The EAST Research Network and the Ageing Crisis in Eastern Europe

Oxford Institute of Ageing Showcase Day
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Outline

1. Population ageing in Eastern Europe – key facts
2. The ‘Ageing Crisis’ in Central & Eastern Europe (CEE)
3. The EAST research network at the OIA
4. Examples of OIA research on ageing in CEE
   4.1 Fighting poverty + social exclusion
   4.2 Reconciling work + care for older family members
   4.3 The ‘care drain’ from Eastern Europe: migrant care workers
1. Population Ageing in Eastern Europe – Key Facts
Oxford Institute of Ageing

Eastern Europe
Drivers of population ageing

1. Mortality
   ➢ (rising) life expectancy ➔ larger share of older people

2. Fertility
   ➢ (declining) birth rates ➔ smaller share of younger people

3. Migration patterns
   ➢ number and age of immigrants/emigrants
Male life expectancy at birth
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
Total fertility rates
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
Net migration (+ immigration, - emigration)
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
OVERVIEW

FROM RED TO GRAY

The “Third Transition” of Aging Populations in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union

THE WORLD BANK
2. The ‘Ageing Crisis’ in Eastern Europe
Western Europe got **rich** before it became **old**.
The Central and Eastern European countries are getting **old** before they become **rich**.
From 'Socialist' to 'Ageing' Societies

• 2009 = 20th Anniversary of the “Velvet Revolution” / “Peaceful Revolution” in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in 1989
• Rapid process of re-organisation of social institutions (Worldbank / IMF ‘shock therapy’)
• Eastern Europeans unprepared for these changes
• Dramatic changes of people’s lives, including:
  ➔ devaluation of degrees / qualifications
  ➔ mass unemployment (unemployment previously unknown)
  ➔ rapid inflation → devaluation pensions / savings
  ➔ rapid increase in prices for formerly subsidised products (incl. medicine, public transport)
  ➔ detoriating health care provision (former Soviet Union)
  ➔ poverty / social exclusion
  ➔ widening gulf between rich and poor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Probability of Dying Between Ages 15 and 60 (males)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LESOTHO</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSSIA</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRI LANKA</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOMBIA</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>22.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>8.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Survival from age 45-49 to 70-74 in Russia and Sweden (Bobak, Murphy, Pikhart & Marmot 2004, BMJ)

- **Russian men**
- **Swedish men**
- **Russian women**
- **Swedish women**

Estimated survival from age 45-49 to 70-74

- **Without disability**
- **With disability**
Growing social exclusion of Russian pensioners

“After paying utility bills, such as the telephone or electricity and buying very basic food products, such as bread, milk, eggs, vegetable oil, carrots, potatoes, onion, porridge, and tea, there is no money left. It is simply not possible to pay for medicine, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorants, or public transport at all. Also, there is no way to buy any clothes, books, to go to the theatre at least once in five years, use the internet, and things like that. It is also not possible to invite guests for a birthday party and it is certainly not possible to buy birthday presents for friends and relatives. An older person in Russia feels totally isolated from society.”

(Senior citizen, Moscow, 2005)
3. The ‘Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition’ (EAST) Research Network
Oxford Institute of Ageing

http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/east/main.html
EAST is the Eastern European Research Network of the Oxford Institute of Ageing

Working closely with colleagues throughout Eastern Europe, the Institute undertakes collaborative research on issues of ageing and assists in capacity building through its training and mentoring programmes.

The acronym EAST stands for “Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition” and is a research network in the making. It brings together people interested in research on ageing from the former communist societies in Central Eastern, South Eastern and Eastern Europe. It involves gerontologists and geriatricians from the ‘new’ EU Member States Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia on the one hand and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and the Ukraine on the other.

Members of the network do not only have in common an interest in gerontological or geriatric research – they also share biographies in a societal system quite different from the contemporary (capitalist) market societies in Europe. Moreover, the post-communist societies (which, in fact, also include East Germany) face demographic challenges that are slightly different from those experienced by the ‘old’ EU Member States: Population ageing set in later than in the West. However, its course and impact are likely to be more severe than in the West, due to more rapid demographic changes in the absence of generous social security systems. Although life expectancies are still lower than in the West, some countries are catching up quickly (Slovenia, for example). Fertility rates are well below the EU average. Many young people are moving to the West to escape unemployment or to find better job prospects in general. As a consequence, the post-communist populations are ageing even more rapidly than Western societies. Old-age dependency ratios are projected nearly to reach EU15 average within the next 20 years in Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary; in Bulgaria even surpassing this level (Eurostat 2005).

The EAST network welcomes everyone interested in the research on ageing in the above-mentioned countries. For more information on the network please feel free to contact:

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Purpose of the EAST Research Network

Objectives:
- Provide a platform for people with a research interest in demographic ageing and ageing societies in the CEE countries ⇒ EAST Website + mailing list (n = 165)
- Circulate information on relevant research, statistics, literature, etc
- Organise workshops & conferences on ageing in CEE
- Write publications on ageing in CEE
- Initiate research on ageing issues in CEE
- Capacity building (‘Bank of expertise’)
- Funding opportunities (Partner in funding applications; Leslie Kirkley Fellow 2007 Ausra Maslauskaite from Lithuania)
Hilary Term 2006 James Martin Seminar Series
“Implications of Population Ageing in Central/Eastern Europe”
(Convenor: Dr Andreas Hoff)

- **19 Jan 2006** - Dr Zsuzsa Szeman, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest
  Demographic and Social Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe
- **26 Jan 2006** - Dr John Round, University of Leicester
  The Responses to Marginalisation amongst the Elderly in Post-Soviet Russia/Ukraine
- **02 Feb 2006** - Prof Nick Manning, University of Nottingham
  Social Policy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe since 1990
- **09 Feb 2006** - Prof Ewa Fratczak, Warsaw School of Economics
  Ageing and Intergenerational Relationships in Poland
- **16 Feb 2006** - Dr Christopher M Davis, Dept of Economics, Oxford
  Ageing in Russia during Transition
- **23 Feb 2006** - Dr Andreas Hoff, Oxford Institute of Ageing
  Research on Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe
- **02 Mar 2006** - Dr Jolanta Perek-Bialas, Jagiellonian University of Cracow
  Barriers for Employment of Older People in Poland
- **09 Mar 2006** - Dr George Leeson, Oxford Institute of Ageing
  Migrants and Migration in Europe
ESRC Workshop “Understanding the Drivers of Population Ageing in CEE”
20-21 September 2007

• **Welcome + Introduction** (Dr Andreas Hoff, OIA, University of Oxford)
• **Keynote lecture “Health inequalities and population ageing in CEE”**
  Professor Sir Michael Marmot, UCL London)
• **Understanding the drivers of population ageing in CEE (I) – Mortality**
  Dr Emil Hristov, Bulgaria, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
  Dr Arjan Gjonca, Albania, London School of Economics
• **Understanding the drivers of population ageing in CEE (II) – Fertility**
  Professor Ewa Fratczak, Poland, Warsaw School of Economics
  Professor Sarmite Mikulioniene, Lithuania, Mykolas Romeris University Vilnius
• **Understanding the drivers of population ageing in CEE (III) – Migration**
  Dr Zsuzsa Szeman, Hungary, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
  Dr Agnes Nemenyi, Romania, University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca
• **Implications of population ageing for family relations and caregiving**
  Professor Valentina Hlebec, Slovenia, University of Ljubljana
  Dr Piotr Czekanowski, Poland, University of Gdansk
  Dr Vira Chaykovska, Ukraine, Institute of Gerontology Ukraine Kiev
• **Policy implications of population ageing in CEE**
  Professor Gaiane Safarova, Russia, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Academy of Sciences
  Professor Leonid B Lazebnik, Russia, Moscow, Russian Gerontological Society
  Dr Sandra Švaljek, Croatia, Institute of Economics Zagreb
Publications on ageing in CEE


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lucie Vidovičová</th>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional affiliation</td>
<td>Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact details</td>
<td>Joštova 10, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic, <a href="mailto:vidovicova@fss.muni.cz">vidovicova@fss.muni.cz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio-sketch</td>
<td>Lucie Vidovičová, Ph.D., is a sociologist and researcher at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. She has a long-term research interest in the sociology of ageing, age discrimination, attitudes towards ageing, active ageing and age-mainstreaming. She has been involved in research for the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on ageing, family and social policy. She works as a consultant on the implementation of NGO projects such as Ageing and the media (<a href="http://www.spvg.cz">www.spvg.cz</a>) and Teaching about ageing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research interests</td>
<td>age discrimination, active ageing, population ageing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodological skills</td>
<td>basic statistic methods, SPSS, qualitative interpretative methods (ATLAS/ti)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching/training</td>
<td>Courses for Institute of Further Education in health care sector; tailor-made courses for primary school teachers and journalists</td>
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4. Examples of OIA Research on ageing in Eastern Europe
4.1 Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion
OXFORD INSTITUTE
OF AGEING

Fighting poverty and social exclusion

Research project “Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion of Older People – Lessons from Europe” (2006)
- funded by Help the Aged
- OIA researchers Hoff + Leeson
- Conducted expert interviews with academics, NGO representatives + policy makers in EU25
- Including Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- Social exclusion of older people widespread + invisible (E + S EU)
- Lack of family support = highest risk
4.2
Reconciling Work and Care for Older People
Reconciling work and family care

Workshop series “Reconciliation employment and care for older family members” (2007/8)
- funded by John Fell Fund
- OIA researchers Hoff, Leeson, Ruicheva + Kaiser
- we organised 3 workshops on state-of-the-art, family carer perspective, and employer/enterprise perspective
- Particular focus on Eastern Europe
- seminar participants from Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia
- Received funding from Volkswagen Foundation for research project “Between Job and Care“ (2009/10)
4.3
The ‘Care Drain’ from Eastern Europe - Migrant Care Workers
Migrant care workers from Eastern Europe

Workshop series “Migrant Labour in Eldercare” (2007/8)
- funded by NORFACE
- OIA researchers Leeson, Hoff + Kaiser
- we organised 4 workshops on economic, family, social policy + societal implications in migrant sending + migrant receiving countries
- all European sending countries in Eastern Europe
- seminar participants from Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia
- Submitted research proposal to NORFACE
Thank you all very much for your attention!