
Conference “Demographic Perspectives of Europe”

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Warsaw School of Economics, Al. Niepodległości 162

According to the specialists from the Central European Forum for Migration Research in Warsaw, population ageing will become increasingly important in all European countries, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. The Forum has conducted research showing that any attempts to slow down this process through increased immigration are in a long term unrealistic and doomed to fail. The worst situation concerns the post-socialist countries, for which such an analysis has been conducted for the first time.

Aim of the conference

The conference aims at presenting results of the research about the forecasted impact of international migration on population and labour force dynamics in Europe for 2002–52. Its objective is to contribute to the discussion on population ageing and possible remedies against its negative outcomes, considering demography, labour markets, and social security systems.

Summary of the research findings

The study covers Poland and 26 countries: the EU (without Cyprus and Malta), plus Norway, Switzerland, Bulgaria, and Romania. Despite hardly any change in the forecasted total population size of all countries (494 million people), a decline of the overall labour supply by 10% is expected in 2002–52. Due to population ageing, the ratio of the number of persons aged 15–64 to the population of 65 years or more is expected to decline from 4.2 to 1.8, and its preservation at the level from 2002 would require additional 840 million immigrants over fifty years. The ratio of the number of economically active population to the inactive one, both in the age of 15 years or more, is forecasted to decline from 1.3 to 0.95, which could be compensated by an inflow of additional 471 million persons. Only a combination of policies aimed at increased fertility, economic activity, and immigration may reduce the forecasted demographic, labour market, and social security imbalances. Full research report is available from www.cefmr.pan.pl.

Organizers

The conference is organized by the Central European Forum for Migration Research (CEFMR), author of the study, in cooperation with the Institute of Statistics and Demography of the Warsaw School of Economics (WSE), and International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Office in Warsaw, within the framework of the 100th Anniversary of the WSE. The event is financed by the Foundation for Population, Migration and Environment (BMU-PME) from Zurich.