



1st Forum of the Crete Centre on Population Dynamics & Economic Prosperity Draft Agenda

4 November 2024

9:00 Registration and light breakfast

9:30 Welcome remarks

Speakers

- **Symeon Tsomokos**, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece
- **Stavros Arnaoutakis**, Governor of Crete, Greece
- **Panagiotis Simandirakis**, Mayor of Chania, Greece
- **George Pagoulatos**, Ambassador–Permanent Representative of Greece, OECD
- **Aris Alexopoulos**, Head, Crete Centre, OECD

10:00 Opening keynote address

Speakers

- **Sophia Zacharaki**, Minister of Social Cohesion and Family, Hellenic Republic
- **Yoshiki Takeuchi**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

10:30 Statement

- **Akis Skertsos**, Minister of State Responsible for the Coordination of Government Policies, Hellenic Republic

10:45 Keynote speech: The economics of demographics: Shaping tomorrow

Most economies are undergoing major demographic shifts, underpinned by changes in the size and structure of population, combined with growing migration flows. Such trends and their drivers influence growth and inclusiveness through various channels, including labour supply, skills, investment, technological change and fiscal balances. Understanding such dynamics is crucial in view of their profound consequences for economies, societies and individual well-being, as well as for developing appropriate policy responses. Along with challenges, demographic shifts come with opportunities if timely action for adaptation is taken.

Introduction

- **Filiz Unsal**, Head, Structural Policy and Research, Economics Department, OECD

Speaker

- **Álvaro Pereira**, Chief Economist, OECD

11:15 Coffee break



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11:45 Session 1: Demographic changes: Drivers, challenges and policy options

The session offers a comprehensive perspective on population dynamics, with a particular focus on population ageing, a key demographic trend facing most economies. The discussion explores the drivers and socio-economic challenges posed by population ageing, particularly in terms of productivity growth, living standards, inclusiveness, and fiscal sustainability. Appropriate policy responses could help address ageing-related challenges and ensure successful demographic transitions. The potential role of immigration in mitigating the effects of a shrinking working-age population, especially in the short and medium term, and its impact on fostering entrepreneurship and growth will receive special attention.

Setting the scene

- **Tito Boeri**, Professor of Economics, Bocconi University, Italy

Panelists

- **Sophia Zacharaki**, Minister of Social Cohesion and Family, Hellenic Republic
- **Domna Michailidou**, Former Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hellenic Republic
- **S (Subu) V Subramanian**, Professor of Population Health and Geography, Harvard University, United States
- **Michalis Vlastarakis**, Group Chief Marketing Officer, Eurobank SA, Greece

Chair

- **Maria Gavouneli**, Chair, Crete Centre Advisory Board, OECD

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Session 2: Ageing and productivity: Can we get older *and* more productive?

The session discusses the channels through which population ageing can affect productivity growth and potential policy measures to address the ageing challenge. Better understanding the links is essential to maintain living standards and inclusiveness and ensure strong growth rates in the decades to come. Supporting healthy ageing, boosting employment, job quality and labour mobility in all age groups, and promoting older workers' productivity by further developing lifelong learning and fostering an age-friendly management culture are important options to meet the challenges of ageing societies. Automation technologies, including AI, have large potential to boost productivity in a context of shrinking working-age populations.

Setting the scene: Enhancing productivity and growth in an ageing society: Key mechanisms and policy options

- **Alain de Serres**, Acting Director, Policy and Research Branch, Economics Department, OECD

Panelists

- **Niki Kerameus**, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hellenic Republic
- **Katharina Spiess**, Director, Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB), & Professor for Population Economics, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
- **Claudia Serrano**, Former Minister of Labour, Chile
- **Carolin Nerlich**, Senior Lead Economist, Climate Change Centre, European Central Bank

Chair

- **George Pagoulatos**, Ambassador–Permanent Representative of Greece, OECD



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15:15 Session 3: Ageing and public finances: Can we afford to grow old?

The session focuses on the key challenges to public finances arising from population ageing, as it is expected to be associated with a sizeable rise in public spending, notably on pensions and health and long-term care, while also denting government revenue, threatening fiscal sustainability. Ageing also impacts debt dynamics through its effect on the interest rate-growth differential. Such effects can be mitigated at least in part through comprehensive policy action, including measures to contain spending and/or raise tax revenue, as well as structural reforms to boost employment and potential growth through reforms in the labour market, adult training and measures for the better integration of immigrants.

Setting the scene: Addressing the fiscal impact of population ageing

- **Filiz Unsal**, Head, Structural Policy and Research, Economics Department, OECD

Panelists

- **Panos Tsakoglou**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hellenic Republic
- **Jonathan Cribb**, Associated Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies, United Kingdom
- **Angela D'Elia**, Head of Unit, European Commission, Belgium
- **Nikos Vettas**, Professor of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business, & General Director, Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE), Greece

Chair

- **Aris Alexopoulos**, Head, Crete Centre, OECD

16:30 Session 4: Migrant entrepreneurship: How can migrants drive growth?

The session explores the potential contributions of immigrants to the economic growth of host countries. This includes addressing labour shortages in the short-to-medium term and enhancing the human capital of the native workforce. A key aspect to consider is the impact of entrepreneurial activity by immigrants, which can lead to the formation of new firms and an increase in labour demand. High-skilled immigrants, in particular, can significantly boost innovation. Public policies and reforms that promote migrant entrepreneurship and support the expansion of migrant businesses are vital in helping immigrants realise their full potential.

Setting the scene: Migrant entrepreneurship in OECD countries

- **Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head, International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Panelists

- **Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos**, Minister of Migration and Asylum, Hellenic Republic
- **Ibrahim Awad**, Professor of Practice & Director of Center for Migration & Refugee Studies, The American University in Cairo, Egypt
- **Kristin Fabbe**, Chair in Business & Comparative Politics, Florence School of Transnational Governance, EUI, Italy
- **Alexandra Tragaki**, Professor in Economic Demography, Department of Geography, Harokopio University of Athens, Greece

Chair

- **Mark Pearson**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

17:45 Wrap-up of the discussion and future work of OECD

- **Mark Pearson**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

18:00 Closing remarks

- **Maria Gavouneli**, Chair, Crete Centre Advisory Board, OECD