IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CRISES ON DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES

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Demographic Barometer – an important tool for information of public opinion regarding population issues

available: www.ccd.md
After proclaiming the Independence and a sharp transition to the market economy, Moldova was affected by several economic crises:

- the crisis in the 1990s with the hyperinflation of 1991-1992
- depression period 1993-1996
- default in 1998-1999
- financial crisis in 2009
- economic crisis by the end of 2014

Economic growth was registered in 2000-2005
Total fertility rate based on official (in blue) and alternative population estimates (in red) and the periods of economic crises in Moldova
Increase/decrease in age-specific fertility rates of first and second order, 2002 compared to 1990
Increase/decrease in age-specific fertility rates of first and second order, 2009 compared to 2002
Standardized death rate, all ages, 1987-2014

1991-1999: economic crisis

2000-2010: slow growth / stagnation in mortality

2011-2014: improve the situation

Life expectancy at birth in Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and France, (years)

Annual flows of Moldovan emigrants registered in the recipient countries, 1991-2014, (thousand persons)

Sources: National statistical offices from Russia, Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Canada, the US department of homeland security, UNA, OECD, Toltz M. Statistical analysis of aliyah and emigration of the Jews from Russia. The world in the mirror of international migration: Russia and contemporary world. Moscow, 2002
Distribution of Moldovan emigrants by age groups in 2009 and 2014, (%)

Source: Border crossing migration data (SIIMA System): based on Form 3.2 “Moldovan citizens left abroad” (duration more than 12 moths).
Problems and risks in population development of the Republic of Moldova

1. Rapid depopulation and demographic ageing.

2. High mortality, especially among the adult population, presents an important loss of human potential.

3. High level of emigration speed up the process of depopulation and demographic ageing.

4. The slower tempo of economic growth and underdevelopment of the labour market does not facilitate opportunities provided by the "demographic dividend" (a high percentage of working age population in the total of population)
Recomandations

Positive changes in the social and economic situation is an important prerequisite for improving the demographic situation, and the following policy directions are the most important for Moldova:

• to create favourable conditions for birth and children education by facilitating the accessibility of housing, reducing costs for raising children.

• to reduce mortality by promoting policies aimed at increasing the accessibility of health services, especially for socially vulnerable groups, prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

• to reduce population migration, especially labour and circular migration, to prevent transformation of these types of migration to the definite one by developing labour market, wage growth and improving living standards.
The official national statistics cannot provide the reliable data about the real (de facto) population number of the Republic of Moldova, which leads to a considerable distortion of the demographic picture of the country, including population projections.

The state institutions do not have a reliable informational database for correct planification of the state budget, social, health care and fiscal policies, regulation of the labour force market etc.

The state institution do not use a population projections in planning and developing strategies for socio-economic development of the country.

Depopulation and demographic ageing of the Moldovan population determine the urgent necessity of the reliable population projections for the adequate functioning of the whole of the social system in the country.
Recomandations

- Improving the capacity of NBS in produce the reliable statistical data on population.
- Urgent processing of the 2014 Population and Household Census data.
- Changing the national definitions in the field of international migration in accordance with the European Union standards. The use of the corresponding international migration data for producing annual de facto population counts.
- Re-estimation of the number and age- and sex- structure of de facto and de jure population counts based on the final results of the 2014 census and administrative data.
- The use of „de facto” population (usual residence population) counts for demographic and socio-economic indicators.
- Improving the registration of the demographic events (births, deaths and migration) based on the concept of usual residence population.
Thank you for your attention!