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)

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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?
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)
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.
‘Maturing society’ in Europe (1950-2050)

- 0-14 years old
- 60 years or older

The graph shows the percentage of the population under 14 years old and 60 years or older from 1950 to 2050. The percentage of the population under 14 years old decreases while the percentage of the population 60 years or older increases over the years.
2. The Drivers of Population Ageing
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
Hypothesis on determinants of demographic development in Western and Eastern Europe

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<th>Determinants</th>
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<td>Life expectancy</td>
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<td>Migration patterns</td>
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3. Demographic Trends in Central and Eastern Europe
(I)

Mortality (life expectancy)
Male life expectancy at birth
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
Female life expectancy at birth
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
(II) 
Fertility
Total fertility rates
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
(III) Migration
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+
Proportion of 60+
(Eurostat Population Statistics 2006)
(II)
Old-age dependency ratio

= number of 65+ per 100 aged 15-64
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
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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Thank you all very much for your attention!