

Home

About the Institute

Research

Staff

VID Publications

News & Events

Job vacancies

Information for the Public

Links

SEARCH

The Vienna Yearbook of Population Research 2008 online



Available as of 1 Dec 2008

[more](#)

Will Population Ageing Necessarily Lead to an Increase in the Number of Persons with Disabilities? Alternative Scenarios for the European Union

Journal: Vienna Yearbook of Population Research

Volume: 2005, pages 219-234

Publisher: [Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften](#)

DOI: 10.1553/populationyearbook2005s219

Wolfgang Lutz (1) and Sergei Scherbov (2)

(1)International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria and Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria. (Author for correspondence, Email: Lutz@iiasa.ac.at)

(2)Vienna Institute of Demography, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria.

Abstract

There is a widespread expectation that the combination of significant population ageing in Europe over the coming decades, along with the fact that the elderly are more likely to have disabilities, will result in a large increase in the total prevalence of disability and the need for significantly expanded care facilities for the elderly. Recent evidence from the U.S., however, suggests that disability rates of the elderly are declining and that further declines could be expected in the future. In this paper we present alternative demographic scenarios for the European Union (EU-15) that distinguish between people with and without disabilities by age and sex. The results show that under the assumption of a constant age-specific disability profile, we indeed expect a significant increase in the total number of people with disabilities due to population ageing. However, if the age profile of disability is shifted to the right (i.e., to higher ages) by one, two, or three years per decade, the scenarios show a much lower or no increase in the number of persons with disabilities in Europe over the coming decades.

[Full article](#)