

DRAFT RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

ENGLISH only

Session I: Population developments

Moderator: Mr. Janez Malačič, Professor, Head of the Statistical Department, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Rapporteur: Ms. Jeannette Kloetzer, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Yerevan

- Confronting the demographic challenges of the OSCE area
- Supporting for the improvement and harmonization of data collection on migration and national minorities
- Strengthening of research on demographic developments, economic integration and economic/social integration for information sharing and policy making

At the beginning, the Moderator, **Prof. Janyz Malacic**, Head of the Statistical Department of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Ljubljana, stated that the Preparatory Seminars of the 13th Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum contributed to a clearer picture on the demographic reality in the OSCE area and its neighbourhood, as well as a better understanding of the OSCE's role in this context.

This is an indispensable precondition for identifying political priorities on how economic and security concerns could be addressed at a national and international level.

Mr. Claus Folden representing the Technical Cooperation Centre of the International Organisation of Migration, analysed the results of a multi year "Programme for the Creation of a General Model for the Collection, Application and Sharing of Migration- related Data", conducted with some of the CIS countries. He underlined the following outcomes as being of importance:

- Improving professional skills in the methodology of data collection and application, thus providing a better basis for a realistic policy making;
- Promoting dialog and cooperation between the countries and experts participating in the programme;
- Addressing issues of common concern;
- Defining indicators and data sharing mechanisms, developing the same professional language;
- Capacity building and introducing best practice.

The speaker encouraged OSCE to further facilitate respective multinational programmes, seminars and trainings in order to support the abovementioned objectives.

Mr. Wolfgang Lutz, Director of the Vienna Institute for Demography and Leader of the World Population Programme, elaborated on demographic changes and trends in the context of demographic transitions of the 20th century. The assumption that fertility decline will stop at the replacement level has not been confirmed by reality. Today half of the world's population is below replacement level and Europe was the first continent to fall below replacement level. This fact, in combination with higher life expectancies and the decline of the working age population, already has a negative social and economic impact on the whole OSCE with serious implications for stability and security.

In his conclusions the speaker highlighted the following aspects:

- Importance to identify research priorities and institutional needs: analysis of variation across Europe is a most important source for understanding the nature and determinants of ongoing processes.
- There is an urgent need for comparative European demographic analysis that goes beyond the already existing networking of national institutes.
- A proposal to establish a European Population Research Centre with direct communication to policy making, which will conduct policy relevant research and analysis to the highest standards.

OSCE is expected to make a political contribution to this objective by addressing the governments of the participating states accordingly.

The Czech Republic made a presentation on the pilot project: “Selection of qualified foreign workers”

Discussion

All speakers praised the Chairmanship for putting the issue of demographic trends and migration on the agenda. It was common understanding that the identified problems are among the most important challenges the OSCE Participating States are facing at the beginning of the 21st century. If not properly addressed, they could lead to serious threats for security and stability within the OSCE area and its neighbourhood.

Not to lose the momentum, adequate follow up initiatives in full compliance with the OSCE’s political mandate shall follow the discussions and findings of the 13th Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum.

The following recommendation can be considered as of specific importance:

The establishment of a Forum to focus on demographics trends and population developments including migration, by transforming the existing Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking and by broadening its mandate accordingly. The agenda could contain elements such as :

- Contribute to an increased awareness raising concerning these challenges and the responses required;
- Promote standard setting;
- Promote gender equality as a prerequisite for a sustainable family policy; provide best practices for combining maternity and professional careers for woman and men on equal footing;
- Devise policies that manage migration in a positive way: favourable conditions for rapid integration of immigrants;
- Focus on the empowerment of human capital in countries of origin in order to tackle outgoing migration flows;
- Link with other international governmental and non governmental organisations dealing with issues relevant in this context

It was also suggested to establish a special unit within the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities to assist the working group with analytical studies and background material and data.

The speakers also encouraged OSCE to further facilitate respective multinational programmes, seminars and trainings in order to support the discussed objectives, e.g. data collections and sharing mechanisms.

It was also suggested to establish a European Population Research Centre with direct communication to policy making, which will conduct policy relevant research and analysis to the highest standards.

