

THE WDA FORUM

We are proud to announce that after seven years of successful organisation of the WDA World Generations and Ageing Congress in St. Gallen we are now entering a new phase. As such, we are moving away from our annual Congress format and instead launching the **WDA Forum – a platform for a society of all ages** in August 2012.

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 political, fiscal and organisational 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 impact on other parts of the world. With our **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 demographic change.

The mission:

The WDA Forum is committed to excellence. It will bring together **the best minds globally** to make sense of the major demographic shifts underway; capture innovation – be it technological, social or policy innovation – from around the world and propose policies 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.

The participants:

The WDA Forum brings together experts from the fields of ageing, population, migration, health, finance, natural resources, innovation, business leaders and non-governmental actors 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 and international as possible.

The partners:

A network of partners and sponsors – 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.

Media:

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

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 **2012 WDA Forum** will address the theme:

2022 – 10 years to shape the demographic shift!

2012 WDA FORUM

2022 – 10 years to shape the demographic shift!

The 2012 WDA Forum – St. Gallen/Switzerland August 27 – 30, 2012 – will take place during a year that will be particularly focused on issues related to demography, ageing and health. In 2012 The United Nations will assess the Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing; the WHO has dedicated 2012 to Ageing and Health; and the European Union has declared 2012 as the year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

Consequently, the 2012 WDA Forum will take a more futuristic attitude to provide complementary discussions to the above mentioned multilateral initiatives. The 2012 WDA Forum will ask and examine the pertinent questions like:

- Where do we want to be in 2022 – what actions need to be taken today?
- How can the world use the window of opportunity, available to some countries?
- How can we think and act in a more systemic manner?

The 2012 WDA Forum will debate different approaches, share models of that are being implemented and address values and rights. It will foster debate and not shrink controversy.

The 2012 WDA Forum at a glance:

We have decided to give the new WDA Forum platform a special recognizable character. The WDA Forum is structured along the following parameters:

- High quality debates on **eight key issues**
- **Four regional special sessions**, highlighting **one key ethical issue**
- A special section called **THE FUTURE**, selecting two **implementation challenges**
- 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 is characterized as the **RETHINK LECTURE**. Each Forum will also try and establish a link to at least one other major organisation, **The WDA meets ...** 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. Moreover, each year at we offer a special **exhibition** as well as **social events** annual WDA Forum (previously known as the Congress). We hope to also add a **summer school**. All sessions are guided by **experienced moderators with a proven track record**. A **conference chair** guides the coherence.

2012 Debates:

The 2012 WDA Forum will address key issues in **plenary panels and special sessions**:

- Demography meets Politics: where have all the courageous politicians gone?
- Demography meets Inequality: who pays the price of badly managed demographic shifts?
- Demography meets Food Security: one crisis too many?
- Demographic meets Longevity: can we develop a new model of productivity?

- Demography meets Migration: more movement, more fences, more racism?
- Demography meets the Family: can we envisage new models?
- Childhood meets Ageing: what is the impact of early life on the ageing process?
- Longevity meets Health: can we afford our long lives?
- Demography meets Finance: where are the insurers? Where are the banks?

2012 Regional special sessions:

The 2012 WDA Forum will run a series of **special sessions with regional focus**, 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.

2012 Implementation challenges:

The 2012 WDA Forum will run a series of workshops on **Ageing in an urban world** in cooperation with WHO's Age friendly cities network and a series of workshops on **Health Systems 2022 – responding to an ageing world**.

2012 Ethical challenge:

The 2012 WDA Forum will address a critical ethical issue: **end of life**.

2012 The future:

Each year one issue will be selected for a special session we have called **THE FUTURE**. In 2012 this will be dedicated to **Empowering Youth in an Ageing Society**. The debate is conducted in various forms during the forum.

2012 Innovation workshops:

Partners and participants will be invited to make contributions to the innovation track; subject areas include technological innovations for ageing in place; models of successful ageing; addressing Non-communicable Diseases.

2012 RETHINK! Lecture:

An individual who has contributed significantly to rethinking an issue related to the demographic shift will be honoured each year by being invited to give this lecture on occasion of the WDA Forum. **This selection is in process**.

2012 The WDA Forum meets...:

In 2011 we were able to organize a successful panel together with the World Economic Forum. We aim to repeat this productive experience.

WDA Forum – World Demographic & Ageing Forum