

## THE WORLD DEMOGRAPHIC & AGEING FORUM

---

In August 2012 we will have launched the **WDA Forum – a platform for a society of all ages**. With this **global, multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary platform** we aim to reinforce a sense of common purpose of the many stakeholders affected by and concerned with different dimensions of population dynamics and demographic ageing.

The challenge is obvious: In October 2011 the world population has reached a total of 7 billion and is continuing to grow. This growth is characterized by significant regional differences which in turn require quite different types of social, economic, fiscal and governance responses: to the youth bulge, to ageing populations, to migration, to cultural and social change and economic developments. In an interdependent world the actions in one region will have significant and all too often underestimated impact on other parts of the world. The 2012 WDA Forum focused on **2022: ten years to shape the demographic shift**. It ended with a set of concrete action points that are being disseminated widely.

### The Mission:

The WDA Forum is committed to excellence. It brings together **the best minds globally** to make sense of the major demographic shifts underway; capture innovation – be it technological, healthcare, social or policy innovation – from around the world and propose policies, recommendations and approaches that address the different dimensions of demographic challenges in the public and the private sector. This is a challenge for the whole of society and a global challenge.

### The Participants:

The WDA Forum brings together experts from the fields of ageing, population, migration, health, finance, natural resources, innovation and education with policy makers, business leaders, non-governmental actors, engaged citizens and students from around the world. Leading academics from a range of disciplines – demography, political science, life science, economics, medicine, sociology – further contribute to the very special mix which makes the WDA Forum as interdisciplinary, diverse and international as possible.

### The Partners:

A network of partners – including some of the most respected international organizations, non-governmental organizations and businesses in the world – will continue to contribute to the WDA Forum and new ones invited to join. In 2012 this included the European Commission, the World Health Organization (WHO), German Senior Citizens League (DSL), INGEMA Foundation, ERSTE Foundation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), MSD, Pfizer, Novartis, Syn-genta, Philips, Helvetia etc al..

### Media:

A special effort is made to attract specialized and general media to the WDA Forum. Social networking media and the web are used to the fullest extent. Partners and participants are encouraged to contribute through social media.

## Focus Switzerland:

The debates and discussions at the international WDA Forum provide an important intellectual input to the newly established „WDA Forum Demography Dialogue Switzerland“. The proceedings of the 2012 dialogue session under auspices of Federal Council Doris Leuthard can be downloaded on the WDA Forum Website.

## 2013 WDA FORUM

---

### The 2013 WDA Forum will focus on

#### The Power of Demography – Destiny, Crisis or Opportunity?

The 2013 WDA Forum – St. Gallen/Switzerland, August 26-29, 2013– will take the action points from the 2012 WDA Forum and explore in depth how demography is changing our societies, the geopolitical environment, our institutions and politics. How can we think and act in a more systemic manner with respect to rising immigration, falling fertility, new composition and graying of the labour force, growing youth unemployment in numerous regions and countries, ageing in poor countries and accelerating urbanization? How do the results of the Rio+20 Summit reflect on demography? How will the demographic challenges feature in the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals? The 2012 WDA Forum will debate different approaches for business and society, share “best practices” that have already been being implemented and address values and rights. It will foster debate and not shrink controversy.

## THE 2013 WDA FORUM AT A GLANCE

In 2013 WDA Forum will again build on its unique recognizable concept and organize:

- focused high quality debates on **key issues**
- **Regional Special Sessions**
- **one key ethical issue in depth**
- a special section called **The Future**
- **and two implementation challenges.**

The WDA Forum will also run a series of **innovation workshops** and “**meet the speaker sessions**”. World leaders are invited to address the participants at the opening and the closing sessions. One of these keynotes will be characterized as the **RETHINK LECTURE**. Each Forum will also try and establish a link to at least one other major organisation. True to its nature the WDA Forum provides (and encourages) participating and partner organisations with the possibility to organize their own **network meetings** during the duration of the WDA Forum. Finally, the 2013 WDA Forum will also offer a special **exhibition** as well as **social events**. All sessions are guided by **experienced moderators with a proven track record**. A **conference chair** guides the coherence and will put the discussions in a broader context.

## 2013 Debates:

The 2013 WDA Forum will address key issues in **Plenary Panels and Special Sessions:**

- Demography meets politics: who dares to act?
- Demography meets the labour force: who needs to act?
- Demography meets power: who will have influence on the world stage?
- Demography meets climate change: what impact of Rio+20
- Demography meets inequality: a lost generation of European or Arab young people?
- Demography meets communities: how to adapt governance and how to pursue “redesign”?
- Demography meets longevity: who will provide care? Can robotics close the gap?
- Demography meets migration: how to balance need and fear?
- Demography meets culture: are ageing societies less creative or even more creative?
- Demography meets learning: when to start? How to learn through life?
- Demography meets fertility: which policies worked and which will work in the future?
- Childhood meets ageing: what is the impact of early life on the ageing process?
- Longevity meets pensions: can we afford our long lives?
- Demography meets finance: is security lost?

## 2013 Regional Special Sessions:

The 2013 WDA Forum will run a series of **regional special sessions** addressing issues such as: Africa’s demographic challenges; China’s gender time bomb; Southern Europe’s lost youth, the misunderstood demographic shift in the Islamic world, learning from Japan – the world’s most aged society, and Russia’s population decline, population dynamics in the “second world” countries such as Indonesia.

## 2013 Implementation Challenges:

The 2013 WDA Forum will run a series of workshops on **Ageing and Wealth** and a series of workshops on **Ageing of Health Systems**.

## 2013 Ethical Challenge:

The 2013 WDA Forum will address a critical ethical issue: **fertility politics**

## 2013 The Future:

Due to the 2012 success another prominent issue will be selected for a special session we have called **THE FUTURE**. In 2013 this will be dedicated to **Educational challenges in an ageing society**. The debate is conducted in various forms during the forum.

## 2013 Innovation Workshops:

Partners and participants will be invited to make contributions to the innovation track; subject areas include measuring population dynamics, increasing health literacy, technological innovations for ageing in place (nursing care and rehabilitation robotics); models of successful ageing; addressing chronic diseases.

## 2013 RETHINK! Lecture:

An individual who has contributed significantly to rethinking an issue related to the ongoing demographic shifts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be honoured each year by being invited to give this lecture on occasion of the WDA Forum. **This selection is already in process.**

# **WDA Forum**

World Demographic & Ageing Forum

## **2013 The WDA meets...:**

In 2012 we were able to organize a successful session together with the European Commission.

We aim to repeat this productive experience with other partners from all over the world.

## **WDA Forum – World Demographic & Ageing Forum**