

Missing generations? A cohort perspective on cumulated outmigration from South-eastern, Central and Eastern Europe

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Abstract

In the last three decades countries of South-eastern Europe and Eastern Europe have experienced the largest population declines globally, shrinking by up to 26% between 2000 and 2019. This trend was in part driven by declining fertility rates, but even more important was outmigration to other parts of Europe. To gain a deeper insight into the long-term impact of outmigration, we apply a cohort perspective on long-term outmigration. We use data from Eurostat, UN, Hyman Mortality Database and other sources to estimate the total number and share of surviving people born since 1950 who have left the analysed countries and are now living elsewhere. Our analysis reveals the massive scale of East-West migration flows in Europe, which has left huge “scars” in the age structure in some of the analysed countries.