

European Studies of Population 26

Konstantinos N. Zafeiris
Byron Kotzamanis
Christos Skiadas *Editors*

Population Studies in the Western Balkans



 Springer

European Studies of Population

Volume 26

Series Editors

Elwood D. Carlson, Center for Demography and Population Health, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA

Stuart Gietel-Basten, Division of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Kowloon, Hong Kong

The book series “European Studies of Population” (ESPO) aims at disseminating population research with special relevance for Europe. The series is multidisciplinary in character and includes both formal demographic analyses, as well as studies of the social, economic and other determinants and impacts of population trends. International comparison is of prime interest to ESPO, and both contemporary and historical perspectives may be applied. ESPO is open to methodological work and theoretical studies, as well as to studies that focus on the social and policy implications of demographic trends. The series includes monographs and edited volumes.

ESPO is published under the auspices of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS).

Konstantinos N. Zafeiris · Byron Kotzamanis ·
Christos Skiadas
Editors

Population Studies in the Western Balkans

 Springer

Editors

Konstantinos N. Zafeiris
Laboratory of Physical Anthropology
Department of History and Ethnology
Democritus University of Thrace
Komotini, Greece

Christos Skiadas
ISAST
Athens, Greece

Byron Kotzamanis
Laboratory of Demographic and Social
Analyses
Department of Planning and Regional
Development
University of Thessaly
Volos, Greece

ISSN 1381-3579

European Studies of Population

ISBN 978-3-031-53087-6

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-53088-3>

ISSN 2542-8977 (electronic)

ISBN 978-3-031-53088-3 (eBook)

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2024

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors, and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Paper in this product is recyclable.

Preface

Western Balkans is a diverse area on economic, social and cultural grounds, with a fascinating history of national rivalries and conflicts. In the modern era, it has been at the epicentre of the international debate for geopolitical reasons, for the efforts of several of its countries to become members of the European Union and other issues. However, little is known about its population as the scientific literature is often fragmentary and, in some cases, incomplete.

This book presents the population trends and related issues, aiming to partially cover this gap and contribute to developing scientific dialogue and cooperation between scientists from different countries. It is then a collective work in which 31 experts from the countries of the Western Balkans and Italy participate. The book covers topics related to fertility, marriage, mortality, health, population dynamics and ageing, migration and related problems. We hope that it could be the starting point for the development of new scientific efforts aimed at a deeper understanding of the population of this area of Europe.

Komotini, Greece
Volos, Greece
Athens, Greece

Konstantinos N. Zafeiris
Byron Kotzamanis
Christos Skiadas

Acknowledgement With the assistance of M. Koukli

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Konstantinos N. Zafeiris, Byron Kotzamanis, and Christos Skiadas	
2	The Demographic Future of Western Balkans: Between Depopulation and Immigration	19
	Vladimir Nikitović, Ivana Magdalenić, and Daniela Arsenović	
3	Population Ageing Process and Depopulation Context in Western Balkans	45
	Goran Miladinov	
4	Temporary Migration and Policy Challenges in the Western Balkan Countries—Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia Perspectives	63
	Jelena Predojević Despić and Vesna Lukić	
5	The Evolution of Family-Related Behaviours in the Western Balkans and Their Impact on Present and Future Family and Population Structures: An Analysis Concerning the Period 1945–2050	99
	Georgios Kontogiannis	
6	Mortality and Health Developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro	133
	Konstantinos N. Zafeiris and Christos Skiadas	
7	Serbia: Policy Response to Demographic Challenges	153
	Mirjana Rašević and Marko Galjak	
8	Spatial Distribution of Human Capital in Serbia: Empirical Analysis with Special Reference to Education	179
	Vlasta Kokotović Kanazir, Milena Panić, and Marija Drobnjaković	
9	Challenges of Getting Old in Croatia	211
	Sanja Klempić Bogadi and Sonja Podgorelec	

10	Albanian Return Migration in Times of Economic Hardship: The Role of Migratory Intentions	231
	Maria Carella, Thaís García-Pereiro, Roberta Pace, and Anna Paterno	
11	A Spatial Approach of Migration and Poverty in Albania: An Inevitable Correlation?	267
	Ifigeneia Kokkali	
12	Nationals and Foreigners Fertility in a Crisis Environment, the Case of Greece (2009–2020)	309
	Byron Kotzamanis	
13	Is a Future Upward Trend in Births a Realistic Policy Goal?	335
	Christos Bagavos and Alexandra Tragaki	
14	The Impact of Highly Skilled Returning Emigrants on the Origin Country’s Innovation Performance: Evidence from Greece	349
	Lois Labrianidis and Theodosis Sykas	
15	Culture Versus Political and Ecclesiastic Legislation. A Study on How Eastern Orthodox Easter Customs and Individual Agency Affect People’s Health in Greece	367
	Constantinos Papakostas and Konstantinos N. Zafeiris	
16	Attitudes Towards Reproduction and Creating a Family Among Albanian Women—The Case of Arachinovo Municipality, North Macedonia	379
	Biljana Apostolovska Toshevska, Mirjanka Madjevikj, Marija Ljakoska, and Aneta Gacovska-Barandovska	
	Index	397

Chapter 4

Temporary Migration and Policy Challenges in the Western Balkan Countries—Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia Perspectives



Jelena Predojević Despić and Vesna Lukić

Abstract Globalization has affected a rise in temporary labour and educational migration around the world. In this chapter, authors focus on the analysis of key trends of temporary migration in the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH), North Macedonia (NM), and Serbia (RS), the determinants of this phenomenon as well as policy responses. Relying on desk research and statistical data analysis, the paper aims to highlight the temporary migration in the Western Balkan region. Results reveal that besides continuous increase of temporary migration flows from BH, NM, and RS to EU-27 countries, those three WB countries attract temporary migrants in increasing numbers, mainly temporary labour migrants. The analysis of the migration strategies confirms that during the last decade, in RS and NM, unlike BH, there is continuity in the development of a framework for wider utilization of temporary and circular migration, students and labour mobility in the WB region. However, it is necessary to overcome the significant challenges related to the implementation. A summary of lessons learned was also included. The authors argue that innovative approaches to effectively manage temporary migration should be developed, both from the perspective of countries of origin and destination, including mobility rise in the entire WB region. Therefore, it is necessary to direct policy towards measures that integrate temporary migration into wider migration programmes. However, for evidence-based policy, a regular, updated, and synchronized statistical database for monitoring migration flows in all WB countries should be established.

Keywords Temporary migration · Migrants · Migration policy · Western Balkans

J. Predojević Despić (✉) · V. Lukić
Institute of Social Sciences, Kraljice Natalije 45, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
e-mail: jpredojevic-despic@idn.org.rs

V. Lukić
e-mail: vlukic@idn.org.rs