



Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action

Workshop on 13 December 2023

Global Demography Expert Survey on Drivers and Consequences of
Demographic Change

*Arthur Corazza, Policy Officer
Secretariat-General (D.3)
European Commission*

1. Background

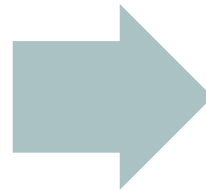
Impacts of demographic change & calls for action

Demographic change and its impacts

Key insights informing EU policy-making

Key demographic trends

- EU population to peak and **gradually decline** in this century
- **Working-age population** to shrink (by 57.4 million persons by 2100)
- Old-age **dependency** ratio to further rise (from 33% to 60% by 2100)
- **EU share in global population** to further decrease (from 6% to 4% in 2070)



Key impacts & interactions

- Exacerbating **labour shortages**
- Creating new **opportunities**, but also risks of **strategic dependencies**
- Aggravating **productivity** challenge
- Pressuring **public budgets** further
- Interacting with **green & digital transitions** in multiple ways
- Potentially increasing **territorial disparities**

Institutional context

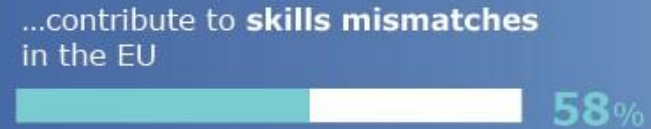
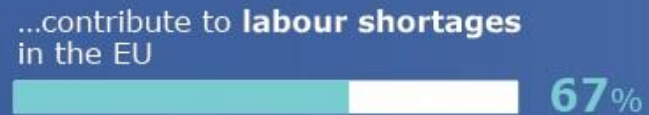
How EU leaders put demographic change on the agenda

- Demographic trends recognised as one of the complex **challenges in the context of competitiveness**, single market and the economy (European Council conclusions, 23 March 2023)
- Call for “*a toolbox to address demographic challenges and notably their impact on Europe’s competitive edge*” (European Council conclusions, 29-30 June 2023)
- Political directions and priorities for the years to come include intentions to “*address demographic challenges*” (Granada Declaration, 6 October 2023)

Demographic change – as seen by citizens

Flash Eurobarometer 523: Demographic change in Europe

Majorities indicate that current demographic trends in the EU, such as population ageing and a shrinking workforce, ...



Managing demographic change



2. The Demography Toolbox

Policy tools for addressing and managing demographic change

Demography Toolbox

Policy objectives & approach

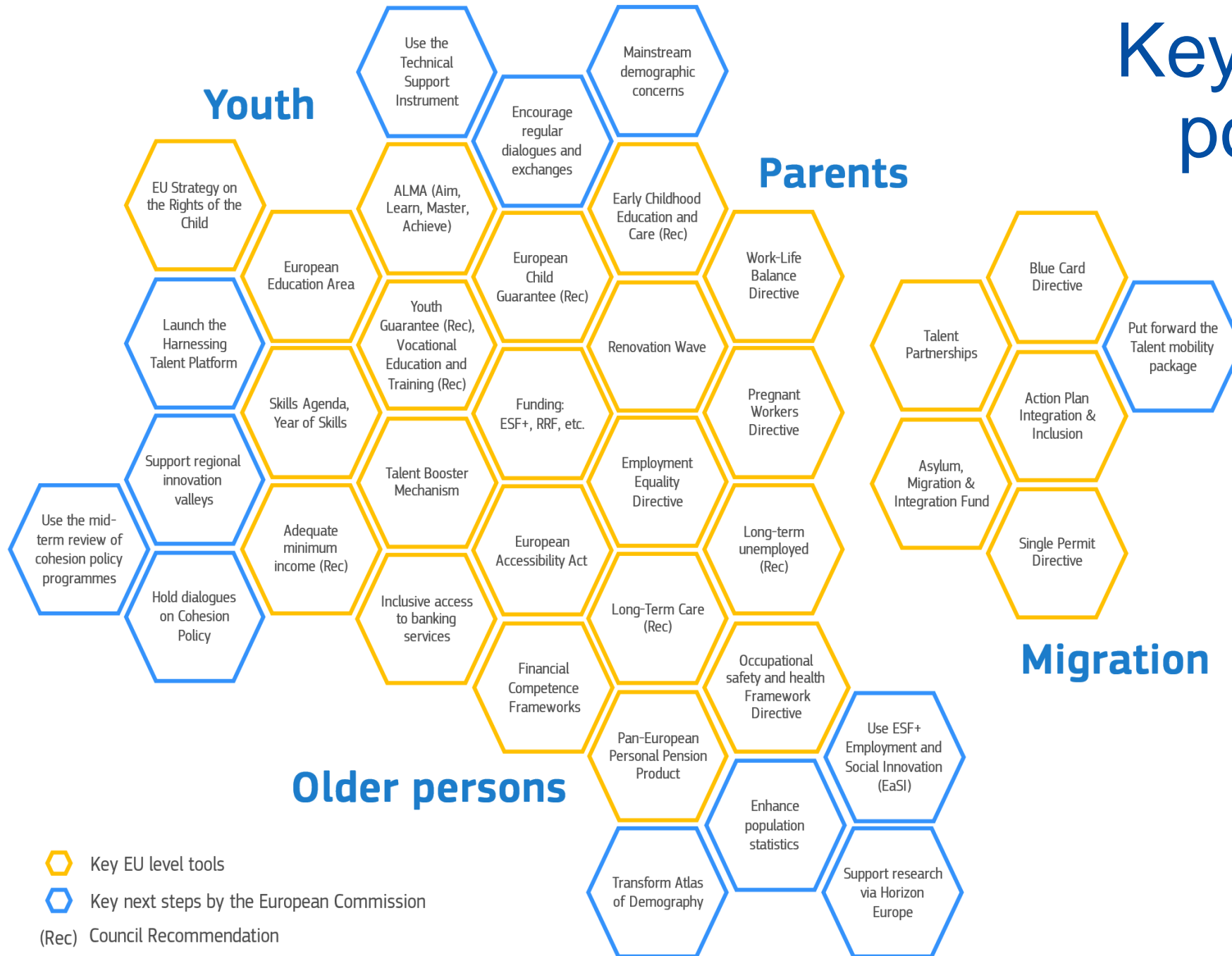
- **Aim:** present Member States the **policy tools available** to address demographic change and its impacts
 - Ensure that people in Europe can **fulfil their aspirations and their potential** in the economy and society at large
 - **Guiding principles:** gender equality, non-discrimination, respect of fundamental rights, and intergenerational fairness
- Drawing on **best and promising practices** from across the Union
 - Building on the **Commission's work on** demography

Demography Toolbox

Policy measures in 4 pillars



Key EU-level policy tools



3. Next steps

Implementation of the Demography Toolbox

Implementing the Toolbox

Next steps by Member States & the Commission

Member States' demography policies should:

Be grounded in local realities.



Harness the potential of digital technologies.



Prioritise gender equality, non-discrimination and intergenerational fairness.

Actively involve a wide range of stakeholders.



Implementing the Toolbox

Next steps by the Commission

- Reinforce the **data and evidence** base (e.g. through the Atlas of Demography, ESF+ analytical activities, Horizon Europe)
- Support **demography-related policies** at all levels (e.g. with the release of the 9th Cohesion Report in early 2024)
- Ensure that **no region in the EU is left behind** (e.g. Harnessing Talent Platform launched)

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

