
Preface

This is the second edition of the Vienna Yearbook of Population Research which was started in 2003 as a regular strictly refereed publication of the expanded and internationalised Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. It is a new kind of publication designed originally to serve the increasing demographic research community in the Vienna area (including IIASA) in terms of bringing their scientific work to the attention of the international scientific community. While the first edition still consisted predominantly of reprinted papers published in good journals and had just a few new articles, I am happy to see that this second edition already contains eleven original scientific articles in addition to a couple of reprints.

This second issue brings a further innovation: It introduces a separate section of the Yearbook entitled “demographic debates”. This section will document scholarly discussions of controversial demographic topics. It was inspired by the debate sessions that were introduced at the 2001 IUSSP General Conference in Salvador, a model that since then has been picked up by other population conferences. The debate session documented in this volume was held at the 2003 European Population conference of EAPS held in Warsaw. All four speakers at the debate session entitled “Is the ‘Second Demographic Transition’ a Useful Concept?” have agreed to have written versions of their contributions published in this Yearbook together with an introduction by the organisers of this EAPS debate session.

We plan to have such a demographic debate section in all future issues of the Yearbook. If you have a proposal for a timely topic, do not hesitate to contact the editors about it. We hope that this innovation will contribute to a more lively discussion of some of the most pertinent demographic challenges that face our societies.

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Submissions of contributions:

If you would like to submit a scientific contribution to a future issue of this yearbook please contact populationyearbook@oeaw.ac.at