

**Regional Hearing For Europe**  
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**Fact Sheet**



**GLOBAL COMMISSION ON  
 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION (GCIM)**

COMMISSION MONDIALE SUR LES MIGRATIONS INTERNATIONALES (CMMI)  
 COMISIÓN MUNDIAL SOBRE LAS MIGRACIONES INTERNACIONALES (CMMI)  
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**Population growth in 2003-2004**

According to Eurostat's mid-year estimates, the population of the EU25 grew by 1.88 million in 2003, with 90% of this increase, or 1.7 million, due to net migration.

2003-2004 (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Net increase
<b>EU 25</b>			
Austria	0	32	<b>32</b>
Belgium	5	35	<b>40</b>
Cyprus	3	13	<b>16</b>
Czech Republic	-18	26	<b>8</b>
Denmark	7	7	<b>14</b>
Estonia	-5	0	<b>-5</b>
Finland	8	6	<b>13</b>
France	211	55	<b>266</b>
Germany	-143	145	<b>2</b>
Greece	0	35	<b>35</b>
Hungary	-41	16	<b>-26</b>
Ireland	33	28	<b>61</b>
Italy	-28	511	<b>483</b>
Latvia	-11	-1	<b>-12</b>
Lithuania	-10	-6	<b>-17</b>
Luxembourg	1	2	<b>3</b>
Malta	1	2	<b>3</b>
Netherlands	60	3	<b>62</b>
Poland	-14	-14	<b>-28</b>
Portugal	4	64	<b>67</b>
Slovakia	-1	1	<b>1</b>
Slovenia	-2	3	<b>1</b>
Spain	53	595	<b>648</b>
Sweden	6	29	<b>35</b>
United Kingdom	84	103	<b>187</b>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,889</b>

Source: Eurostat - News Release 105/2004



Map of the Council of Europe Member States

Demographic trends in other Council of Europe countries vary from natural growth (Turkey) to natural decrease (Russian Federation). Norway and Switzerland show a population increase on account of net migration.

2003-2004 (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Net increase
<b>Non-EU25 Members of the Council of Europe</b>			
Albania	41	--	<b>41</b>
Armenia	10	-8	<b>2</b>
Azerbaijan	64	-3	<b>61</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	--	<b>4</b>
Bulgaria	-45	--	<b>-45</b>
Croatia	-11	9	<b>-2</b>
FYROM	10	-25	<b>-15</b>
Georgia	2	--	<b>2</b>
Iceland	2	0	<b>2</b>
Lichtenstein	0	0	<b>0</b>
Moldova	-6	-3	<b>-10</b>
Norway	14	11	<b>25</b>
Romania	-54	-7	<b>-61</b>
Russian Federation	-887	92	<b>-795</b>
Serbia and Montenegro	-22	--	<b>-22</b>
Switzerland	9	41	<b>50</b>
Turkey	981	100	<b>1,081</b>
Ukraine	-357	-24	<b>-381</b>
<b>Non EU25 Sub total</b>	<b>-244</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>-62</b>
Belarus	-547	5	<b>-542</b>
<b>EU25 Sub total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,889</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-591</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>1,285</b>

Aggregate numbers for these 44 European countries show a crude natural decrease of around 591 thousand persons and net immigration flows of more than three times that amount, leading to a net increase of 1.28 million.

2003-2004 (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Net increase
EU 25	200	1,689	<b>1,889</b>
Remaining countries of the Council of Europe	-244	182	<b>-62</b>
Belarus	-547	5	<b>-542</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-591</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>1,285</b>

The population of the EU25 reached 456 million in January 2004, while Europe as a whole had a population of around 811 million people.

Population	2003 (million)	2004 (million)	Net increase
EU 25	454.56	456.45	<b>1.89</b>
Remaining countries of the Council of Europe	345.55	345.48	<b>-0.06</b>
Belarus	9.90	9.357	<b>-0.54</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>810.00</b>	<b>811.29</b>	<b>1.28</b>

## Demographic highlights

Twenty countries experienced a negative natural increase in 2003, with the five biggest decreases amounting to almost two million people.

Population (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Population 2004
Russian Federation	-887	92	144,168
Belarus	-547	5	9,357
Ukraine	-357	-24	47,442
Germany	-143	145	82,538
Romania	-54	-7	21,711

Twenty-four countries showed a positive natural increase, Turkey leading by far with a natural increase of almost a million people in 2003, complemented by 100'000 migrants.

Population (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Population 2004
Turkey	981	100	71,254
France	211	55	59,901
United Kingdom	84	103	59,515
Azerbaijan	64	-3	8,264
Netherlands	60	3	16,255

Some of these results may be due to the existence of "jus soli" citizenship rules, meaning that country-born offspring of foreign citizens are registered as nationals under "natural increase".

## Migration highlights

Five European countries had a net intake of more than 100,000 migrants, with Spain and Italy becoming the main destination countries in 2003.

Population (in thousands)	Natural increase	Net migration	Population 2004
Spain	53	595	42,198
Italy	-28	511	57,804
Germany	-143	145	82,538
United Kingdom	84	103	59,515
Turkey	981	100	71,254
Russian Federation	-887	92	144,168
France	211	55	59,901
Switzerland	9	41	7,368

Given Spain's booming economy, its opening to South Americans and its recent regularization plans for resident undocumented foreigners, this trend seems likely to last.

## Demographic evolution in Europe

According to the UN Population Division 2004 Forecasts, the working age population in Europe should decrease by 26 million during the next 20 years, or around 5%. These estimates are based on relatively low net migration scenarios and recent inflows are much higher for countries such as Spain and Italy.

Most eastern and central European countries should lose more than 10% of their working age population during the next 20 years.

All but 20 European countries will have to deal with decreasing working-age populations, with Estonia (-29%), Ukraine (-23%) and Bulgaria (-19%) suffering the biggest decreases in relative terms.

	Working Age Population (Age group 15-64 years) (Medium variant 2004 revision - in millions)		Increase / decrease	
	2005	2025	in mios	in %
Albania	2.03	2.27	0.24	12%
Armenia	2.02	1.95	-0.07	-4%
Austria	5.55	5.32	-0.23	-4%
Azerbaijan	5.65	6.61	0.97	17%
Belarus	6.84	5.90	-0.94	-14%
Belgium	6.84	6.56	-0.28	-4%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.71	2.48	-0.24	-9%
Bulgaria	5.36	4.34	-1.03	-19%
Croatia	3.06	2.71	-0.35	-11%
Cyprus	0.57	0.67	0.10	17%
Czech Republic	7.27	6.32	-0.95	-13%
Denmark	3.59	3.57	-0.02	-1%
Estonia	0.91	0.65	-0.26	-29%
Finland	3.51	3.25	-0.26	-7%
France	39.46	38.65	-0.81	-2%
Georgia	2.99	2.61	-0.38	-13%
Germany	55.34	51.24	-4.10	-7%
Greece	7.51	7.34	-0.17	-2%
Hungary	6.97	6.16	-0.82	-12%
Iceland	0.20	0.22	0.02	11%
Ireland	2.57	3.04	0.47	18%
Italy	38.35	34.76	-3.59	-9%
Latvia	1.58	1.34	-0.24	-15%
Lithuania	2.33	2.07	-0.26	-11%
Luxembourg	0.31	0.39	0.08	24%
Malta	0.28	0.27	-0.01	-4%
Netherlands	11.04	10.85	-0.19	-2%
Norway	3.02	3.17	0.14	5%
Poland	27.25	24.34	-2.91	-11%
Portugal	7.04	7.00	-0.03	0%
Romania	15.16	13.48	-1.67	-11%
Russian Federation	101.60	86.05	-15.55	-15%
Serbia and Montenegro	7.10	6.73	-0.37	-5%
Slovakia	3.86	3.57	-0.29	-8%
Slovenia	1.39	1.21	-0.17	-12%
Spain	29.80	28.85	-0.94	-3%
Sweden	5.90	5.87	-0.04	-1%
Switzerland	4.90	4.58	-0.33	-7%
Turkey	47.85	62.25	14.40	30%
Ukraine	32.07	24.83	-7.24	-23%
United Kingdom	39.44	40.26	0.81	2%
<b>Total for Europe</b>	<b>551.20</b>	<b>523.70</b>	<b>-27.50</b>	<b>-5%</b>

Source: UN Population Division - Medium Variant - 2004 Revision

The aggregate decrease of the 10 countries most affected (in absolute term) will sum up to 39 million, as if all of France's working age population would suddenly vanish.

	Working Age Population (Age group 15-64 years) (in millions)		Decrease	
	2000	2025	in mios	in %
Russian Federation	101.60	86.05	-15.55	-15%
Ukraine	32.07	24.83	-7.24	-23%
Germany	55.34	51.24	-4.10	-7%
Italy	38.35	34.76	-3.59	-9%
Poland	27.25	24.34	-2.91	-11%
Romania	15.16	13.48	-1.67	-11%
Bulgaria	5.36	4.34	-1.03	-19%
Czech Republic	7.27	6.32	-0.95	-13%
Belarus	6.84	5.90	-0.94	-14%
Spain	29.80	28.85	-0.94	-3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>319.04</b>	<b>280.12</b>	<b>-38.92</b>	<b>-12%</b>

Source: UN Population Division - Middle Variant - 2004 Revision

## Migration and the regional labour market

*"Migration is not an alternative to the UK labour force and the Government is investing significant resources in further developing UK education and training. But we need legal migrant workers to help fill the 600,000 vacancies in the UK labour market, particularly in sectors which are experiencing recruitment difficulties."*

Source: Home Secretary, David Blunkett, Press release 351/2004

The link between migration and labor policies is becoming more obvious. Both issues are still the reserved domain of states, but higher cooperation is planned within the EU25.

*"The European Council emphasizes that the determination of volumes of admission of labour migrants is a competence of the Member States. The European Council, taking into account the outcome of discussions on the Green Paper on labour migration, best practices in Member States and its relevance for implementation of the Lisbon strategy, invites the Commission to present a policy plan on legal migration including admission procedures capable of responding promptly to fluctuating demands for migrant labour in the labour market before the end of 2005"*

Source: The Hague Program - European Council - November 2004, Page 19

## Migration, growth and development

Besides making a huge contribution to their host countries' economy, migrants often transfer "back home" part of their income, either as remittances, portfolio investments or foreign direct investment. They establish new trade networks, reinforce the export and tourism industries of their country of origin, and can be a conduit for technological transfer.

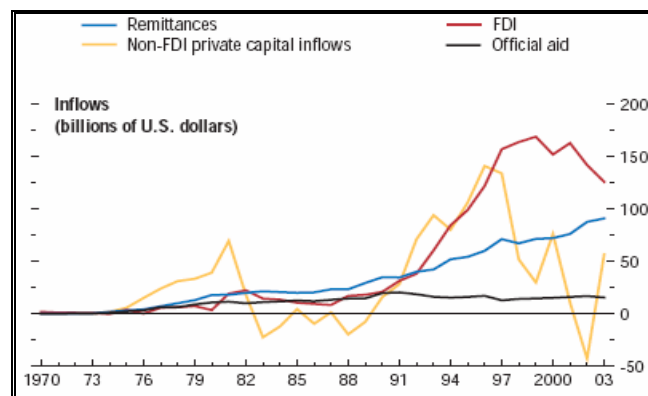
Most of these economic effects are not easily quantifiable. However, among the top 10 countries worldwide from which remittances emanated, six were in Europe in 2001.

Net remittances in billions of \$ US	2001
USA	28.4
Saudi Arabia	15.1
Germany	8.2
Belgium	8.1
Switzerland	8.1
France	3.9
Luxembourg	3.1
Israel	3
Italy	2.6
Japan	2.3
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>82.8</b>

Source: World Bank 2002

Remittances, though only a small fraction of migrants' output and savings, are a growing source of foreign income for home countries.

A typical migrant will spend as much in home country goods' import and in yearly holidays as in remittances.



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook 2005

## Migration and society

A recent OECD report states that many European countries have managed to admit and absorb immigrants in considerable numbers over the past decades, significantly more than is evident from looking at statistics on the resident foreign population.

OCDE Countries in 2004	Percentage of foreign born	Percentage of non citizen
Luxembourg	32.6%	36.9%
Australia	23.0%	7.4%
Switzerland	22.4%	20.5%
New Zealand	19.5%	(no data)
Canada	19.3%	5.3%
Germany	12.5%	(no data)
Austria	12.5%	8.8%
United States	12.3%	6.6%
Sweden	12.0%	5.3%
Belgium	10.7%	8.2%
Ireland	10.4%	5.9%
Greece	10.3%	7.0%
Netherlands	10.1%	4.2%
France	10.0%	5.6%
United Kingdom	8.3%	(no data)
Norway	7.3%	4.3%
Denmark	6.8%	5.0%
Portugal	6.3%	2.2%
Spain	5.3%	3.8%
Czech Republic	4.5%	1.2%
Hungary	2.9%	0.9%
Slovak Republic	2.5%	5.0%
Finland	2.5%	1.7%
Poland	2.1%	0.1%
Turkey	1.9%	0.0%
Mexico	0.5%	(no data)
<b>Weighted average</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

Source: Dumont & Lemaître – OCDE 2004

These figures are appreciably higher than those generally presented for the immigrant population, measured on the basis of foreign nationality, which never exceed 10%, except for Luxembourg and Switzerland.

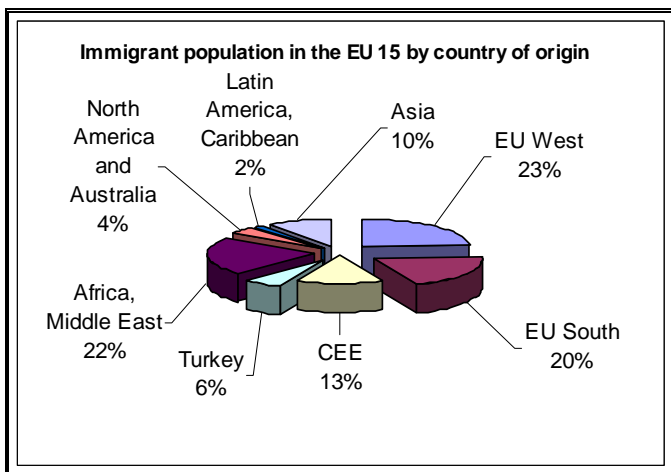
*“Europe is home or host to 36–39 million international migrants, almost 8 percent of its population. Some 33–35 million migrants have taken up residence in one of the 15 old EU member states. The 10 new member states host fewer than 2 million permanent or long-term residents who are foreign born.*

*Europe has become one of the main destinations on the world map of international migration. From a historical perspective, this is a relatively new phenomenon. After having been primarily countries of emigration for more than two centuries, during the last 50 years, all countries of Western Europe gradually became destinations for international migrants. Several of the new EU member states in Central Europe also follow that pattern.*

*The Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia already have a positive migration balance. It is very likely that, sooner or later, this will be the case in other new EU member states. Many Europeans, however, still do not see their homelands as destinations for immigration. Today, this is a counterfactual perception”*

Source: Holzmann & Munz – World Bank – 2004

In the old EU15, the migrant stocks were mainly of European origin, with Africa and the Middle East as the second region of origin.



Source: Munz & Fassmann – HWWA – 2004

### Irregular migration

Figures for the stocks of undocumented migrants in Europe are highly unreliable, with estimates varying from 2.6 to 6.4 million, according to a recent study by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The ICMPD estimated irregular flows towards the EU15 at 650,000 for the year 2001, an average of 1,800 new undocumented migrants a day.

Over the past 25 years, several regularization campaigns for undocumented migrants have been carried out throughout Europe. During the 1990s, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece enacted amnesty programs for unauthorized migrants, granting legal residency to more than 1.2 million people.

Moves toward greater control over the borders of the EU25 will lead to the creation of an European Agency for the Management of Operative Cooperation at the External Borders. This agency's mandate will be to co-ordinate the control and surveillance of the external borders of the EU25.

### Migration and human rights

Among the countries of the Council of Europe, only Turkey ratified, in September 2004, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), which entered into force on 1 July 2003.

### Migration and regional initiatives

The establishment of “free labour movement areas” is noticeable and gaining momentum in a number of regions. The best example of this lasting trend has been the creation and recent expansion of the single European labour market. In a few years, total internal freedom of movement will be granted to the 456 million citizens and third countries residents of the EU25.

This free circulation of citizens is among the core values of the EU25.

*The right of all EU citizens to move and reside freely in the territory of the Member States is the central right of citizenship of the Union*

Source: The Hague Program - European Council - November 2004, Page 16

Bilateral agreements have also been signed with the countries belonging to the European Free Trade Areas (EFTA) and the European Economic Area (EEA) so that most of Western and Central Europe will soon be integrated into a single labor market.

Regionally, many fora and institutions run comprehensive migration programs and studies, such as the Council of Europe, The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Inter-governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugees and Migration policies (IGC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Budapest Process and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process).

Moves toward greater migration management and cooperation are also emerging within the CIS region.