

## Rezumatul activității și a rezultatelor obținute în proiect în limba engleză

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„Facilitarea politicilor demografice prin explorarea datelor Studiului Generații și Gen” 2024-2025

The project aimed to leverage data from the Generations and Gender Study (GGS) to provide an empirical foundation for evidence-based public policies in fertility, migration, and population health.

The findings indicate that life-course trajectories are gradually restructuring: the age at entry into a union, at marriage, and at first birth has steadily increased from cohorts born in the early 1960s to those born in the early 1980s. The expansion of cohabitation as an initial stage of couple formation increasingly functions as a transition to marriage rather than as a permanent alternative. Among younger generations, the interval between entering a first union and the official registration of marriage has lengthened (often exceeding two years), alongside a delay in the transition from marriage to first birth. Nevertheless, marriage remains the dominant context for entering parenthood, although its timing is increasingly postponed to a perceived more favorable life stage. A significant share of the adult population remains without a partner and without children by age 40, particularly among men. Recommended policy measures emphasize an integrated approach to support couple stability, youth economic autonomy, access to housing, and the transition to parenthood, so that the gap between reproductive intentions and actual behavior does not widen.

The comparative analysis between the Republic of Moldova and Estonia shows that both countries are experiencing postponement of marriage and first births, although the intensity of change differs. In Estonia, cohabitation is dominant, the link between union formation and parenthood is weaker, and partnership instability increases the risk of lifetime childlessness. In the Republic of Moldova, the model remains more traditional, with a stronger association between couple formation and entry into parenthood, although postponement and the one–two child model are consolidating. These trends limit the potential for fertility to rise to the level required for generational replacement, keeping fertility below replacement level.

In the field of migration, results show that emigration intentions are strongly concentrated among younger age groups and are primarily driven by economic pressures and limited domestic opportunities. Determinants of emigration intentions include age, lack of a partner, gender (men are more likely), higher education, and intentions to migrate internally. To reduce “necessity-driven migration,” policies should combine creating attractive domestic opportunities for young people (e.g., quality jobs and career-start programs), improving economic security for vulnerable households, and targeted interventions for high-risk groups, including through local development policies and planned internal mobility strategies.

The decline in subjective health between GGS waves is closely associated with general health status, particularly the presence of mobility-limiting disabilities, as well as aging, chronic diseases, socioeconomic status, and employment status. These trends are more pronounced among men, who experience earlier onset of chronic conditions and stagnation in healthy life expectancy (which increased by nearly one year for women between waves, while remaining unchanged for men). The analysis reveals significant rural–urban disparities, largely driven by unequal access to healthcare services. In this context, policies aimed at chronic disease prevention and health promotion can reduce regional disparities in morbidity and longevity. The high proportion of persons with disabilities in rural areas requires improved infrastructure and access to public services, while population aging necessitates continuous adaptation and more effective inter-institutional coordination of health policies.

The project results were disseminated at six prestigious international scientific forums in demography, where ten scientific presentations were delivered on fertility, partnership dynamics, migration, and population health. Furthermore, the findings and policy recommendations were presented to decision-makers at a national roundtable dedicated to demographic evidence for sustainable policies. Three policy briefs were published, and five scientific articles were submitted to journals indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

The integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European evidence-based research landscape is strengthened through the use of the Generations and Gender Study (GGS), which creates sustainable premises for international scientific cooperation and supports the development of effective public policies in the areas of family support, migration management, population health improvement, and the country’s sustainable development.