

DEMIFER INTERIM REPORT - SUMMARY

The project is about “Demography and migration flows affecting European regions and cities”. Europe is ageing and net in-migration, rather than natural increase, has become the main driver of population growth. Only 6 regions (out of 285) have a declining number of over-75s, whereas 28% of the regions have declining work forces. For 2000-2006, the researchers estimate that Europe’s fertility overall was on average 1.48 children per woman, continuing the trend of the last 40 years of below replacement level fertility rates. However, there are signs of a slight increase in fertility in northern and Western Europe in the new millennium. For the 2000-2006, period life expectancy in Europe for men was 75, and for women 81.2. Again there is a long term trend to improvement which averages about 2 years per decade for men and slightly less for women.

The project maps variations across Europe’s countries and regions in fertility, mortality and total migration. Since 2000 only 35% of Europe’s regions have experienced both positive natural increase and positive net migration. In the 1990s the figure was 42%. Variations in fertility and mortality seem to be mainly a national phenomenon, suggesting links to national policies on health and families. The strongest recent growth has been in Ireland, Cyprus and Spain. Overall, Western Europe is gaining population, but central and eastern Europe is losing people. The UK, with 61.2M people in 2008 is growing at around 0.5% a year, compared with the EU27 average of 0.37%. However, there are regions within the UK that have been losing population.

Population projections are at the heart of the project and the team is using a model called MULTIPOLES that is a multi-regional cohort component approach. Migration is built into the model – between regions, between countries and to/from outside of the ESPON area. Labour force modelling is also built in. Currently the plan is to run the model for NUTS2 regions: if regions get too small the risk of statistical errors increases.

Three simulations are planned, each covering the period 2005 - 2050. One of these is based on the status quo – i.e. no changes in age-specific fertility, mortality and migration rates, no changes in net migration from the rest of the world, and constant age-specific labour force participation rates. The second simulation is based on no migration – all the other factors are set as in the status quo model but all migration is set to zero. The third simulation will assume free movement within the ESPON area but no migration to/from the rest of the world. Of course, there is no pretence that these are likely to be “real” situations – rather the aim is to show the long term effect of key factors.

Scenarios are also planned, based on the dimensions shown in the figure below:

ECONOMY-ENVIRONMENT	Growth enabled by technical and social innovation	GROWING SOCIAL EUROPE High Growth/Collectivism	EXPANDING MARKET EUROPE High Growth/Individualism
	Growth limited by environmental constraints	LIMITED SOCIAL EUROPE Low Growth/Collectivism	CHALLENGED MARKET EUROPE Low Growth/Individualism
		Collectivism	Individualism

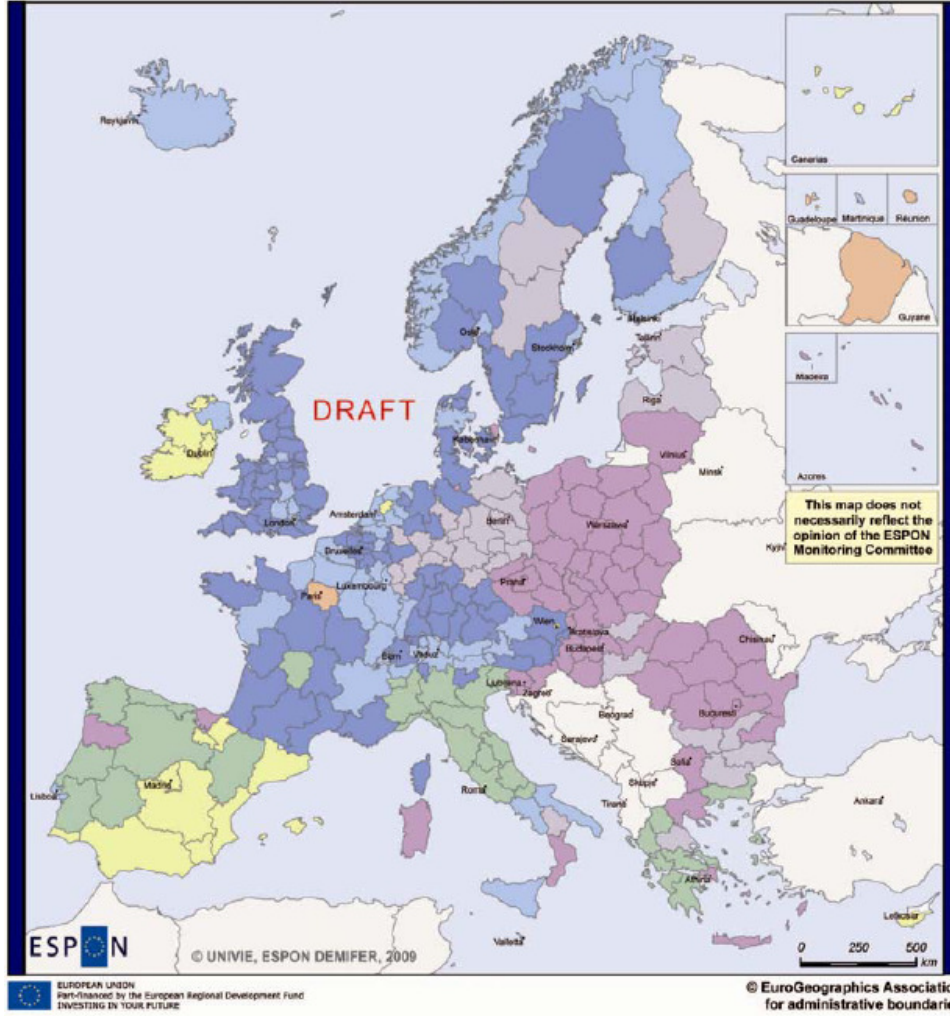
DISTRIBUTION-FAIRNESS

The argument is that each of these four scenarios is based on policies that will impact on demography and migration. For example, the “Expanding Market Europe” scenario assumes relaxed immigration policies to enable business to access the labour supply it needs, while in “Limited Social Europe” concern with “over-population” implies migration restrictions.

A typology of European regions is being developed using a variety of clustering techniques to analyse data. Seven clusters have been identified:

- “Young Potentials” – 16 regions with a youthful age structure and positive natural increase and net-migration. Includes Ireland but no UK regions.
- “Euro Standard” – 85 regions, including much of UK. Only small variations from ESPON averages on all variables. These regions are slightly older than the ESPON average, and negative (but not dramatic) demographic imbalance that is offset by a positive migratory balance so that total population is increasing.
- “Family Potentials” – 55 regions which are younger than the ESPON average and have the highest overall natural balance. Migratory balance varies but is generally positive. There are regions in England in this category (see map).
- “Challenge of Decline” – 31 regions with a shrinking population and a high proportion of elderly people. The most problematic of these regions are in Eastern Europe.
- “Transitions” – 59 regions which have a younger than average age structure, but generally a slightly negative demographic and migratory balance so that overall they are slightly losing population.
- “Euromediterranean” – 31 regions that have a higher than average share of older people, but also a high proportion of the population aged 20-39, though births are below average. There is net in-migration, though it varies widely.
- “Specials” – just 7 regions (three of them French overseas territories) but including the Paris region and Inner London (where 20-39 year olds make up 43% of the population).

Basic typology of demographic status 2005



AVERAGE VALUES PER CATEGORY

Classification	type	cases	Age Group	Age Group	Natural Population	Net Migration
			20-29 (%)	65+ (%)	Increase (per 1000)	(per 1000)
Young Potentials	1	16	32,04	14,71	3,37	17,09
Euro Standard	2	85	25,51	17,73	-0,15	4,14
Family Potentials	3	55	28,04	14,69	3,48	2,02
Challenge of Decline	4	31	26,84	19,16	-3,59	-1,89
Transitions	5	59	30,45	14,36	-0,78	-0,04
Euromediterranean	6	31	28,12	21,24	-2,30	8,84
Specials (Outliers)	7	7	32,21	9,60	12,30	-1,47
	EU 27+4	264	27,66	16,61	0,32	3,09

Regional level: NUTS2 (2006); UKM NUTS1
Origin of data: eurostat, NSIs, project estimations
Source: ESPON 2013 database

Relevant previous ESPON projects: ESPON 2006, project 1.1.4, “Demographic Trends”. Also see ESPON (2008) “Territorial Dynamics in Europe: Trends in Population Development”, ESPON Territorial Observation No.1.