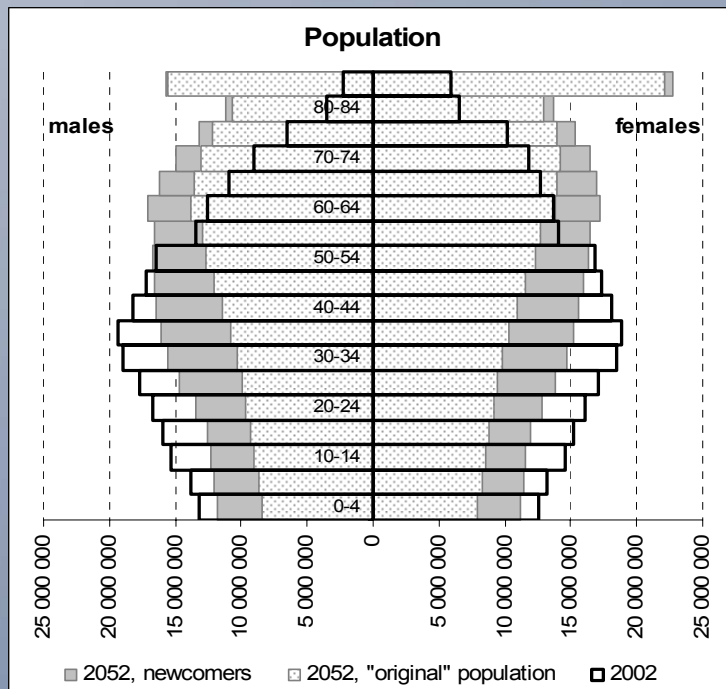
- **Labour Market Support Ratio (LMSR)**

Ratio of the size of the economically active population aged 15+ to the economically inactive one (also 15+)

– measures the overall economic burden on the labour market

## 5. Results

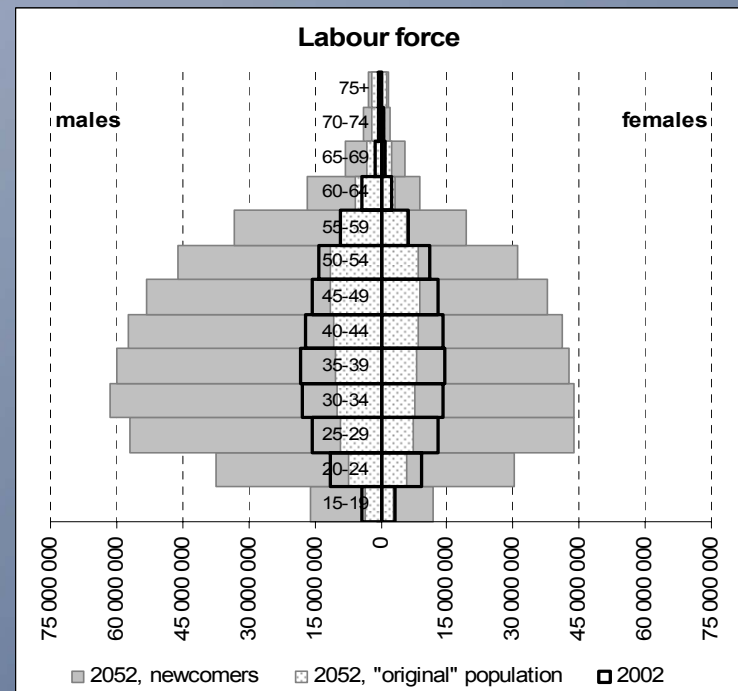
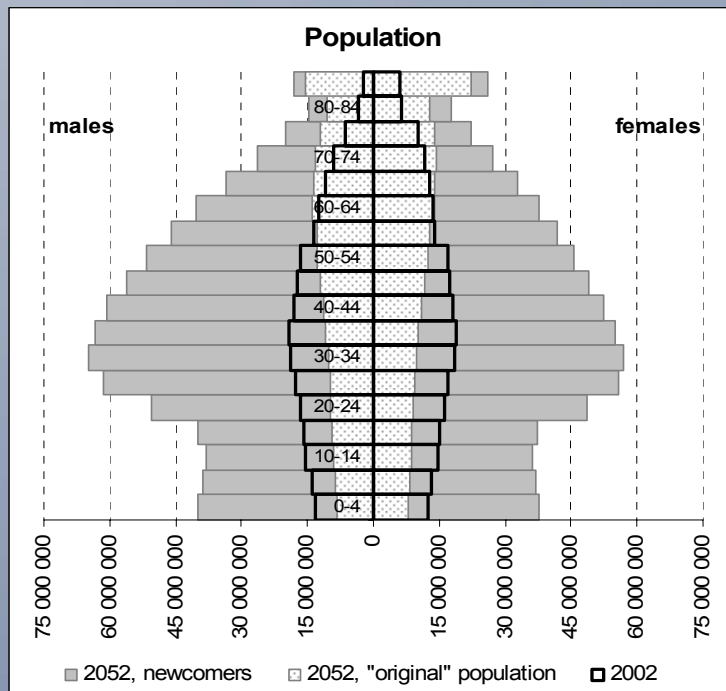
### 'Replacement' in 27 countries: non-decreasing population



Cumulated 'replacement' volume 2002–2052: **32.8 million**

## 5. Results

### 'Replacement' in 27 countries: non-decreasing PSR

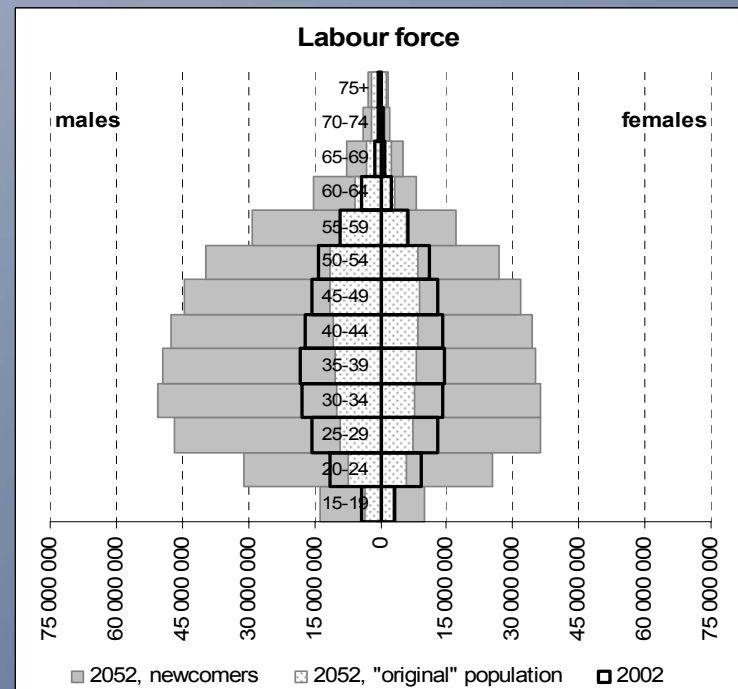
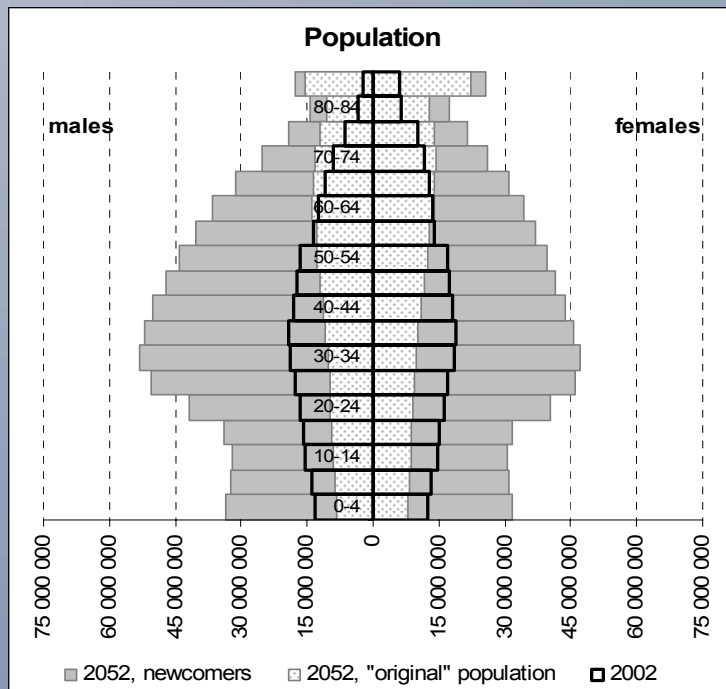


Cumulated 'replacement' volume 2002–2052: **839.6 million**



## 5. Results

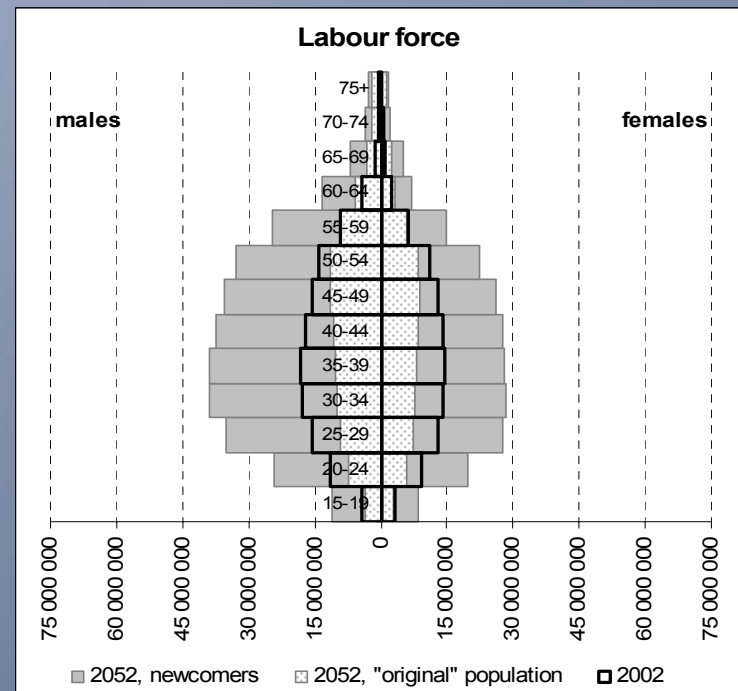
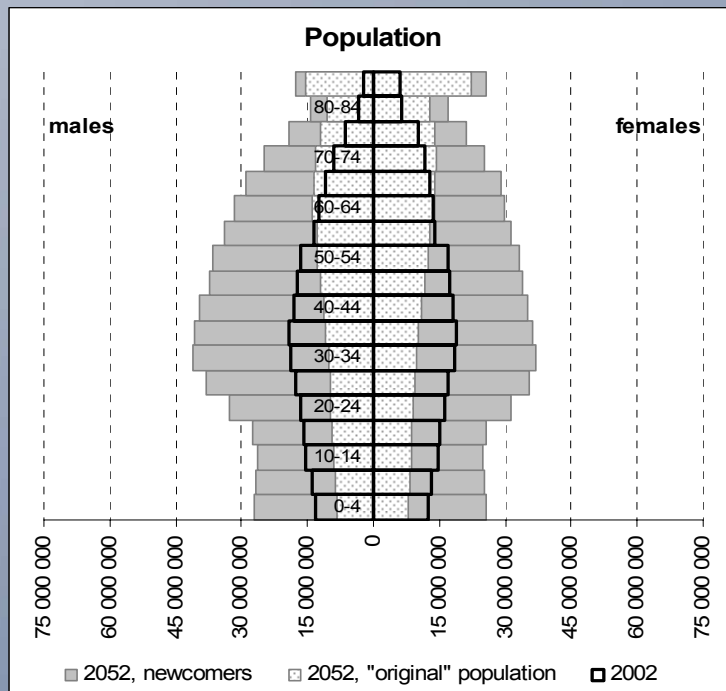
### 'Replacement' in 27 countries: non-decreasing EESR



Cumulated 'replacement' volume 2002–2052: **653.1 million**

## 5. Results

### 'Replacement' in 27 countries: non-decreasing LMSR

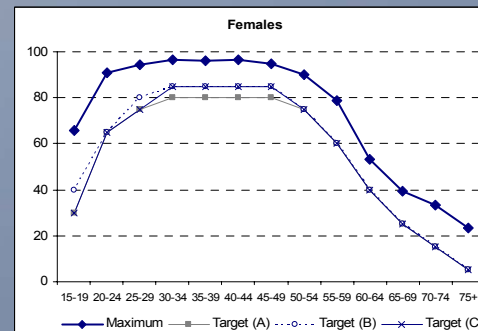
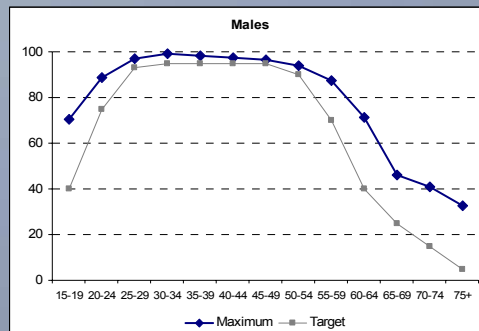


Cumulated 'replacement' volume 2002–2052: **470.7 million**

## 5. Results

### Buying Time: 'Maximum labour participation' scenario

- Historical (1985–2002) cross-country maximum patterns of economic activity projected for the whole simulation period



- Results – no decline of LMSRs below its 2002 levels until:
  - the end of the simulation period (2052) for 21 countries,
  - 2047–2052 for four countries (CZ, ES, NL, SK),
  - 2042–2047 for Portugal,
  - 2022–2027 for Switzerland.



## 6. Conclusions

- **Most of the simulations (again!) yielded implausible magnitudes of the ‘replacement migration’**
- **Plausible policy options:**
  - Increase fertility – the long-term solution (Lesthaeghe, 2000). Problems: how to do it, and when it will start to work (negative population momentum, Lutz *et al.*, 2003)?
  - Increase labour force participation (Coleman, 2002) – a good option in the mid-term (< 50 years), ameliorating negative outcomes of ageing before any fertility policies give results.
  - Immigration: not a ‘solution against the negative outcomes of population ageing’, rather an instrument to cover labour shortages in certain sectors (Korcelli, 2003)
  - Raising the awareness of the ageing problems in the society