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Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Population Scenarios and Policy Implications for Southern Mediterranean Countries, 2010-2050

Area

Demography

Reporter

Centre for European Policy Studies

Type of the Reporter

Think tank

Periodically updated?

No

First issued year

2013

Latest update

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Official website

www.medpro-foresight.eu

Language available

English and French

Short summary

The report is a policy paper on the future demographic trends in the Mediterranean region and the European Union (EU). It focuses on three particular aspects: i) population growth at regional and national levels, ii) working age populations, with a particular focus on demographic dividend potential, and iii) elderly populations, with an emphasis on the role they might have as financial burden on economies.

Key trends

- The results show that from 2010 until 2030, the Mediterranean countries will see their population grow from 280 million up to a figure between 349 and 362 million people, growing by between 69 and 83 million people. From 2030 to 2050, an additional 48 to 62 million people are expected to be added to the population already accounted in 2030. The final figure depends on economic and political scenarios that the region will be embracing in the next decades.
- From 2010 until 2030, the European Union will see its population grow by 21 million increasing from 500 to 521 million people. Between 2030 and 2050, the population of the EU will only grow by 4 million.
- The share of elderly people related to the working age population is lower in the Mediterranean region compared to the share in the EU. It is however expected that the Mediterranean's share will increase after 2035. If the Mediterranean region's economy remains politically and environmentally

precarious, the share of elderly people in relation to the working age population will remain low and will consequently cause an even more important financial and social burden on economies than the EU's high share is imposing on its economy.

Suggestions

- The high and rising elderly working age population in the Mediterranean leads to a decrease in opportunities for a high number of young people holding diplomas and being unemployed. At the same time, in the EU the demand for skilled labour is expected to increase in the next decades as population's working age will be decreasing. The report suggests to the EU to invest further in improving the education quality in the Mediterranean region as it would be beneficial for both regions. Policy makers in the EU should develop strategies to help prepare the young population (with a particular focus on women) to the EU and Mediterranean markets.
- The future need for skilled labour in the EU also suggests a modernization in the EU migration policies to allow more flexible admission rules.
- Labour migration programs should also be developed to better control the flow of skilled migrants between the two regions.
- It is suggested that those programs should prepare in socio-cultural adaptation terms prospective migrants for life in the EU.
- All the above points are suggested to be discussed between the two regions that should develop a "Roadmap to Mobility" programme.

Methodology

Modelling and research from secondary sources

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

- Ayadi, R. and C. Sessa (2011), "What scenarios for the Euro-Mediterranean in 2030 in the wake of the post-Arab spring?", MEDPRO Policy Paper No. 2, October, CEPS, Brussels (<http://www.medproforesight.eu/publication/what-scenarios-euro-mediterranean-2030-wake-post-arab-spring>).
- Eurostat (2012), "Eurostat online database: Population projections 2010-2060" (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tps00002>).
- Groenewold, G., J. de Beer and C. Huisman (2012), "Population Scenarios for South Mediterranean Countries 2010-2050", MEDPRO Report No. 2, CEPS, Brussels.
- Lutz, W. and S. Scherbov (2004), "Will Population Ageing Necessarily Lead to an Increase in the Number of Persons with Disabilities? Alternative Scenarios for the European Union", European Demographic Research Papers, Vol. 3, Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences.
- Rees, P., N. van der Gaag, J. Beer and F. Heins (2012), "European Regional Populations: Current Trends, Future Pathways and Policy Options", European Journal of Population, Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 385 – 416 (http://download.springer.com/static/pdf/824/art%253A10.1007%252Fs10680-012-9268z.pdf?auth66=1364897125_4e977a5862a203b844a4badd531d8118&ext=.pdf).