

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

INDEXED

*Population dynamics -
Health status indicators
Europe*

STUDY ON TRENDS IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION;
HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Report on a Planning Meeting

Copenhagen
7-9 October 1980



ICP/MCH 025(3)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION

1980

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Opening and organization of the work of the meeting.....	1
Outline of the study.....	1
List of indicators.....	2
Structure and content of country reports and working papers.....	3
Provisional programme of the technical meeting.....	3
Timetable for the implementation of the project.....	4
Annex I List of participants.....	5
Annex II Provisional programme of the technical meeting.....	6

Opening and organization of the work of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Dr A. Wojtczak, Director of Research, Planning and Human Resources, on behalf of the Regional Director, Dr Leo A. Kaspio. Dr Wojtczak emphasized the importance of the study on trends in the demographic structure in the WHO European Region in providing the necessary background information for different actions of the Regional Office and in particular for the regional strategy for attaining health for all by the year 2000.

Dr A. Klinger was elected Chairman and Professor E. Heikkinen, Rapporteur. The participants of the meeting are listed in the Annex.

Professor Z. Brzezinski introduced the scope and purpose of the study. He pointed out that the demographic trends throughout the European Region were similar despite rapid changes in the demographic structure of the Member States, and wide variation in their age compositions. In addition to numerical changes in the demographic structure, the social and economic roles and functions of various population groups, such as women and elderly people, are changing. Such changes have important implications for all sectors of public and community life including health, social and related services.

It was therefore proposed to undertake a study on trends in the demographic structure in the European Region in order to (1) assess changes in the demographic structure with reference to social and economic roles and functions of population groups in countries with different patterns of population dynamics and development; (2) examine the way in which different countries cope with such changes and the measures they employ to secure the development and wellbeing of the total population and vulnerable groups; (3) make recommendations on developing health, social and related services according to the population needs arising from demographic changes.

Professor Brzezinski described a parallel project on projections of the future health situation in Europe which aims to predict the development of the health situation and its implications for health and social services.

The purpose of the present meeting was to prepare for the planning and implementation of the study and the subsequent organization of a technical meeting at which the results of the study would be presented. These results together with working papers on selected problem areas, would be used as a basis for recommendations for further action in developing health and social policies in the Member States.

The agenda of the meeting was discussed and it was agreed that the meeting would concentrate on the following topics: (1) outline of the study, indicating the information required from the participating countries as well as the structure and content of the above-mentioned working papers; (2) provisional programme for the technical meeting; (3) identification of experts as potential authors of the working papers; (4) preparation of a plan of action for the implementation of the project.

Outline of the study

A discussion followed about the aims and content of the study. There was general agreement that the following subject areas should be covered by the study: mortality, fertility, family formation, migration, and population structure.

It was felt that different groups of people show considerable variation in the above subject areas based on differences in the level of education, occupational status and lifestyles. These factors should be incorporated into the study and, whenever possible, figures should be given for different occupational and socioeconomic groups.

The main source of information will be based on the existing national statistics (census data, vital statistics) and, in addition, results from specific surveys might be needed.

The historical development of the last 20 years will be investigated as well as the future projections for the next 20 years.

The demographic trends will be examined in 5-year age groups (unless indicated otherwise) by age and sex, starting from the year 1960 and predicting the development to the year 2000. The traditional definition of terms will be used and if in some countries the use of terms differs from the common practice the terms should be explained separately. The estimation of the reliability of the data should be included in the country reports.

List of indicators

The group examined the selection of indicators in relation to the above-mentioned subject areas. Consideration was given to the list of suggested indicators of progress towards achieving health for all by the year 2000 (EUR/RC30/8). On the basis of the examination the following list of indicators was suggested. The items should be given by sex whenever applicable.

1. Mortality

(a) Life expectancy at:

- birth
- 1 year
- 5 years
- 20 years
- 40 years
- 50 years
- 60 years
- 70 years
- 80 years

(b) Infant mortality

(c) Perinatal mortality (see also birth weight, point 2(h))

(d) Specific mortality rates for major causes (e.g., accidents, suicide, cardiovascular disease, malignant neoplasms)

Differences between urban and rural areas, occupational groups and regions should be given if relevant information exists:

2. Fertility

(a) Net reproduction rate

(b) Age-specific fertility rate (below 25 years by year, then 25-29 years, 30-34 years, etc.)

(c) Age structure of mothers at birth

(d) Percentage of pregnancies before 15 years

(e) Age-specific abortion rate

(f) Age-specific sterilization rate

(g) Use of modern contraceptive methods by age

(h) Differences between geographical areas, occupational groups, educational levels, parity, weight of live-born babies in selected population groups

3. Family formation

Information is required both for individuals and for households.

Individuals

(a) Distribution by marital status by age (legally married, divorced, widowed, single)

(b) If possible information about cohabitation should be given

(c) Mean age of first marriage

(d) Mean age of remarriage

(e) Age-specific rate of first marriage

(f) Age-specific rate of remarriage

(g) Mean age of divorce

(h) Age-specific rate of divorce

(i) Household membership status (family member, other relative or non-relative, living alone, living in institution)

Households

(a) Household composition

(b) Household size

(c) Employment status of family members

4. Migration

External

- (a) Number of emigrants in 1960, 1965, etc.
- (b) Number of immigrants in 1960, 1965, etc.

Both external and internal

- (c) Migration after the previous census date.

If possible, information should be provided about the occupational status of the emigrants.

5. Population structure

- (a) Sex
- (b) Age
- (c) Urban-rural residence (if possible by the size of locality)
- (d) Educational level
- (e) Employment status by age
- (f) Occupational groups, as categorized by ILO
- (g) Social groups if available

Structure and content of country reports and working papers

For the preparation of the technical meeting two kinds of information will be provided, namely, country reports and working papers.

The country reports will be prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned indicators. The length of the reports will be limited to 20-30 pages plus the necessary number of annexed tabulations and graphs. The reports should be written in one of the official languages of the European Region (English, French, German and Russian). The working papers and the country reports should describe the main demographic trends and perspectives in the European Region, vulnerable (risk) groups with respect to differences in geographic areas and socioeconomic conditions, and the consequences and implications of the trends and perspectives for policy making. While dealing with demographic trends and their implications for social and health services one should recognize the two-way relationship between the demographic trends and socioeconomic conditions. In the light of the approved aim of the working papers, the following items were suggested for the themes of the working papers:

1. Trends in the demographic structure in the European Region: mortality
2. Trends in the demographic structure in the European Region: fertility
3. Trends in the demographic structure in the European Region: family formation
4. Effect of the main demographic trends on young people (under 20 years)
5. Effect of the main demographic trends on adult people (20-59 years)
6. Effect of the main demographic trends on elderly people (60 years and over)
7. Synopsis of the past and future trends in the demographic structure (based on the country reports)

The working papers will be prepared by invited experts. The length of each paper should be about ten pages plus the necessary number of annexed tabulations and graphs. It was recommended that the latest issue of the UN World Population Prospects should be made available to the authors of the working papers to be used as a guideline for their work.

Provisional programme of the technical meeting

The group outlined the programme of the technical meeting. It was felt that about five days would be required for successful analysis and discussion of the collected material. The suggested programme is presented in Annex II.

Timetable for the implementation of the project

The group examined various possibilities of timing the project. It was felt that nearly one year would be needed for the preparation of the working papers, which means that the earliest possible time for the meeting would be the beginning of 1982.

On the basis of its considerations the group suggested the following timetable for the implementation of the project:

October 1980	Report of the Planning Meeting
November 1980	Call for working papers
January 1981	Invitations and call for country reports
September 1981	Deadline for working papers and country reports
October 1981	Meeting of the Steering Group
January 1982	Deadline for the summary of country reports
February 1982	Technical meeting

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

TEMPORARY ADVISERS

Professor Z. Brzezinski

Institute of Social Medicine, Medical Academy, Warsaw, Poland

Professor E. Heikkinen

Department of Public Health, University of Jyväskylä, Finland (Rapporteur)

Dr A. Klinger

Chief, Demographic Statistics Department, Central Statistical Office, Budapest, Hungary
(Chairman)

Dr P. Paillat

Chief, Department of Social Demography, National Institute for Demographic Studies, France

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Regional Office for Europe

Ms W. Haddad

Regional Officer for Family Planning

Dr H.M. Hermanova

Regional Officer for Care of the Aged

Dr D.M. Macfadyen

Manager, Global Programme for Care of the Aged

Dr M. Wagner

Regional Officer for Maternal and Child Health

Headquarters

Mr S. Brögger

Health Systems Analyst, Division of Family Health

Annex II

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE TECHNICAL MEETING

1st day	Opening Introduction		
	Session I	Mortality	a.m.
	Session II	Fertility	p.m.
2nd day	Session III	Family formation	a.m.
	Session IV	Synopsis of country reports	p.m.
3rd day	Session V	Young people	a.m.
	Session VI	Adult people	p.m.
4th day	Session VII	Elderly people	a.m.
		Drafting of summary and recommendations	p.m.
5th day	Closing Session	Summary Recommendations	a.m.