

EAST

EAST is a network for information exchange between its members, numbering almost 200 individuals and institutions who research migration and population ageing in Eastern European countries.

Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition

Research Area Overview

Although population ageing set in much later in Eastern Europe than in other parts of Europe, the demographic trends of the 1990s and 2000s (dramatic drop in fertility, mass emigration of many younger people, and slow but continuous rise in life expectancy) lead to a much more rapid demographic ageing in the East than in Western or Northern Europe.

Many, if not all, Eastern European societies are ill-prepared for yet another dramatic societal transition, having not quite completed the previous one from socialism and planned economies to capitalism and free market economies.



Figure: Old-Age Dependency Ratios (Age 65+ / Age 15-64), estimated and projected (UN 2013)

Network Objectives

- Providing a platform for people with a research interest in demographic ageing and ageing societies in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE);
- EAST Website and mailing list;
- Circulating information on relevant research, statistics, literature, etc.;
- Organizing workshops & conferences on ageing in CEE;
- Writing publications on ageing in CEE;
- Initiating research on ageing issues in CEE;
- Capacity building (*Bank of expertise*);
- Funding opportunities (as a partner in funding applications);

EAST Events

- 2015 – Görlitz, Germany: Workshop: *Depopulation of Rural Areas in Central and Eastern Europe: Causes, Consequences and Solutions*
- 2010 – Cracow, Poland: XIVth Polish Sociology Congress, Thematic groups: *Developing Sociology of Ageing and Ageing in the life course*
- 2007 – Oxford Institute of Ageing, ESRC Workshop: *Understanding the Drivers of Population Ageing in CEE.*
- 2007 – Zielona Gora, Poland: XIIIth Polish Sociological Congress, Session: *Ageing and Society*
- 2006 – Oxford, UK: James Martin School, Seminar Series: *Implications of Population Ageing in Central and Eastern Europe.*



Figure: Ranking of European countries by median age, with Eastern European countries highlighted; estimated and projected (UN 2013)