

# Green Paper on Ageing

27 January 2021  
#EUAgeing

In the last 50 years, life expectancy at birth has increased by about 10 years for both men and women. This is a remarkable achievement that poses challenges and offers opportunities. The Green Paper on Ageing opens a wide debate on the impact of this trend - for citizens, whatever their age, and for society as a whole. It raises questions that span the life-cycle - from the formative years, to working age, to retirement, and stages of growing needs.

## Ageing: challenges & opportunities throughout the life-cycle

**Growing needs:**  
healthcare,  
long-term care /  
mobility,  
connectivity,  
well-being



**Formative years:**  
life-long learning,  
healthy & active  
ageing



**Working age:**  
labour markets,  
productivity,  
innovation  
and business  
opportunities



**Retirement:**  
volunteering,  
intergenerational  
relations /  
adequate, fair  
and sustainable  
pension systems,  
old-age poverty



**Lifelong learning and healthy and active ageing** need to start at a young age and continue throughout adulthood. Acquiring new skills boosts job opportunities during working years, but also helps people stay active into later life.

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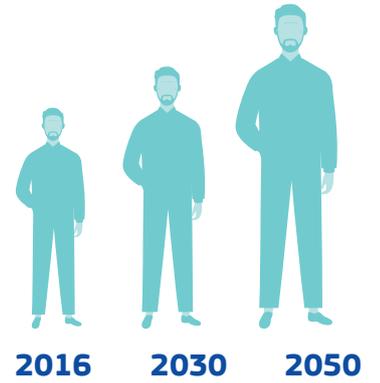


Many **older people continue to make an active and valuable contribution** to society and the economy. **One-fifth of 65-74 year olds** participate in formal volunteering while people aged 75+ also remain engaged when their health allows.

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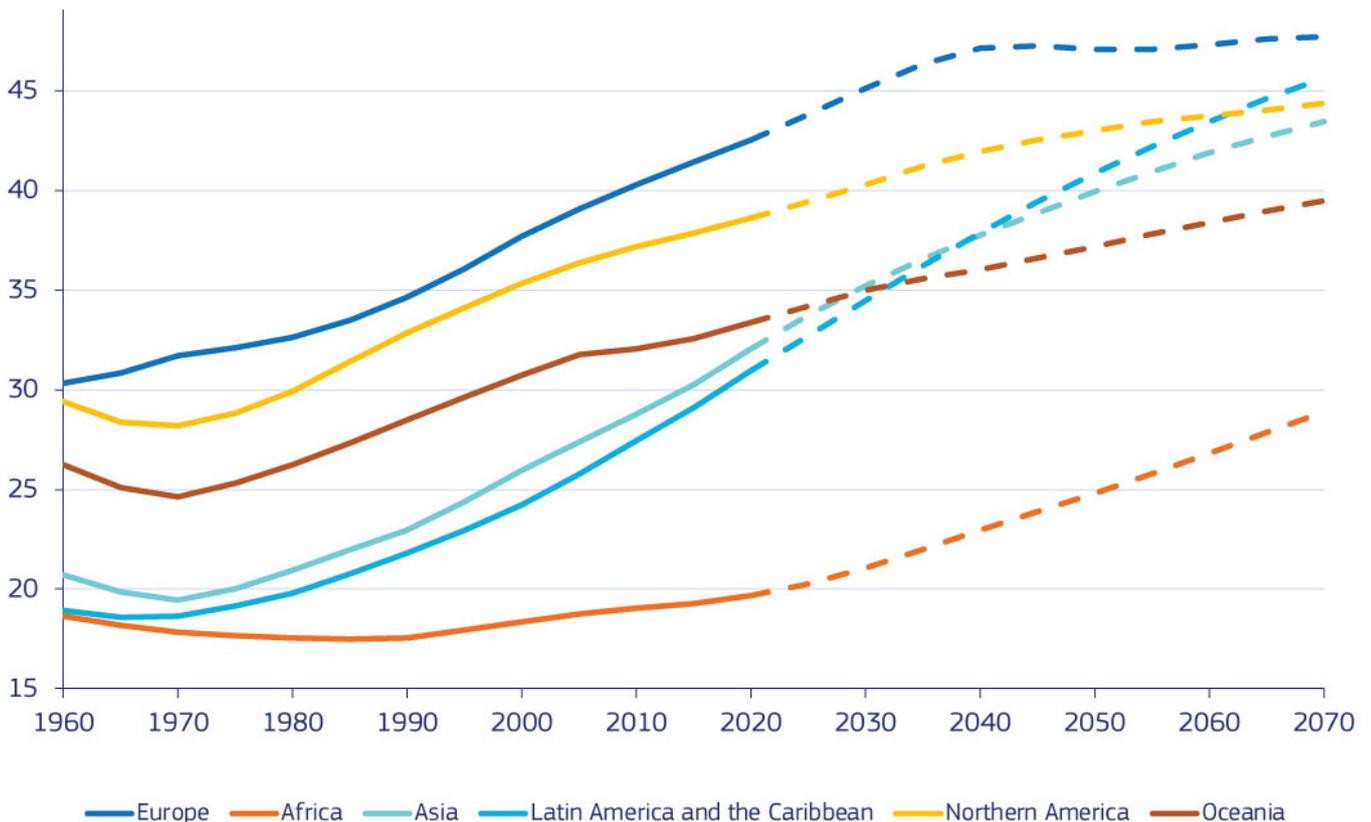


With people living longer lives nowadays, the demand for **healthcare** and **long-term care** in the EU is increasing. Ensuring access, affordability, and quality as well as adequate workforce will be a common challenge.



The number of people potentially in need of long-term care is expected to increase from **19.5m** in 2016 to **23.6m** in 2030 and **30.5m** in 2050 (EU-27).

Median age of the world population by continent, 1960-2070



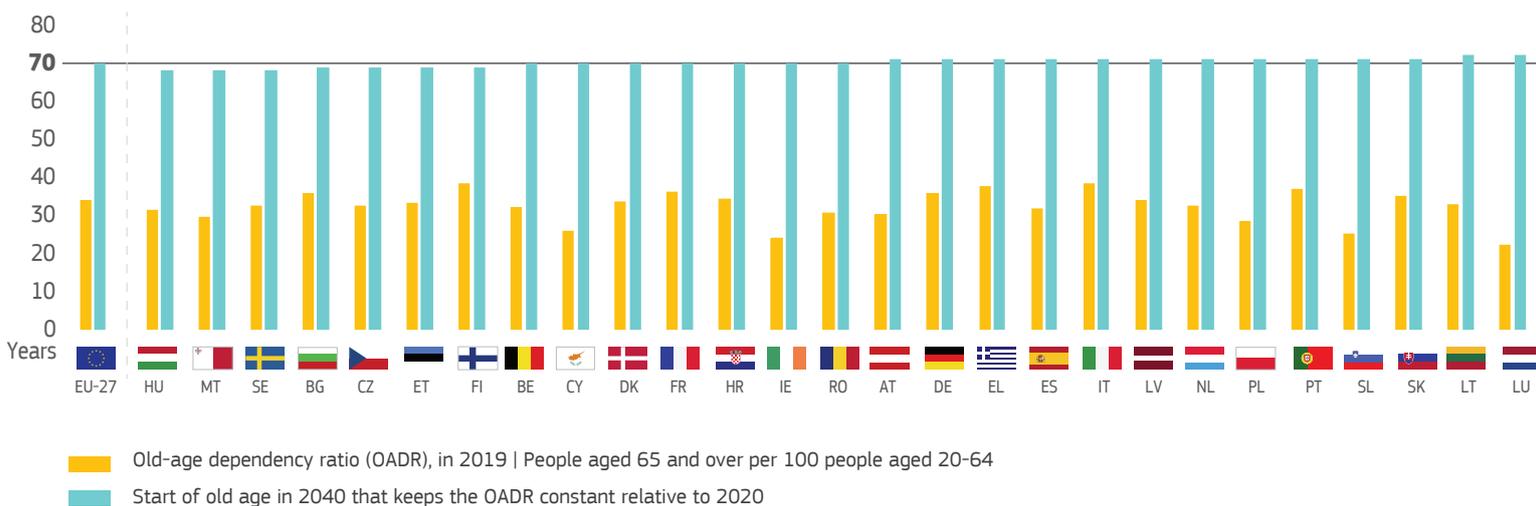
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

The EU's **old-age dependency ratio** is projected to be **59%** in 2070, almost a **75%** increase (from 34.1% now). So, there will be fewer than two persons of working age for each person aged 65 and over.

This requires immediate action, if we want to ensure intergenerational fairness, and good living standards for all our citizens, young and old.



Old-age dependency ratio in 2020 and the start of old age in 2040 that keeps the projected old-age dependency ratio constant per Member State.



## ➤ HaveYourSay

in the upcoming consultation as a follow-up to this green paper.

More information can be found at: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12722-Demographic-change-in-Europe-green-paper-on-ageing>

European citizens are living longer, healthier lives. This achievement shows the success and strength of our social market economy.



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