What are the challenges?
82 EU regions (cca 30% of the EU population) affected by:

- Rapidly shrinking labour force
- Low share of higher education
- Departure of young people

Working age population:

- Decreased by 3.5 million persons between 2015 and 2020 in the EU.
- Further decline expected of an additional 35 million persons by 2050

Risk of stagnating into a talent development trap (insufficient skilled workers to offset the impact of the demographic transition)
A boost for EU Talents:
How will the ‘Talent booster mechanism’ support regions?

1. A **new pilot** project in 2023 to help **regions** to develop and implement strategies to train, attract and retain talents.

2. **A new initiative ‘Smart adaptation of regions to demographic transition’** to support regions tackling demographic transition locally.

3. Support from **Technical Support Instrument** (TSI) to address the shrinking working-age population and the lack of skills.

4. **Direct financial assistance** from Cohesion Policy programmes to stimulate innovation and opportunities for high skills jobs.

5. **A new call for innovative actions under the ‘European Urban Initiative’** to test place-based solutions led by cities to develop, retain or attract talents.

6. **Signposting EU initiatives** to inform interested regions about EU policies in the areas of research and innovation, education, and youth mobility.

7. **Exchanging experiences and disseminating good practices.**

8. **Improving analytical knowledge** to support evidence-based policies on regional development and migration.
The share of employed people working from home in the EU jumped from 1 in 7 people in 2019, to 1 in 5 in 2020. In 2021, almost every fourth person was working from home.

By 2050, the share of people +65 will be around 30% compared to around 20% today.

Following a drop during the COVID-19 pandemic, the gradual increase in life expectancy has resumed. In 2021, the life expectancy in the EU was estimated at 82.8 years for women and 77.2 years for men.

The number of households has continued to grow, while the average household size has continued to fall. Households composed by a single person have grown the fastest, to over 70 million in 2021.

In 2020 the average number of childbirths was 1.5, which is well below the value of 2.1 required to maintain a stable population.

The share of Europe’s population in the world is shrinking and it will account for around 4% of the world’s population in 2070 compared to 6% today.

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