Demography: latest updates

Toolbox and Care Strategy

Marco La Marca, Geneve, 20/11/2023
Demographic trends

1. Population age structure 2001

2. Population age structure 2022

Consequences

- Human capital
- Competitiveness
- Request by European Council
- Demography Toolbox

- Increasing population in the top age brackets
- Increasing need for long-term care (OECD: +32%)
- Care Strategy
The Demography Toolbox

Promote economic prosperity and well-being in all regions with place-based policies.
Tools

- EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child
- Launch the Harnessing Talent Platform
- Skills Agenda, Year of Skills
- Support regional innovation valleys
- Use the mid-term review of cohesion policy programmes
- Hold dialogues on Cohesion Policy
- Use the Technical Support Instrument
- Encourage regular dialogues and exchanges
- ALMA ( Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve)
- European Education Area
- Youth Guarantee (Rec)
- Vocational Education and Training (Rec)
- Talent Booster Mechanism
- Adequate minimum income (Rec)
- Inclusive access to banking services
- Financial Competence Frameworks
- Pan-European Personal Pension Product
- Employment Equality Directive
- European Accessibility Act
- Renovation Wave
- Funding: ESF+, RRF, etc.
- Early Childhood Education and Care (Rec)
- Work-Life Balance Directive
- Pregnant Workers Directive
- Long-term unemployed (Rec)
- Blue Card Directive
- Talent Partnerships
- Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund
- Single Permit Directive
- Put forward the Talent mobility package
- Use ESF+ Employment and Social Innovation (EsSI)
- Support research via Horizon Europe
- Transform Atlas of Demography
- Enhance population statistics
- Occupational safety and health Framework Directive
- Council Recommendation
- Mainstream demographic concerns
- Council Recommendation (Rec)
Follow-up

• Reinforce the data and evidence base
  • Atlas of Demography, better statistics (ESOP revision), scaling up experiments in social innovation (EaSI), Horizon Europe research

• Review and upgrade of demography-related policies at all level
  • Dedicated resources and structures supporting regular dialogues with MSs, use of TSI, mainstreaming demographic concerns, thematic conference on demography
  • Concept of longevity

• Ensure that no region is left behind
Care Strategy: needs

13% of parents do not make use of childcare because of its cost and 11% have moderate or great difficulties in affording it. These percentages more than double respectively to 28% and 27% for households at risk of poverty.

1/3 of households with long-term care needs do not use home care services because they cannot afford them.

The number of all people potentially in need of long-term care across the European Union stands at 30.8 million people and is projected to rise by more than 7 million people, to reach 38.1 million by 2050.

Unpaid care responsibilities keep around 7.7 million women in Europe away from participating in the labour market, compared to only 450,000 men. This contributes to the gender employment gap (11 p.p.), the gender pay gap (13%) and the gender pension gap (29%).

1 in 3 Europeans are estimated to have caring responsibilities and over 9.1 million people, mostly women, work in the care sector.

The International Labour Organization estimates that investing 1.1% of GDP in early childhood education and care and 1.8% of GDP in long-term care each year would create an additional 26.7 million jobs in Europe by 2035.
Care strategy: responses

• Improving care services
  • Early childhood education and care
  • Long-term care
• Making the care sector more resilient and gender balanced
  • Improving working conditions in the care sector
  • Better balance between work and care responsibilities
• Investing in care
• Improving the evidence base and monitoring progress
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