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# Population Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe

*Presentation on the occasion of the Launch of the  
Centre for East European Language Based Area  
Studies (CEELBAS)  
at University College London (UCL)*

19-20 April 2007

Dr Andreas Hoff, James Martin Research Fellow  
Oxford Institute of Ageing, University of Oxford



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## *Outline*

1. What is population ageing?
2. The drivers of population ageing
3. Demographic trends in Central and Eastern Europe
4. Effects on population structure in CEE
5. The EAST research network





1.

## What is Population Ageing?





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## 1. What is ageing?

= “Ageing is a progressive, generalised impairment of function resulting in an increased probability of death.” *(John Maynard Smith)*

= “Ageing is a harmonious decline of all organ systems leading to increased probability of death.”  
*(Tom Kirkwood)*





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## 1. What is population ageing?

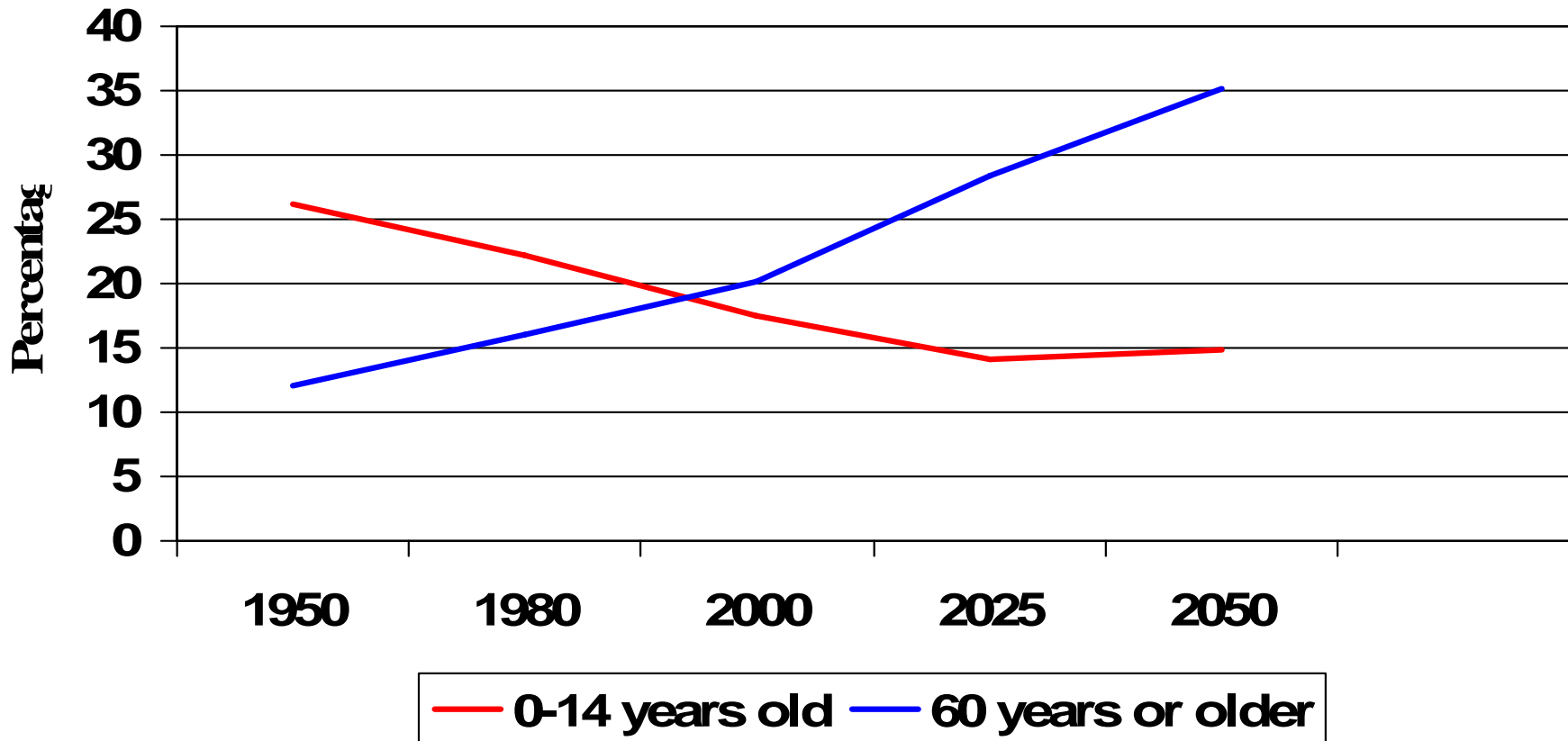
- A population is regarded as being 'old' or 'mature' when old people outnumber the young ones living in a given country.
- Europe is the first continent where older people outnumber children.





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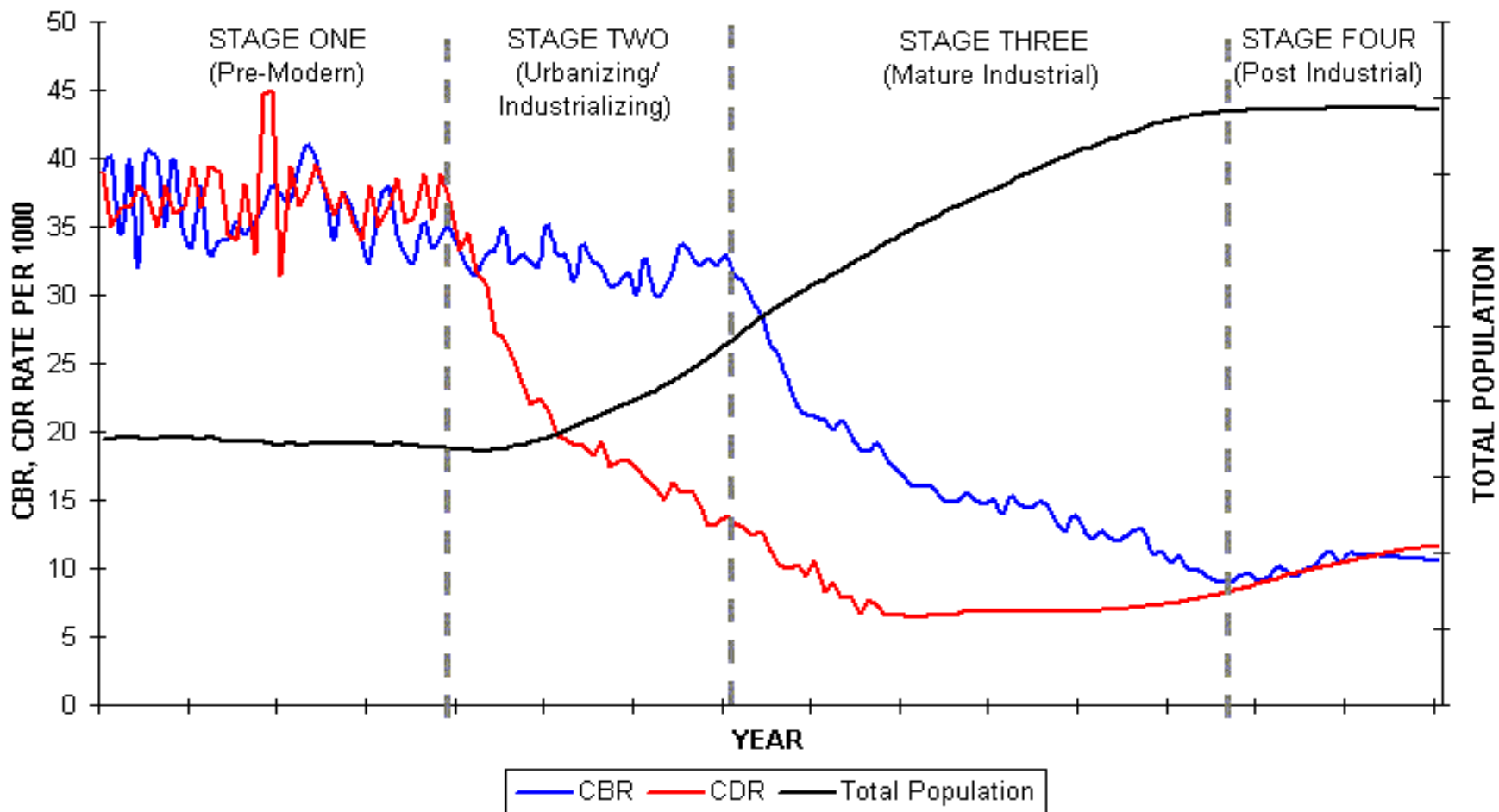
## 'Maturing society' in Europe (1950-2050)





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## THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION MODEL





## 2.

# The Drivers of Population Ageing







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## Factors determining population ageing

### 1. Mortality

- (rising) life expectancy → more older people

### 2. Fertility

- (declining) birth rates → fewer younger people

### 3. Migration patterns

- number and age of immigrants/emigrants





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## Hypothesis on determinants of demographic development in Western and Eastern Europe

Determinants	Western Europe	Eastern Europe
Life expectancy	↑	↗
Fertility	→	↓
Migration patterns	Immigration	Emigration





## 3.

# Demographic Trends in Central and Eastern Europe





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**(I)**

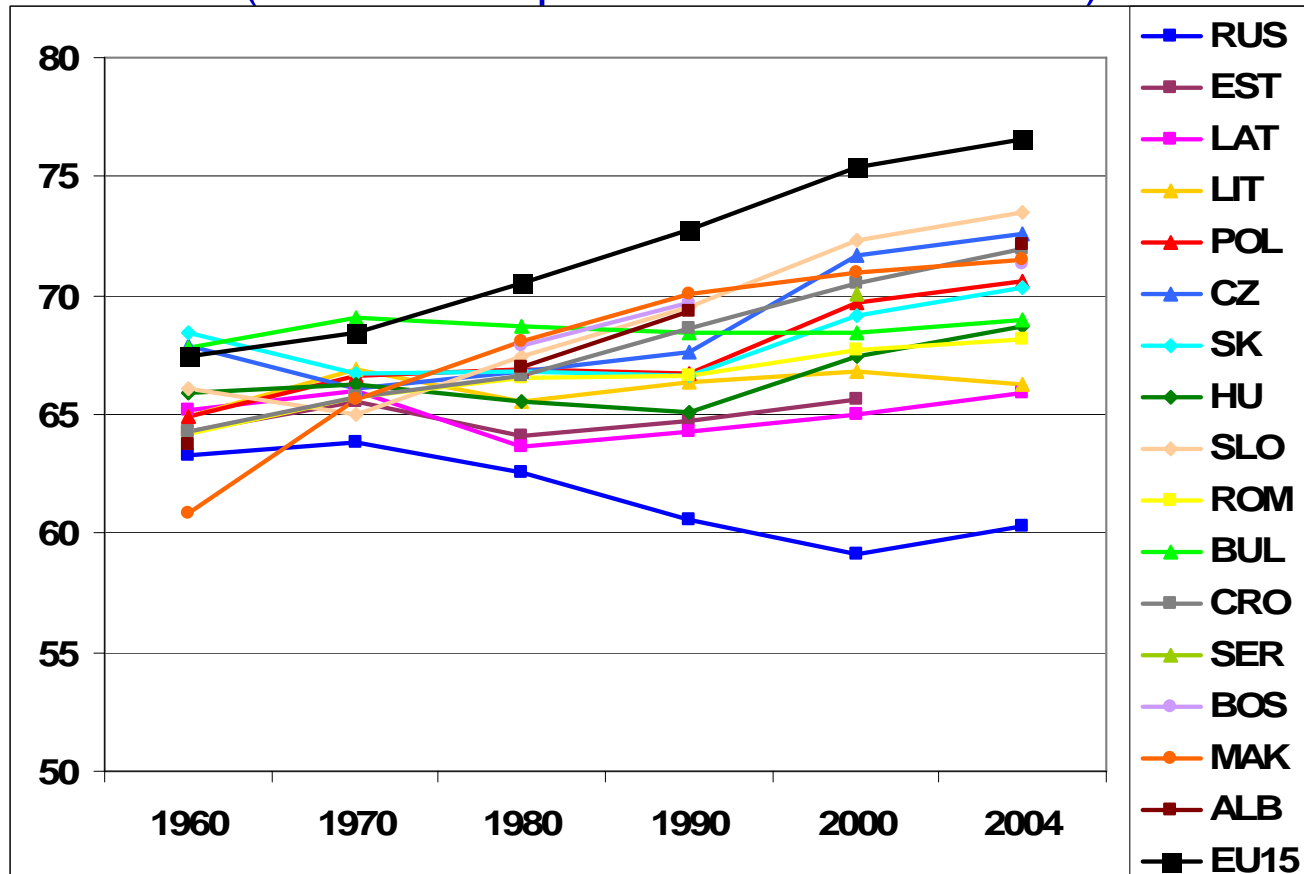
## **Mortality (life expectancy)**





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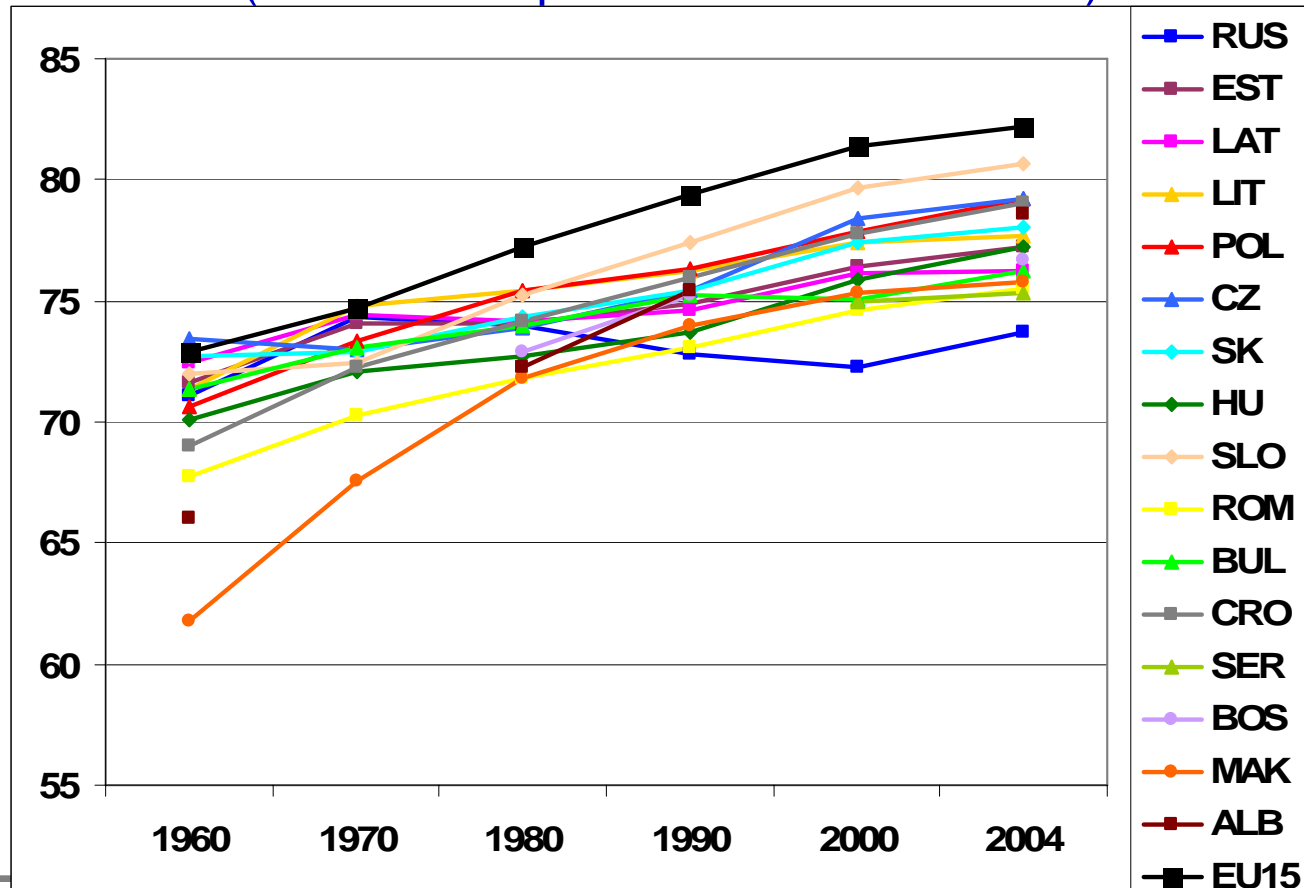
## Male life expectancy at birth (Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)





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## Female life expectancy at birth (Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)





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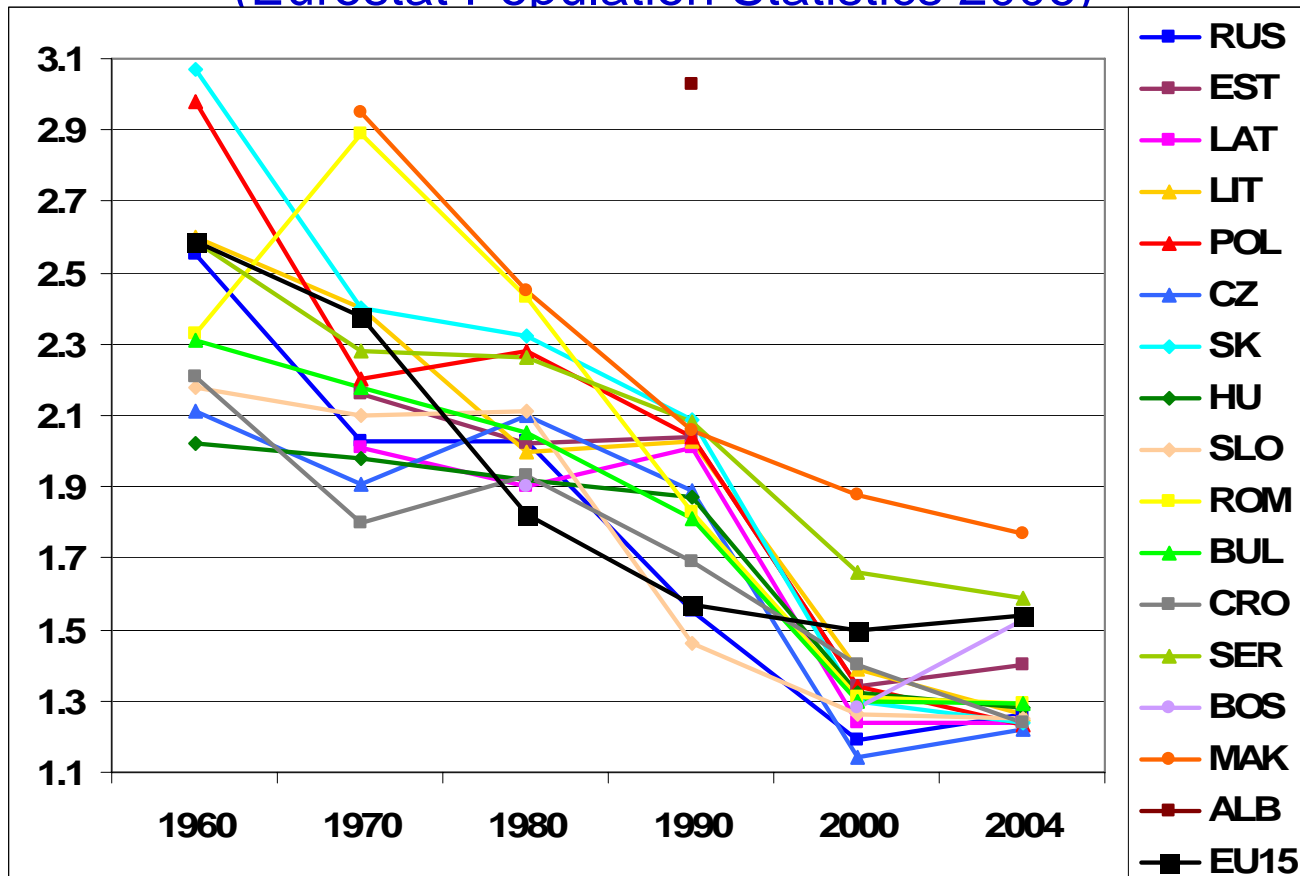
## (II) Fertility





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## Total fertility rates (Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)







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**(III)**

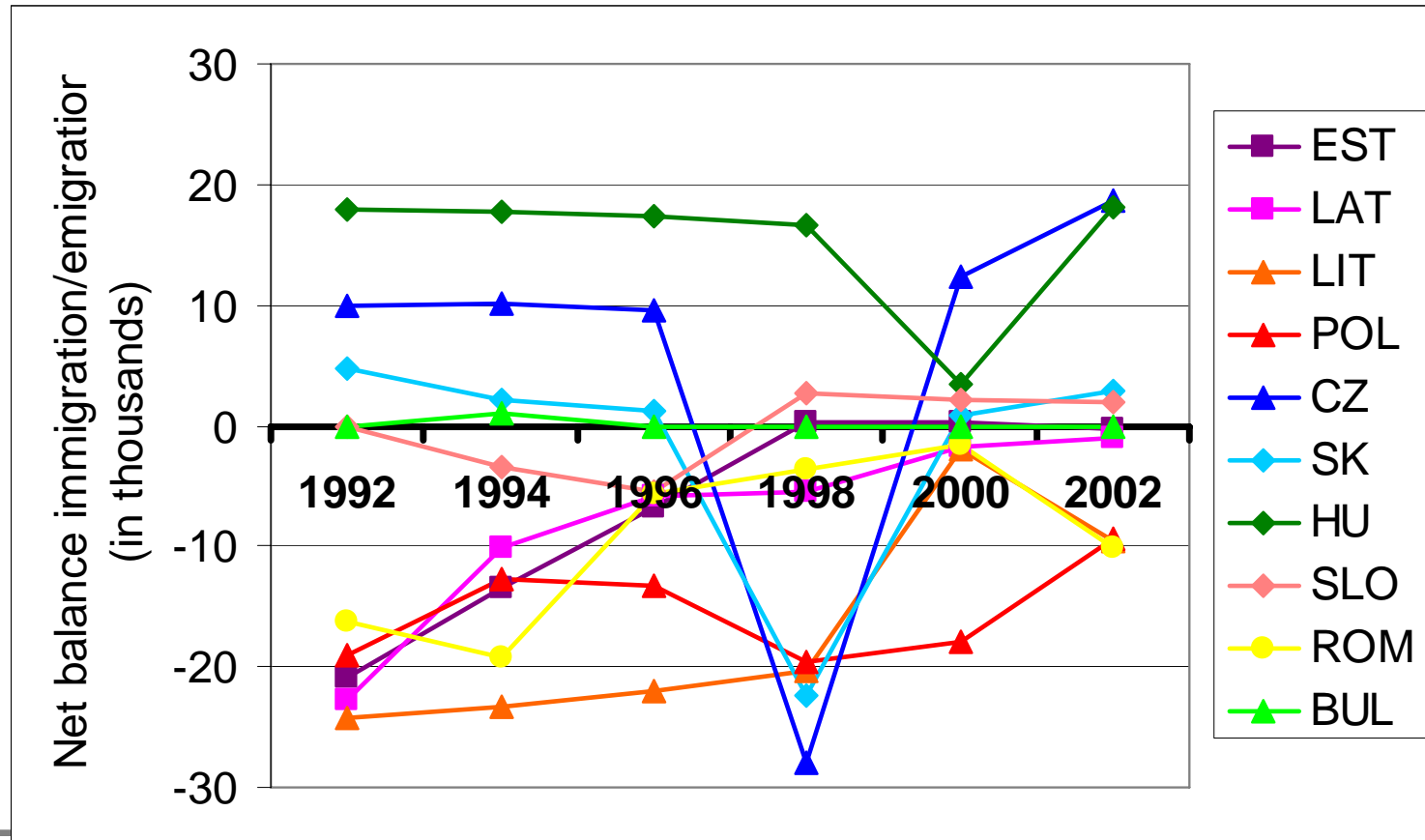
**Migration**





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## Net migration (+ immigration, - emigration) (Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)





## 4.

# Effects on Population Structure in CEE





**(I)**

## **Population share of older people**

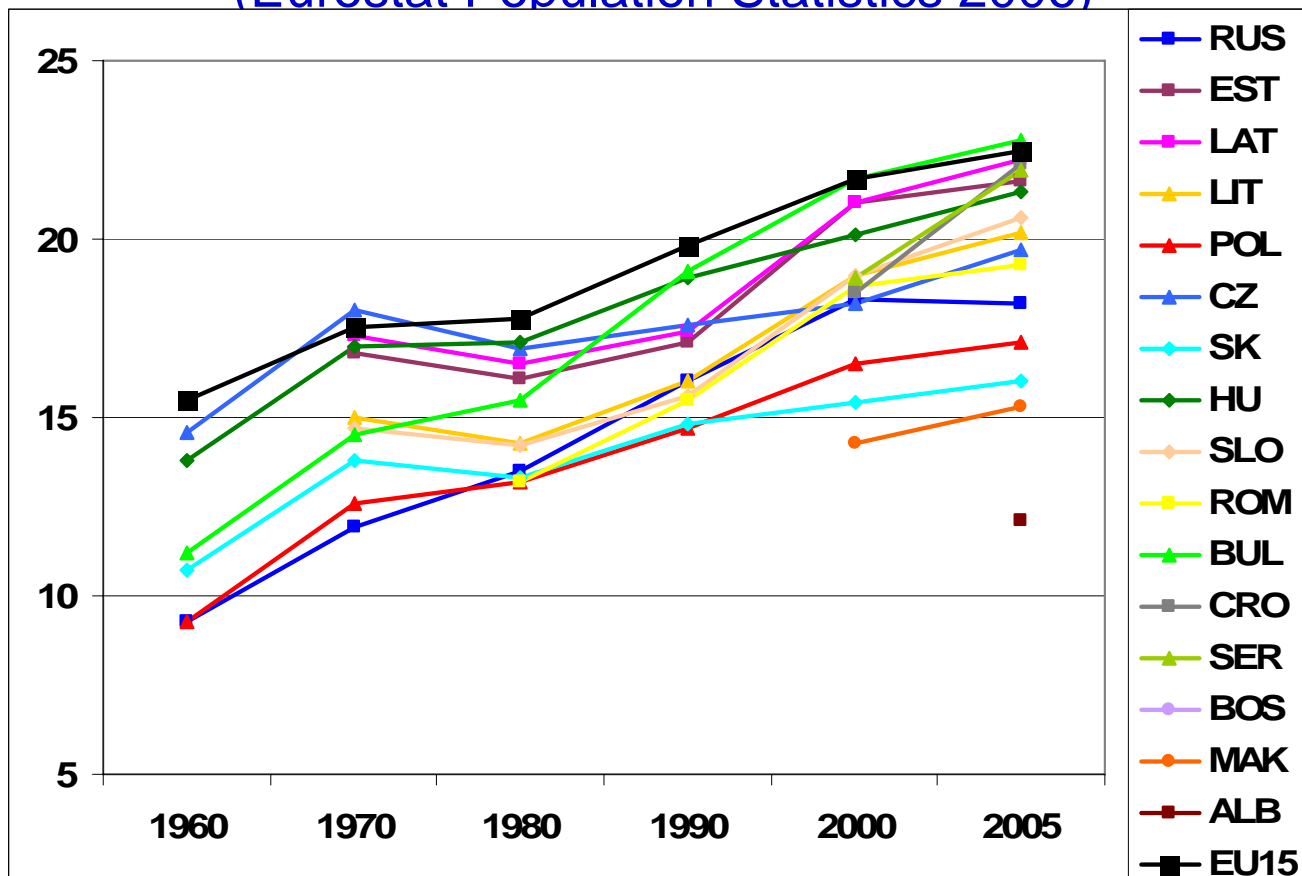
- **Percentage of total population aged 60+**





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## Proportion of 60+ (Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)





(II)

## Old-age dependency ratio

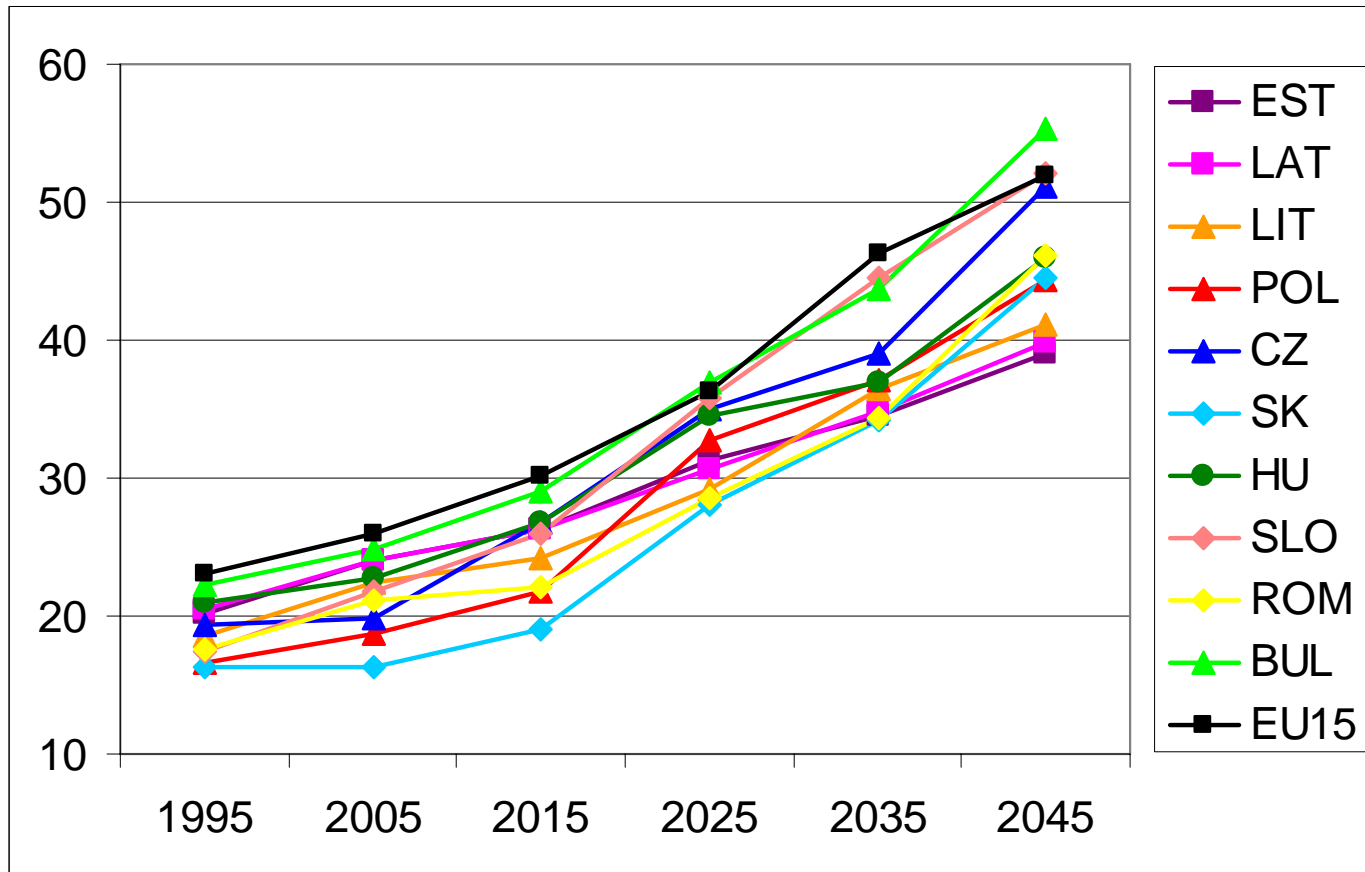
= number of 65+ per 100 aged 15-64





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## Old-age dependency ratio (Eurostat 2005)





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***Western Europe got rich before it became old.***

***The Central and Eastern European countries are getting old before they become rich.***







## 5.

# The 'Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition' (EAST) Research Network





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## Purpose of the EAST Research Network

### Objectives:

- To provide a platform (website) for people with a research interest in demographic ageing and ageing societies in the CEE countries
- To build research networks on ageing in CEE
- To identify key themes + scope for research on ageing in CEE
- Spread news on funding opportunities
- Capacity building
- Information on relevant research, statistics, literature, etc.





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<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/>



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Family

Health

Education



## Addressing Global Ageing

The Oxford Institute of Ageing addresses ageing at the global, societal, and individual level. Research is currently undertaken in Europe, Asia, Africa and Central and Southern America



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<http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/east/main.html>



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**EAST**



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**Thank you all very much for  
your attention!**

