FISCAL POLICY AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE – experiences of various countries

Discussion with domestic and foreign experts: 22 June 2016, Ljubljana (Hotel Union)

How to comprehensively address the challenges of an ageing society? How to ensure its funding in the light of fiscal sustainability? Is Slovenia facing different challenges of the ageing population than other developed countries? Does population ageing only bring higher costs or does it also create opportunities?

These are some of the issues that will be addressed in the discussion Fiscal Policy and Demographic Change – experiences of various countries. Besides the representative from IMAD (Mr Aleš Delakorda), the discussion will feature Boris Majcen (Institute for Economic Research), Werner Ebert (Ministry of Finance, Germany) and Ms Anda Patarau (European Commission).

Programme

8:30–9:00 Welcome to participants – registration

9:00–9:15 Keynote address: Zoran Stančič, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia, and Boštjan Vasle, Director IMAD

9:15–9:35 Overview of fiscal policies in Slovenia
Boštjan Vasle, IMAD Assessment of Slovenia’s fiscal policy and its key challenges

9:35–11:00 Discussion: Economic consequences of demographic changes

11:00–11:15 Summary of key findings
Participants:
Boštjan Vasle, Director IMAD. Boštjan Vasle graduated from the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, in 1994 and completed a Master's Degree in monetary policy at the Central European University in Budapest in 1997. He had started his professional career at the Ministry of Finance, worked as an analyst at the Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development and assumed its leadership in 2007.

Zoran Stančič, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia. Zoran Stančič joined the European Commission in 2004 as Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General Research. In the period from 2009 to 2015 he was Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General Communications Networks, Content and Technology. From 2000 to 2004 he served as State Secretary for Science at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Slovenia). Before 2000 he worked as Deputy Director of the ZRC SAZU and established himself as a prominent researcher. He gave guest lectures at several faculties of the University of Ljubljana and was a research fellow or visiting professor at the Sorbonne, the University of Trieste, the Boston University and the University of Reading.

Aleš Delakorda has been with IMAD since May 2015 as Senior Economist in the Department of Macroeconomic Analysis and Economic Policy. His main fields of interest are fiscal and structural policies. Before joining IMAD, he was employed in the Analysis and Research Department of the Bank of Slovenia, where he spent 17 years. Among other duties he was a member of the Working Group on Forecasting and of the Monetary Policy Committee of the ESCB. He is the author of analytical papers and published contributions in the fields of monetary policy transmission channels, exchange rate, investment and saving behaviour and of fiscal policy.

Boris Majcen is director of the Institute for Economic Research. He received his PhD from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. In addition to performing scientific research on the development and practical application of different model tools (static and dynamic microsimulation models, static and dynamic general equilibrium models), he analyses the economic implications of population ageing and the long-term sustainability of public finances (as head of domestic projects and a partner in OP EU projects). He is head of the Slovenian group in the multinational infrastructure project SHARE and expert in pensions at the European Social Policy Network. Boris Majcen is also a member of the government ageing working group (AWG group) and a member of government groups for the preparation of the white paper on pension reform and the strategy of a long-living society, the reforms of the long-term care and health care systems and the system of social transfers.

Werner Ebert is deputy head of division in the German Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin. His current working fields include the long-term fiscal sustainability in the context of demographic change, quality of public finances as well as international aspects of economic policy coordination. He is member of the Ageing Working Group of the EU, before that he headed the secretariat of the president of the Economic Policy Committee of the EU within the Ministry. He was involved in the development and implementation of the German debt brake and several reforms of fiscal federalism (1999, 2005 and 2009). Werner Ebert obtained a PhD from the University of Wuerzburg where he worked in the areas of evolutionary economics and theory of economic policy.
Anda Patarau studied at the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest and the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona and gained the postgraduate diploma in economics from the University of Cambridge. She works in the European Commission Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs. Her main responsibilities include economic analysis on fiscal sustainability and the impact of ageing-related issues, conceptual work on macroeconomic imbalances, research on housing, and input and coordination of DG ECFIN’s contribution to the work of the EPC and its sub-structures – the ageing working group and the structural reforms (Lisbon related) methodology working group (LIME). Before that she worked at the European Central Bank and the Volksbank Romania.