Population Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe. Implications for Future Migration Patterns

Presentation on the occasion of the launch of the Central and Eastern European Migration Initiative (CEEMI) - a joint initiative by the Oxford Institute of Ageing (OIA) and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS)

9 June 2006

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Outline

1. Demographic Indicators of Population Ageing in CEE
2. Gerontological Research in Eastern Europe
   2.1. Mapping Gerontological Research in Eastern Europe
   2.2. Towards the Social Inclusion of Older People in the EU
4. Implications of Population Ageing for Future Migration Patterns
   4.1. Linking Old Age and Migration
   4.2. Some Preliminary Research
5. Towards a Joint CEEMI Research Project
1. Demographic Indicators of Population Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe
# Determinants of population ageing in Western and Eastern Europe

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<th>Determinants</th>
<th>Western Europe</th>
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<td>Life expectancy</td>
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<td>Fertility</td>
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<td>Migration patterns</td>
<td>Immigration (number / age)</td>
<td>Emigration (number / age)</td>
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(a)
Mortality (life expectancy)
Further life expectancy for **men** aged 65 (Eurostat 2005)
Further life expectancy for **women** aged 65 (Eurostat 2005)
(b) Fertility
Total fertility rates (Eurostat 2005)

Number of children per woman

(c)

Migration patterns
Immigration/emigration patterns (Eurostat 2005)
(d) Old-age dependency
Old-age dependency ratio (65+ / 15-64) (Eurostat 2005)
2.
Gerontological Research in Eastern Europe
2. Gerontological research in Eastern Europe

• Eastern European populations are ageing too!!!

• Lack of information on gerontological research in Eastern Europe

• Only few Eastern European gerontologists known

• Similar demographic trends – similar problems? What are the key concerns of ageing societies in Eastern Europe?
2.1. Mapping gerontological research in Eastern Europe
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- Expert interviews with gerontologists in 11 Eastern European countries (EU8 + Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania)
- Questionnaire (semi-structured), circulated by email
- Snowballing
- Fieldwork December 2005 – February 2006
- Questions include: most important current+future issues; key people; key institutions; key publications; statistics, data sets, surveys; funding sources; potential for collaborative research
Most important current issues

• Despite of very rapid population ageing it is not an issue of public/political debate
• Age discrimination against older people
• Older workers (productivity, conditions) + ‘forced‘ early exit
• Socio-economic deprivation + social exclusion of elderly
• Poor health of many older people
• Health care reform – privatisation
• Changing intergenerational relations and support (family/society)
Data + surveys

- **Overall picture:** very few survey data!
- **Very few exceptions:**
  1. Surveys carried out by National Statistics Offices
  2. EC funded international surveys, including CEE:
     - EUROFAMCARE, MOBILATE, ENABLE-AGE
  3. Only 2 national surveys mentioned:
     - Poland: „Elderly in Polish society“
     - Slovenia: „Social networks of older people“
  4. Regional surveys in Poland
2.2. Towards the Social Inclusion of Older People in Europe
2.2. Social Inclusion of Older People in Europe

- Expert interviews in 24 EU Member States (except UK)
- Interviewees from: government, NGOs, research
- Topic guide; telephone interviews
- Snowballing
- Fieldwork March – June 2006
- Interviews in 7 of EU8: Czech Republic (3), Poland (2), Lithuania (2), Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia (1 each)
2.2. Social Inclusion of Older People in Europe

**Preliminary findings for EU8**

- **(1) Poverty/social exclusion in old age major issue of public debate?**
  - No – not even old age (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland)
  - No – old people not poor (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia)

- **(2) Highest risk of poverty/social exclusion?**
  - Lack of family ties (CZ, EST, HU, PL, SK)
  - Low income/pensions (CZ, EST, LIT, PL, SK, SLO)

- **(3) Examples of good practice in social policy**
  - Care facilities linking health, social + long-term care (Czech)
  - Home care + home help providers (Hungary)
  - “Adopt a grandma!” Home-share for elderly + lone parents (Poland)
3.
The ‘Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition’ (EAST) Research Network
Purpose of the EAST Research Network

Objectives:

- To identify key themes + scope for research on ageing
- To build an international research network on ageing
- To create a platform (website) for this
- To provide evidence (data) base for policy makers + NGOs
Oxford Institute of Ageing

http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/
Oxford Institute of Ageing

http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/home.html
4. Implications of Population Ageing for Future Migration Patterns
4.1. Linking Old Age and Migration
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(A) *Migrants growing old*
- Former ‘guest-workers’ growing old in host countries

(B) *Younger people migrate to care for older people*
- Care for older family members living abroad (host/home country)
- Migrant care workers to care for older people abroad

(C) *Older people migrate*
- Guest-workers returning to home countries
- Older workers (higher wages, escape unemployment, social welfare)
- Better quality of life (‘sun-birds’, better care, being with family)
4.2. Some Preliminary Research
(A) Migrants growing old – example Germany

**Background:**
- In the post-war period (1950s-early 1970s) of labour shortages West Germany was actively recruiting ‘guest-workers’.
- Many of them stayed in their host countries and are today ageing at an even more rapid pace than the native populations.

**Research Question:**
- Differences/similarities in the material + social circumstances of older people depending on national origin

**Data base:**
- German Ageing Survey, 2$^{nd}$ wave (2002)
- foreign citizen sample n = 586 aged 40-85
Monthly Incomes of German + Non-German Elders (70-85) in Germany

Source: Baykara-Krumme & Hoff (2006)
(B) Younger migrants caring for older people

Project ‘Migrant Labour in the Eldercare Sectors (MILES)

- Population ageing is resulting in a rapidly increasing demand for care workers in Western societies
  - Western Europe attracts migrant care workers from Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa to meet demand in health, long-term, social, and home care

Research Questions:
- Scope of + potential for migrant care workers?

Answers needed:
- Equity (‘skill drain’, ‘care drain’) + sustainability (high/low road)
- What are the consequences for the carers’ families in the sending countries?
(B) Younger migrants caring for older people

Case studies:

(a) Nigerian nurses in the UK (Aboderin)

(b) Bulgarian care workers in Greece (Ruicheva)
5. Towards a Joint CEEMI Research Project
Towards joint CEEMI research project

First step:
- to set up working group
  - identify overlap in research interests
  - narrow down research topic
  - develop concrete research project
  - identify funding bodies

Second step:
- to establish webpage(s)
- to link our websites
Thank you all very much for your attention!

Any comments or questions more than welcome!!!