



Demographic Trends and Social and Economic Challenges in SEE

Dates	28-30 October 2012
Venue	RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Zagreb
Background	<p>We are living in a world of unprecedented demographic change. Today, demographic change is a global phenomenon resulting from two almost universal trends: declining fertility and increasing life expectancy. After growing very slowly for most of human history, the world's population more than doubled in the last half century to reach 6 billion in late 1999, while in late 2011 it surpassed 7 billion. Migration is very important in determining population size and composition at the local level. The speed and scale with which population movements can take place means that net migration can outweigh fertility and mortality changes in some areas. Today the European Union and associated countries have over 500 million inhabitants. Of them, some 42 million are regular international migrants. Thus, demographic change has widespread economic and social implications, while social, demographic and economic factors are closely linked to environmental issues. Social norms and policies may either enhance or hinder efforts to achieve sustainable solutions in different state areas. The significant regional divergence in demographic patterns will most likely generate a substantial asymmetric socio-economic impact on the European countries.</p> <p>Therefore, the information about a country's population, growth, characteristics, living conditions, spatial distribution and physical resources is vital for policy formulation, planning and implementation. In that regard, the event aims to provide a global overview of demographic trends and changes, as well as the projected population change on European territories and in the SEE countries.</p>
Purpose & Objectives	<p>The purpose of the Roundtable is to present demographic changes in the SEE countries, social and economic challenges, main trends and related policies. The event would provide the opportunity to explore and discuss demographic trends that occurred over the last decade in the SEE.</p> <p>The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give an overview of demographic trends in the EU, relevant EU policies and regulations and bodies responsible for demography in the EU;• To depict and discuss the impact of demographic changes and social security in the SEE;• To explain and discuss opportunities for tackling demographic changes;• To highlight the importance of sustainable development as a response to demographic changes and to promote EU programmes and initiatives aimed at responding to demographic changes;• To share experiences and national points of view of the SEE countries.
Participants	<p>There will be approximately up to 25 participants - three national representatives from each of the signatory countries of the RACVIAC Agreement, who are officials at the decision-making levels, and experts representing relevant ministries/agencies dealing with the topic. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media will be invited.</p>
Methodology	<p>The event will last for two working days and will comprise lectures, presentations and discussions. The official working language of the event will be English. The event materials will be issued in CD format at the end of the event.</p>
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