

EDITORIAL: EUROPE IN THE FACE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

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Abstract

The aging of the population and the declining of birth rates in Europe are phenomena that give rise to prospective analyses, economic fears and reforms. All European countries, in varying proportions, continue their demographic transition along with the increase in life expectancy and advances in medicine. This alarming situation calls for drastic measures on the part of economic and political actors to control the negative effects, particularly on the labour market, on the balance of public finances, in insurance systems or in retirement policies.

Keywords: demography, demographic challenges, demographic transition, aging, natality

Résumé

Le vieillissement de la population et le déclin du taux de natalité en Europe suscitent prospectives, craintes économiques et réformes. Tous les pays européens, dans des proportions différentes, achèvent leur transition démographique du fait des progrès de la médecine et de l'allongement de la durée de vie. Cette situation alarmante impose de la part des acteurs économiques et politiques des mesures drastiques afin d'en maîtriser les effets néfastes notamment sur le marché du travail, l'équilibre des finances publiques, les systèmes d'assurance, les régimes de retraite.

Mont-clés: démographie, défis démographiques, transition démographique, vieillissement, natalité

Rezumat

Îmbătrânirea populației și declinul natalității în Europa sunt fenomene care dau naștere unor analize prospective, temeri economice, dar și reforme. Toate țările europene, în proporții diferite, își continuă tranziția demografică pe fondul creșterii speranței de viață și a progreselor din medicină. Această situație alarmantă impune măsuri drastice din partea actorilor economici și politici pentru a controla efectele negative, în special pe piața forței de muncă, asupra echilibrului finanțelor publice, în sistemele de asigurări, în politicile legate de pensionare.

Cuvinte cheie: demografie, provocări demografice, tranziție demografică, îmbătrânire, natalitate

In addition to demographic challenge, Europe must cope with an unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants. This migratory wave has generated profound concerns among public opinion, widely exploited by the populist

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movements. In this context, Europe has shown its limits and its inability to coalesce the states around fundamental rights.

How can Europe respond effectively to all these historical challenges? What public policies are needed to manage the addition of the newcomers, both financially and administratively? Which demographic policy can significantly slow the decline of the population while satisfying the demand for labour?

The present volume brings together articles developed on the basis of the presentations of the fifteenth edition of the *Franco-Romanian School of Social Sciences* organized in Iași, Romania in October 2018 by the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi and the Institute of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of Lille1 University in partnership with the City Hall of Iasi and the French Institute of Iași.

The *Franco-Romanian School of Social Sciences* is already a traditional meeting framework for Francophone researchers specialized in social sciences and humanities that aims to promote French-Romanian cooperation as well as the scientific training of young researchers, doctoral students, policy makers, managers and professionals from public institutions or private companies to facilitate the creation of sustainable networks between participants and the insertion of young researchers into scientific research environments and to develop scientific networks that can lead to the establishment of new bilateral agreements between universities or research centres.

The articles gathered in this issue analyse different demographic challenges in the European space, but also political and economic responses.