

Abstract:

Demographic ageing is a social process and represents one of the most important changes in the population development in the 20th and 21st centuries in countries, which have finished the process of demographic revolution. The intensity, timing and speed of this process have been varying throughout history; reaching its highest peak in contemporary societies. European populations are in the position to deal with economic, social and political changes that demographic ageing brings. Europe is projected to be a demographically marginalized area in the future, since it is today "the oldest" region in the world by far. The quantitative analysis of indicators describing population ageing development focuses on similarities and differences among the 25 European Union member states. From the application of cluster analysis and data comparison, we can divide the European Union states into different categories. The outcomes of this categorization correspond with the main past and present tendencies of population development in European Union states. As the population ageing process is not uniform, there are many socio-economic consequences and possible policy implications to be suggested.