

Global Demography Expert Survey on Drivers and Consequences of Demographic Change

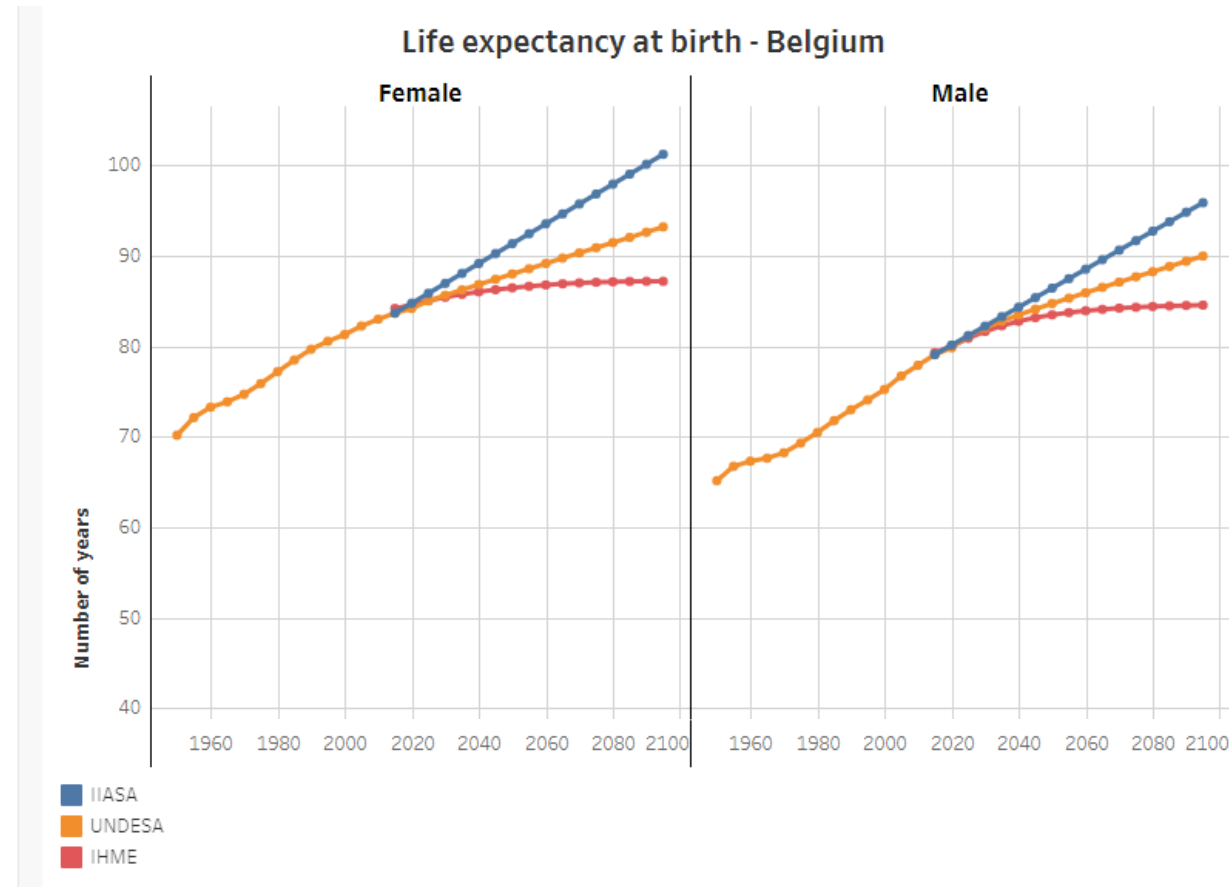
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Brussels, 13 December 2023

The importance of population projections

- Gaining insights into the future of the global population is essential for strategic policy formulation.
- National statistical offices and organizations regularly develop population projections employing a wide range of methods.
- However, it is often unclear what assumptions were made and how they were constructed.
- To address this issue, IIASA, the UN and the JRC conducted a study to gather experts' opinions on the determinants and drivers of future population growth.



Source: Global Demographic Expert Survey

Global Demography Expert Survey

- Online survey conducted in 2023.
- Follows in the step of an earlier survey by WIC in 2010-2011.
- 240 arguments/statements related to future trends and drivers of fertility, mortality, immigration, and emigration, as well as on the policy consequences of key demographic trends.

*Example: Men and women will increasingly share the burden of housework and childcare.
This is likely to contribute to a rise in fertility
Choice of 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Neutral', 'Disagree', 'Strongly disagree'*

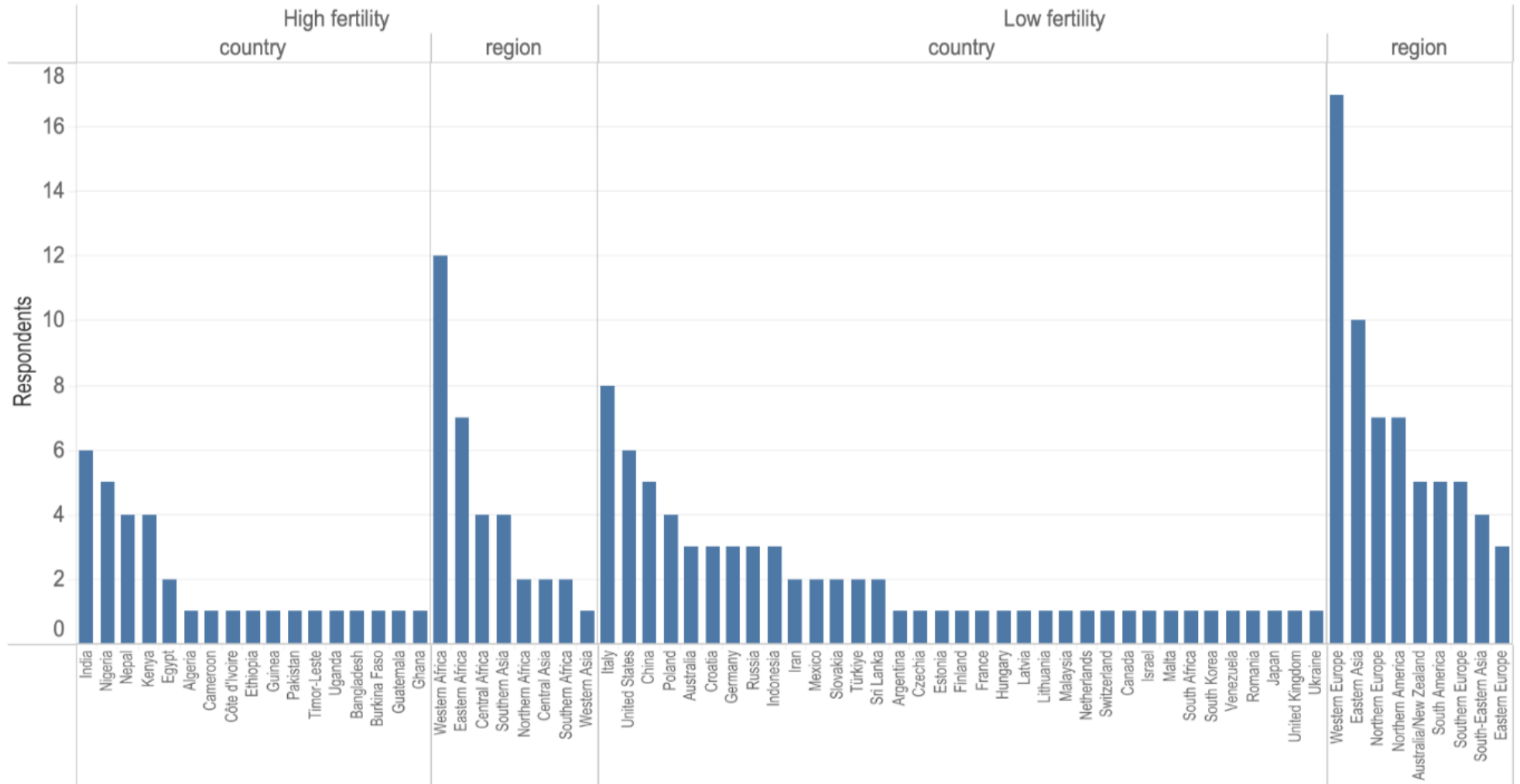
- Numerical estimates of future fertility and life expectancy levels in 2050 and 2100, with 80% confidence intervals.
- 237 respondents, primarily members of the main demographic associations.

Structure of the survey

- Fertility - high and low fertility countries/regions
- Mortality - high and low mortality countries/regions
- Emigration and Immigration
- Potential consequences of demographic change for policy

Fertility module





Distribution of responses by country and regions, fertility module










Source: Global Demographic Expert Survey

Drivers of fertility in high fertility settings

Agreement







- Autonomous fertility decision (independently of family and community) 
- Wider acceptance of modern contraceptive methods 
- Continuing process of urbanization 
- Increase in female education and labor force participation 

Disagreement







- More women staying unmarried (also in view of economic security) 
- More influence of religion on reproductive rights  
- The welfare state replaces family support 
- Decline in sex-selected abortion 
- Increase in abortion 
- Acceptance of childlessness 

Drivers of fertility in low fertility settings

Agreement

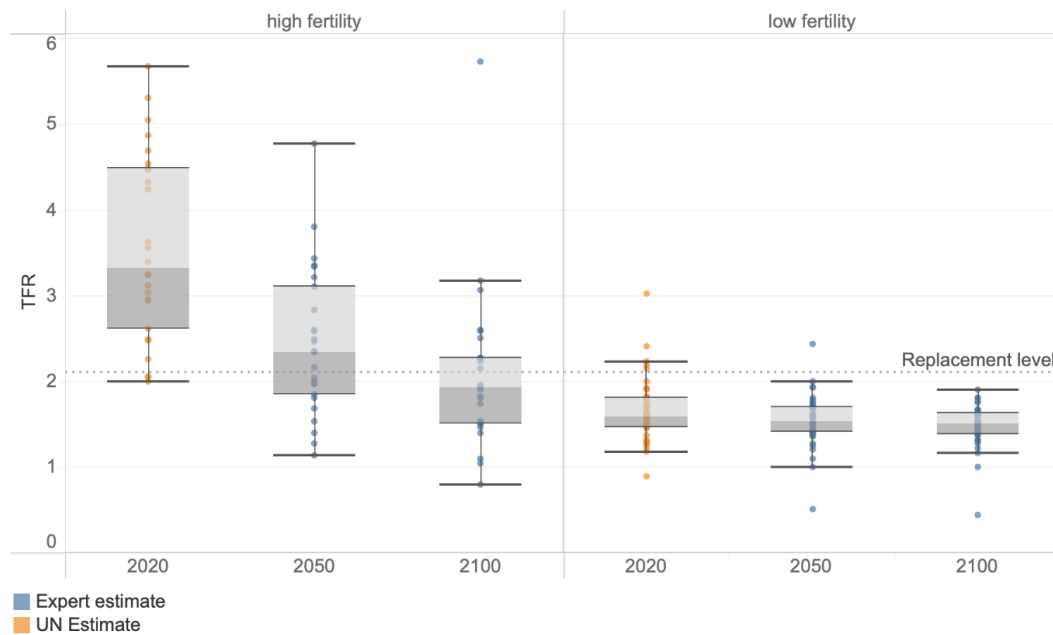
- Voluntary childlessness is becoming more common and socially accepted 
- The role of partnership and lifestyle  
- Family support policies to increase fertility 
- Economic uncertainty, stagnating income and rising house prices 
- Delayed parenthood will become more common (education, ART...) 

Disagreement

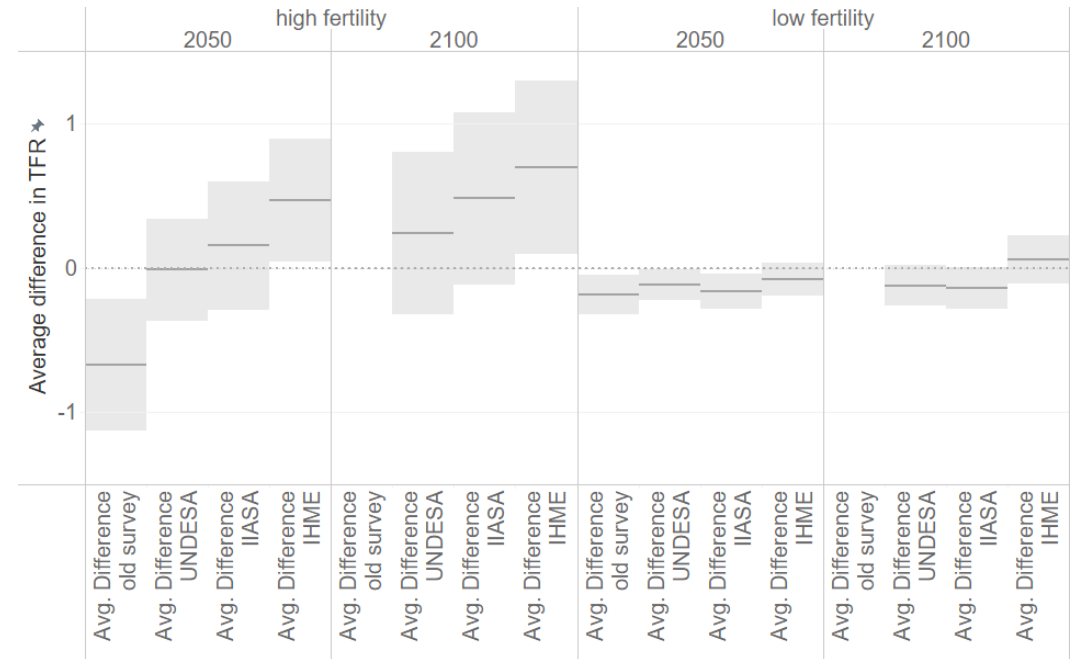
- Climate change will impact people's attitudes to reproduction. 
- Full equality with men in terms of education, career, and income. 
- Diminishing role of grandparents 
- Increase in partnership dissolution 
- Governments will pursue pronatalist policies 
- Access to higher education 

Future levels of fertility

Expert opinion on the future level of fertility in 2050 and 2100






Difference in TFR between expert opinion and projections in 2050 and 2100






Source: Global Demographic Expert Survey

Drivers of mortality in low mortality settings

Agreement




- Common faith in medical technology and delivery 
- Widening adoption of health-conscious behaviors 
- Increase impact of climate change induced heat waves on older population 

Disagreement



- Equalization of longevity between men and women 
- Equalization of mortality differentials by level of education 
- Growth in infectious diseases 

Drivers of mortality in high mortality settings

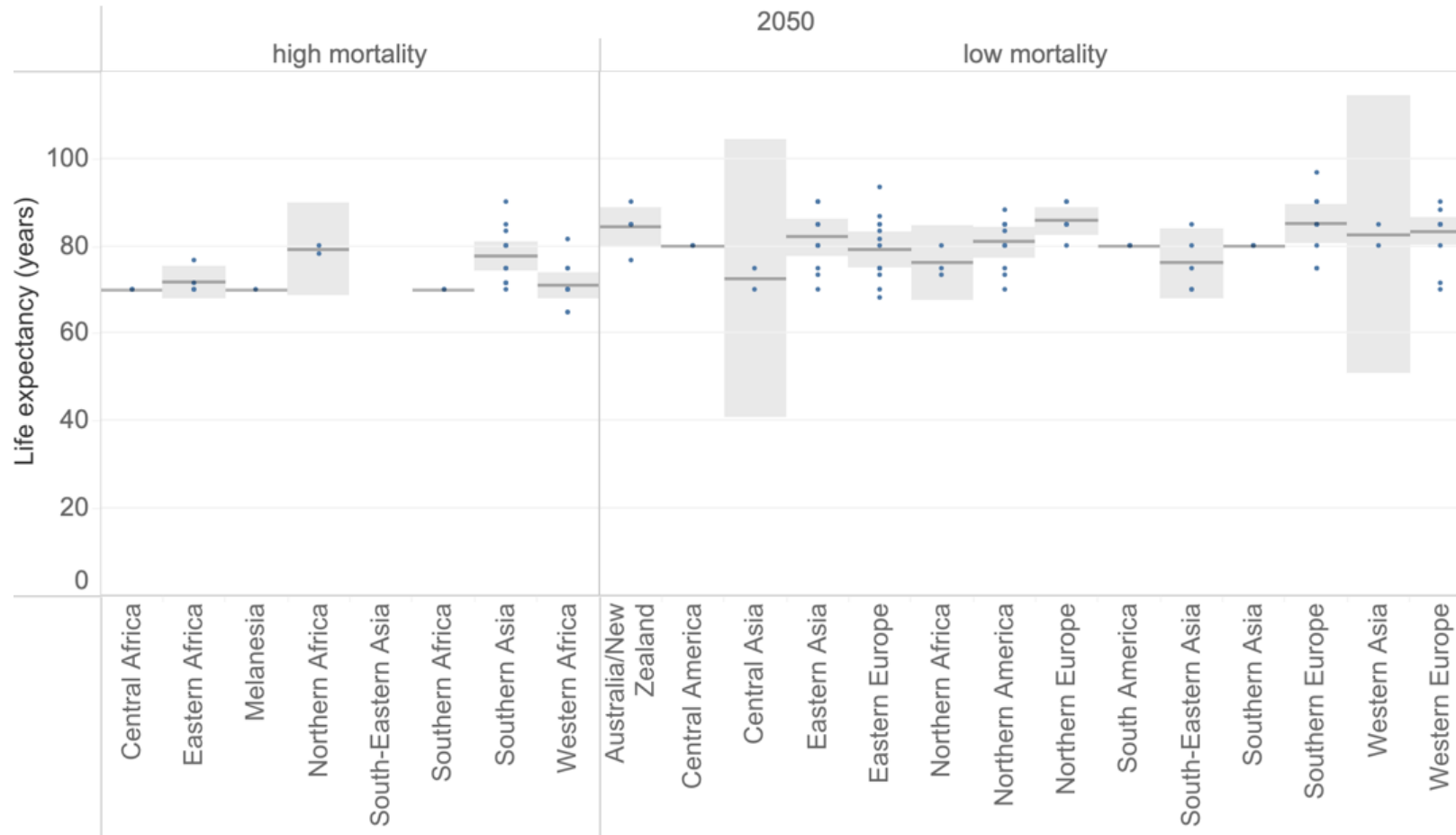
Agreement

- Expansion of existing low-cost medical interventions 
- Increasing risk of infectious diseases, linked to climate change 
- Increasing pollution 

Disagreement





- Reduced government spending for healthcare 
- Little financial incentive to invest in research for new treatments 

Future levels of mortality







Drivers of emigration and immigration

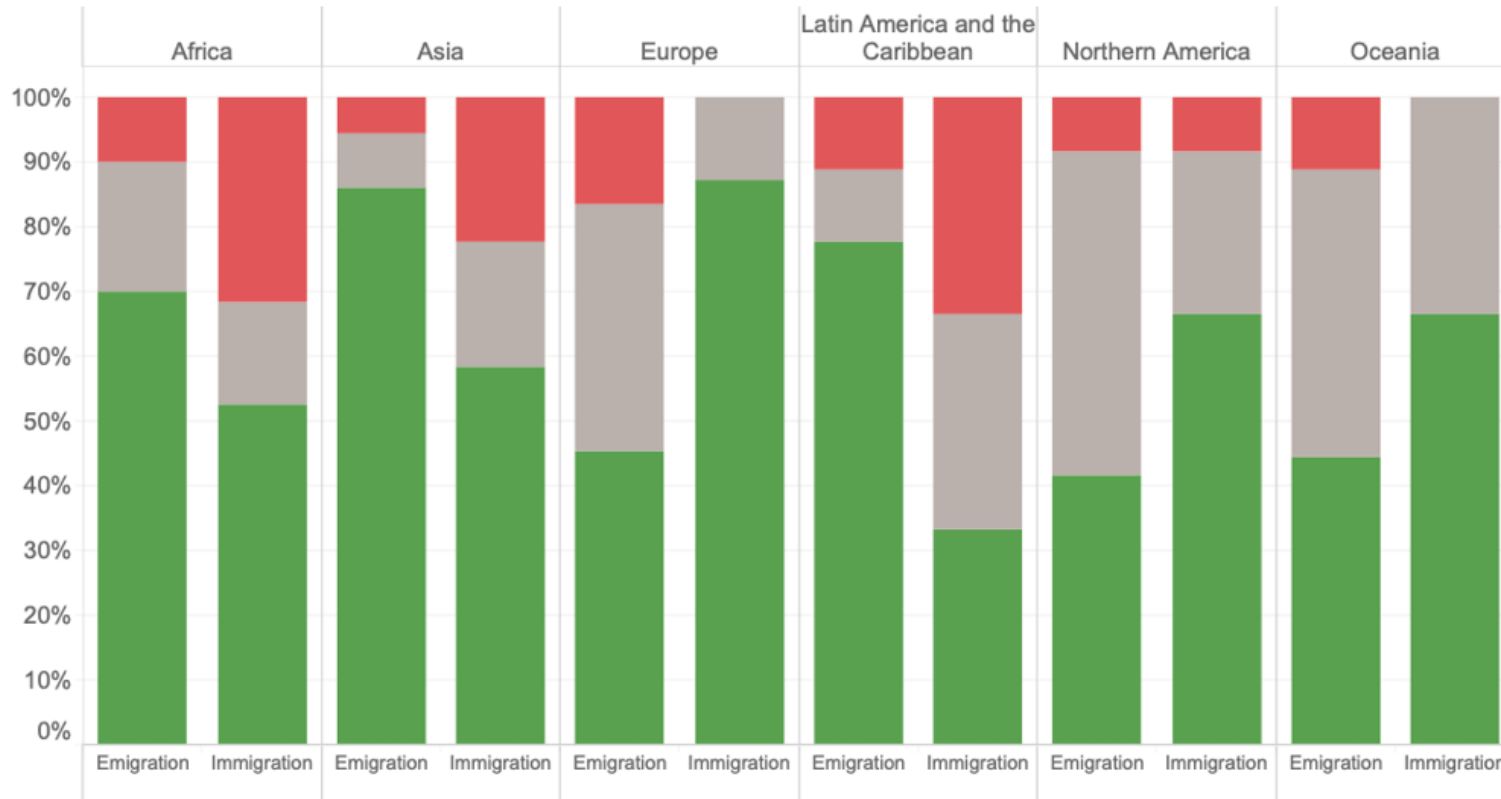
Agreement

- Population ageing  
- The presence of a network of people sharing the same culture 
- Employment opportunities and wage levels 

Disagreement

- Sea level rise induced by climate change and political instability 
- Age structure of origin/destination countries  
- Resources constraints affect capabilities to migrate 

Future rates of immigration and emigration



Emigration rates will increase in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Immigration rates will increase in Europe.

■ Likely to decrease
■ Neutral
■ Likely to increase

Thank you for your attention