

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE:

# Shaping Europe's Demographic Future

PATHWAYS FOR SOCIETIES TO THRIVE IN A WORLD OF RAPID DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE



Sofia, Bulgaria

1-2 December 2021

Hybrid Event

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME: 1 DECEMBER 2021

TIME (EET, GMT+3)	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
10:00 – 10:30	Opening plenary <b>SHAPING EUROPE'S DEMOGRAPHIC FUTURE</b>	<i>Opening address</i> <b>H.E. Mr. Rumen Radev</b> , President of the Republic of Bulgaria <i>Opening remarks</i> <b>Dr. Natalia Kanem</b> , United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA <b>Dr. Andreas Edel</b> , Executive Secretary, Population Europe Inspirational statements from speakers representing different communities.
10:30 – 11:30	Plenary 1 <b>DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	In this session, Heads of State and Governments from Europe and Central Asia, along with prominent thought leaders, will offer perspectives on what challenges and opportunities countries are encountering in addressing demographic change with a view to reducing inequalities, ensuring sustainable growth, strengthening human capital, and expanding opportunities for all.
11:30 – 12:00	Networking break	
12:00 – 13:30	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE EXPO</b>	An entirely virtual space where participants from government, civil society, academia and international organizations will have the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities, learn about, and engage with, good practices and promising initiatives related to addressing demographic change. The Expo space will be open throughout the conference.  Video bridge with the Wittgenstein Center Conference 2021 on “Causes and Consequences of Depopulation.”
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch break	
15:00 – 16:00	Plenary 2 <b>DEMOCRACY &amp; DEMOGRAPHY</b>	Heads of State and Governments and prominent thought leaders will explore the interplay between demography and democracy, and discuss how demographic change can be an opportunity for making democracies stronger and more inclusive.  Introduced by <b>Ms. Dubravka Šuica</b> , Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy and Democracy
16:00 – 16:30	Networking break	
16:30 – 18:00	Ministerial dialogue 1 <b>POPULATION AGEING: HARNESSING THE LONGEVITY DIVIDEND</b>	Populations across Europe and Central Asia are ageing rapidly, and many countries are struggling to adapt to this reality. This session will showcase successful initiatives to respond to, and manage, population ageing, and discuss new ways of creating societies for all ages that foster the inclusion of older people, and help countries realize the longevity dividend.
19:00	Official reception	

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME: 2 DECEMBER 2021

TIME (EET, GMT+3)	SESSION	DESCRIPTION
09:00 – 10:15	Ministerial dialogue 2 <b>FERTILITY: LOOKING BEYOND NUMBERS</b>	Virtually all countries in Europe have fertility rates below replacement level. Fertility rates reflect choices that people make about their lives. When choices are affected by barriers that people face in having the number of children they want, a variety of policies can help close the gap between fertility intention and actual fertility levels. This session focuses on recent trends in fertility rates and evidence-based examples of what governments can do to help people have the number of children they want.
10:15 – 10:45	Networking break	
10:45 – 12:00	Ministerial dialogue 3 <b>GENDER EQUALITY &amp; FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES</b>	Improving gender equality and introducing gender-responsive family policies has emerged in recent years as a key building block in developing comprehensive responses to demographic change. The session will discuss the way gender equality and demographic change interact. It will also identify innovative, workable solutions for ensuring that working parents – men and women – are able to combine family and career.
12:00 – 12:15	Networking break	
12:15 – 13:30	Ministerial dialogue 4 <b>ASPIRATIONS, ANXIETIES AND ATTITUDES OF YOUNG PEOPLE</b>	Enabling young people to fulfil their potential is key for countries to prosper in the context of demographic change. Yet many young people are excluded from the labour market and political life, and millions, especially in East and Southeast Europe, see little future in their own country. This session will focus on young people and their aspirations, and will highlight successful measures aimed at building young people's confidence in their future.
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:45	Ministerial dialogue 5 <b>RURAL REVITALIZATION: CHOICES &amp; FUTURES</b>	Across Europe and Central Asia, people leave rural areas to look for opportunities in urban centres or abroad, making life harder for the mostly older people staying behind and making it costly to maintain infrastructure and services in sparsely populated areas. The session will showcase promising examples of rural revitalization and strategies to successfully adapt to smaller populations in areas with limited opportunities for revitalization.
15:45 – 16:00	Networking break	
16:00 – 17:15	Ministerial dialogue 6 <b>FINANCING OF SOCIAL POLICIES IN A NEW DEMOGRAPHIC REALITY</b>	Demographic shifts such as population ageing and population decrease have put major strains on the sustainability of social systems, infrastructure and services. This session will provide an opportunity to look at lessons learned from countries with longer experience in adapting social and other systems to demographic change, and discuss the implications of new data and evidence.
17:15 – 18:00	Closing <b>PATHWAYS FOR SOCIETIES TO THRIVE IN A WORLD OF RAPID DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of Decade of Demographic Resilience</li> <li>• Launch of Member States-led Policy and Practice Community</li> <li>• Announcement of Member State convening Demographic Resilience Conference 2023</li> <li>• Closing remarks</li> </ul>



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