

EMPL: Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

The question of an ageing population.

Faced with an increasing median age and prospects of over 15% percent of the EU population being above 80 in the year 2100, what can the EU do to keep the economy strong despite a shrinking workforce? How can the EU prevent or reduce the impact of a collapse of the pension system and minimise old-age poverty, especially for women?

Preparation Module

Dear Delegates,

as your Committee Presidents, we want to welcome you to what might be your first MEP session and the start of an incredible journey. You will meet many new people, discuss various topics and have very interesting debates.

As you already know, you will be a member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. Our Committee issue is, even though still a few years from becoming noticeable, a crucial one, as the ageing population will be a burden future workers (such as ourselves) will have to bear, if no precautions are taken in the near future.

Since writing a good resolution is a lot of hard work, it is essential that you are motivated, willing to work together as a team and of course it is crucial, that you come well prepared.

To simplify this process, we have set up a list of useful links. Please use them to prepare your committee work and to gain insight into the topic. Of course, you are free to use other sources of information as well, but try to use credible ones.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

We are looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,

Your CPs

KEY TERMS

Please make sure you are aware of the definitions of the following terms and what they encompass. Base your research off of these, and not only the links which follow.

Demography: the study of statistics such as births, deaths, income, or the incidence of disease, which illustrate the changing structure of human populations.

Pension: a regular payment made by the state to people of or above the official retirement age

and to some widows and disabled people.

Old-age poverty: living with extremely low income in old age.

Dependent: having to rely on others.

Dependency ratio: the proportion between working people and dependent ones.

Shrinking workforce: the dependency ratio increasing.

Horizon Europe: planned 7-year scientific research initiative which tackles issues such as but not limited to an ageing population, sustainability and cancer (2021-2027)

SDG: Global Social Development Goals designed by the UN, which include actions that tackle - amongst others - the issue of an ageing society

GENERAL

Short summary of the issue of an ageing population:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

Demographic Data on ageing population:

<https://iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/WorldPopulation/PublicationsMediaCoverage/ModelsData/AgingDemDataSheet2020.pdf>

Possible solutions, which you could build on and develop further ones:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2016/05/02/two-solutions-to-the-challenges-of-population-aging/>

CURRENT MEDIA COVERAGE

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-37294439>

<https://www.thenational.ae/business/ageing-populations-to-increase-finance-requirements-of-advanced-economies-1.987947>

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/jul/28/older-workers-retirement-age-economic-growth-wages>

While aging population is often seen as a problem, the following article shows possible opportunities for the economy:

<https://www.ft.com/content/2dcbddc4-70b3-11e9-bf5c-6eeb837566c5>

EU DOCUMENTS

The 2018 Ageing Report - Economic & Budgetary Projections for the 28 EU Member States (2016 - 2070):

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy_-_finance/ip079_en.pdf

This is a comprehensive report on the economic effects of an ageing population - please make sure to skim the Executive Summary on pages 1-14 but feel free to read up on the more detailed parts as well.

Fact Sheets on the EU's Employment Policy:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ftu/pdf/en/FTU_2.3.3.pdf

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ftu/pdf/en/FTU_2.3.1.pdf

Horizon Europe Initiatives related to ageing population (please read “Health and Care Systems R&I Partnership” and “Innovative Health Initiative p.28-33)

https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/non_communicable_diseases/docs/ev_20190607_co10_en.pdf

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Article about the impact of an ageing population on the economy:

<https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/8950/society/impact-ageing-population-economy/>

Challenges of population ageing from a central bank perspective (Public lecture by the Governor of the Bank of Spain):

https://www.bis.org/review/r200304_b.pdf

Responding well to the challenge of an ageing and shrinking workforce. European Union policies in support of Member State efforts to Retain, Reinforce & Re-integrate Older Workers in employment:

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/86ff/96cc3ee7a96c16a9ca5065d880b418754315.pdf>

Future labour market challenges posed by an aging population (please read the boxes but feel free to skim over the rest of the document as well)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/wow3.127>

PENSIONS

Population ageing: Pension policies alone will not prevent the decline in the relative size of the labour force:

<https://voxeu.org/article/effect-population-ageing-pensions>

This article relies on aforementioned “2018 Ageing Report” and approaches it from an economists point of view focusing on the effects of an ageing population to the pension systems.

OECD Pensions at a Glance 2005 - Part 1 Chapter 1: Pension-system Typology

https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/finance-and-investment/oecd-pensions-at-a-glance-2005/pension-system-typology_pension_glance-2005-3-en

This Chapter of an OECD publication explains the terminology and structure of pension systems in the OECD member states.

OECD Pensions at a Glance 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1787/b6d3dcfc-en>

This is the updated version of aforementioned publication, which covers pensions. Most relevant to our committee issue are **pages 18 to 24** (Population ageing: demographic trends, income and employment). Additionally, chapter 4 is interesting for further information on pension systems, but is not required to read.

A United States Social Security Bulletin on ageing population:

<https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v66n4/v66n4p37.pdf>

SOCIAL

Improving care for older people:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/older-people/improving-care-for-older-people/>

Income Poverty in Old Age: An Emerging Development Priority:

https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ag_eing/documents/PovertyIssuePaperAgeing.pdf

This UN publication does not explicitly cover ageing population, but provides some more information on old-age poverty nonetheless.

Global actions for healthy ageing based on UNs Social Development Goals (SDG)

<https://www.who.int/ageing/sdgs/en/>

This WHO publication covers the entire issue of an ageing population, including the medical and social aspect. While you should definitely read the actions concerning employment, pension and economy, reading the whole publication will give you a broader understanding of the issue and its background.