



The impact of demographic change in Europe

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic changed Europe and the world within the blink of an eye. It will leave a lasting impact on the way we live and work together and it came at a time when Europe had already been going through a period of profound demographic and societal change.

Demographic trends

1

In 2018, life expectancy at birth increased to **78.2 YEARS** for men and **83.7** for women.



This growth is projected to continue: men born in 2070 are expected to live **86 YEARS**, and women **90**

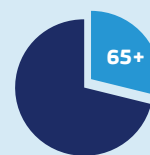
2

In 2018, the average number of childbirths per woman was **1.55** and their median age at childbirth **31.3**.

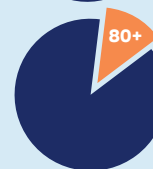


3

By 2070...
the share of people **65 years or older** is projected to be



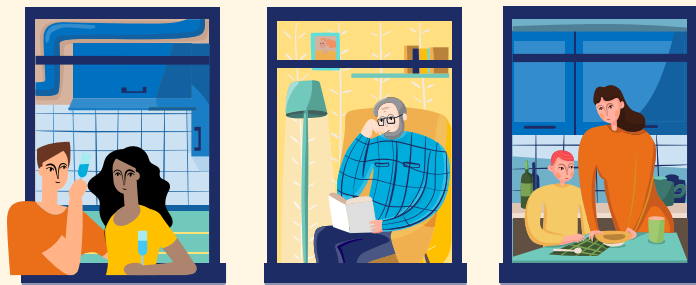
30.3%
(compared to 20.3% in 2019)



the share of people **80 years or older** is projected to be **13.2%** (compared to 5.8% in 2019)



4 In the EU as a whole, the composition of our households is changing – households composed of two parents with children are being joined by households consisting of people living alone, single parents or couples without children.



5 Some of us opt to move around or live abroad, but the size of these flows is volatile and can change quickly.



The Commission's Demography Report presents the main drivers of demographic change and the impact they are having across Europe. It launches a process that will help identify concrete actions and solutions, mindful of lessons learned from COVID 19, to support people, regions and communities that are most affected and to enable them to adapt to changing realities.

6 The share of Europe's population in the world is shrinking and by 2070 it will account for just about **4%** of the world's population.



2020



2070

Impacts of demographic change

- 1 Europe's **working-age population is shrinking** and we need to find ways to sustain economic growth by bringing more people into jobs and increasing productivity.
- 2 To deal with Europe's ageing society, our health and care systems will have to adapt further and we will have to consider how to fund **higher age-related public spending**.
- 3 Demographic challenges often vary significantly between different parts of the same country. With some regions likely to experience **rapid population change**, this will lead to new opportunities and challenges, from investment to infrastructure and accessibility to access to services. **Finding new solutions** to support people through change will be essential.
- 4 Demographic change can also impact **Europe's position in the world**. It's share of global population and GDP will become comparatively smaller. This makes the need for Europe to be united, stronger and more strategic all the more important.
- 5 Demographic change and the **twin green and digital transitions** often affect, support or accelerate each other - strategic foresight will therefore be an essential tool to predict and prepare policies to address these issues.

The findings of the Commission's Demography Report show that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Policy-making needs to zoom into the reality on the ground. The European Union, Member States and regions have a shared interest in responding to demographic change for the benefit of all Europeans. Demography is a cross-cutting issue and will be a factor to help steer Europe's recovery from the crisis and provide us with insights as we build a more resilient, sustainable and fair Union.

Next steps

