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Demographic change will affect all generations; it has become urgent to tackle this issue by developing new strategies and interventions.

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The European Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) More Years, Better Lives (MYBL) is working to develop new actions, projects and methods to respond to this situation. This will be the focus of the upcoming conference “Increasing the Knowledge Base on Demographic Change”, organised by the JPI.

Demographic change is a global issue that will affect citizens of all generations. It is a complex process, and no simple explanations or solutions can be expected. Joint research and development that can provide evidence to help policymakers and other stakeholders to adopt the right strategies and policies is needed. This is necessary to transform the challenge of demographic change into an opportunity .

The search for evidence in this field is the focus of the upcoming conference “Increasing the Knowledge Base on Demographic Change”, which will be held on the 13th of February in Brussels (Hotel le chatelain - Rue du Châtelain 17). The conference is organised by the JPI MYBL. The conference will stimulate dialogue in the area of demographic change by bringing together stakeholders including national policy makers, funders, scientists, health care professionals, industry representatives and NGO’s. Issues ranging from health to wellbeing to equity will be addressed during the conference.

“One of the major challenges for demographic change are the policies initiated for ‘Healthy and Active Aging’”- Prof. Paolo Maria Rossini, director of the Neurology Institute of the Catholic University and Italian delegate at JPI MYBL explains. “As a result of demographic change, there is increased prevalence of many diseases, particularly in developed countries: neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer’s and other Dementias, Parkinson Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis etc.) currently affect a significant proportion of the elderly population. Thus, when attempting to tackle the challenges associated with demographic change we must not neglect the health issues facing ageing populations.”

The main themes of the conference “Increasing the Knowledge Base on Demographic Change” are:

- The role of JPI MYBL in creating evidence based policies. The conference will give an overview of the latest MYBL achievements and their policy implications and present the future objectives of the JPI MYBL, including the upcoming work programme on equity and wellbeing. Achievements such as the Report on Demographic Change & Migration and the projects funded under the JPI MYBL joint calls on extended working life (2015), understanding welfare models (2016) and ageing in place in a digitizing world (2017) will be introduced.
- Reaching out to stakeholders and responding to societal needs. In order to address the societal challenge of demographic change, the JPI MYBL is working towards sustainable alignment of research programs, stakeholder interaction over the entire research cycle, and enhanced impact through the translation of research results into evidence-based policies

Mikkel Barslund (CEPS, Centre for European Policy Studies) will present the project Fairer ACTive AGEing for Europe (FACTAGE); Peter Huber (Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Vienna) will speak about attitudes to immigration and the ageing of societies (JPI MYBL Migration fast track); Stephen McNair & Heidrun Mollenkopf (advisory board chairs) will inform the audience about the future work of JPI MYBL (Programme on Equality and Wellbeing) The conference will be moderated by Edvard Beem (JPI MYBL Chair, ZonMw, The Netherlands).

There will be a poster session exhibiting 18 JPI MYBL projects with a short introduction by Tove Hammarberg (JPI MYBL Steering Committee member) followed by a presentation from Ritu Sadana (Senior Health Advisor, Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization). She will situate the “JPI MYBL on the Global Stage”.

There will also be a panel session discussing how JPI MYBL reaches out and responds to societal needs, which will be moderated by Yves Joannette (JPI MYBL Steering Committee member). The closing presentation will be given by Edvard Beem (JPI MYBL Chair).

The JPI MYBL is working hard on building critical mass through its increasing research funder networks, the research community supported through JPI MYBL Joint Actions, and its strategic partnerships with a broad range of key societal stakeholders, in order to become an important strategic platform with a critical role to play in this important area of research.

<http://www.jp-demographic.eu/news/jpi-mybl-2018-brussels-conference/>

Notes for editors:

Programme

08:45 - 09:30

Registration

09:30 - 10:30

JPI MYBL: Increasing the Knowledge Base on Demographic Change

Moderation: Edvard Beem (JPI MYBL Chair)

- Presentation project FACTAGE

Speaker: Mikkel Barslund (CEPS, Centre for European Policy Studies)

- Migration fast track presentation: Attitudes to immigration and the ageing of societies

Speaker: Peter Huber (The Austrian Institute of Economic Research WIFO)

- Future work of JPI MYBL: Programme on Equality and Wellbeing

Speakers: Stephen McNair & Heidrun Mollenkopf (advisory board chairs)

10:30 - 11:25

Poster pitches by projects and coffee

Introduction: Tove Hammarberg (JPI MYBL Steering Committee member)

11:30 - 12:00

Keynote: JPI MYBL on Global Stage

Speaker: Dr. Ritu Sadana (Senior Health Advisor, Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization)

12:00 - 12:50

Panel: Reaching out and responding to societal needs

Moderator: Yves Joannette (JPI MYBL Steering Committee member)

Panel members:

Angelika Poth-Moegle (CEMR)

Horst Kramer (DG connect)

Ritu Sadana (WHO)

Paolo Maria Rossini (MYBL General Assembly, UCSC, Italy)

Annemie Drieskens (COFACE)

12:50 - 13:00

Closing followed by Lunch

Speaker: Edvard Beem (JPI MYBL Chair)

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