Demographic challenges in the European Union

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Demographic facts about the EU

- Population 450 million: share of EU’s population in the world 6% → 4%
- Ageing society: life expectancy growing (men: 78y → 86y, women 84y → 90y)
- Decreasing rate of working age population (59% → 51%)
- Increasing rate of dependents (6% → 13% over 80y)
- Importance of intra-EU mobility (brain drain) and extra-EU migration
- Growing number of single households (in 2019 a third of homes)
- Huge regional inequalities + different local realities
Map of Reality

According to MSs

According to regions
Challenges and Actions

- Fertility rate below replacement level in ALL member states
- Having children is still/again a risk of poverty
- Growing (instead of shrinking) care gap due to pandemic

- Work-Life Balance directive (8/2022)
- Child Guarantee program (along with existing Youth Guarantee program)
Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by household type - (Share of all population)

Eurostat, 2017
Good practices in intergenerational solidarity

- Hungary: family protection action plan – grandparents subsidized parents’ leave since 2019
- Poland: Mama+ and 500+ programme
- Southern Europe: intensive (daily) informal child care provided by grandparents for more than 20% of children
- France: family carers’ leave – financial support and legal recognition
- Belgium: cohabitation of young and old in an intergenerational spirit – 1toit2ages
List of References


Thank you for your attention!

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