

Berlin Demography Days 2025

This year, the **Berlin Demography Days** are focusing on the topic of ‘**Demography and Democracy**’. The key question of this year's event is: What impact do demographic changes have on democracy? Following on from this, concrete options for action will be developed to strengthen democratic resilience at local, regional, national and international level.

- How can anti-democratic resentment be counteracted from a demographic policy perspective?
- What challenges does our democratic society face in times of demographic change?
- How can transdisciplinary solutions be developed?

Date: Monday, 27 October 2025 + Tuesday, 28 October (International Day)

Location: Wissenschaftsforum, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin.

27 October at WissenschaftsForum and online

17.30 – 18.00 – Registration

18.00 – 18.10 – Welcome

18.10 – 18.15 – Video message by EU-Commissioner Dubravka Šuica

18.15 – 19.45 – Panel Discussion "How Does Demographic Change Impact Democracy?"

19.45 – 20.00 – Ceremony of the European Demographer Award 2024

20.00 – 21.00 – Reception

21.00 – Conclusion

Panel discussion with:

Sven-Olaf Obst, Head of Department 6 “Intergenerational Justice, Youth, Older People”

C. Katharina Spieß, Director of the Federal Institute for Population Research

Shalini Randeria, President of the Central European University

Jasmin Arbabian-Vogel, Entrepreneur in the care sector and former President of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Germany

Moderation: Shelly Kupferberg

28 October (online)

13.15 – 13.20 – Welcome Address

- **Claudia Neu, Chair of Sociology of Rural Areas at the Universities of Göttingen and Kassel**
- **Andreas Edel, Executive Secretary of Population Europe | Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research**

13.20 – 14.20 – Global Talent, Local Gaps: Skill Migration and Territorial Divides

- **Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality & Member of the European Committee of the Regions**
- **Parvati Raghuram, Professor of Geography and Migration, Open University**
- **Saaya Sorrells-Weatherford, Founder and CEO of Emigreat**
- **Moderator: Hill Kulu, Professor of Human Geography and Demography, University of St Andrews**

14.20 – 14.35 – Break

14.35 – 15.35 – Rural but Plural? Migration and Belonging in Rural Areas

- **Bettina Bock, Professor of Inclusive Rural Development, Wageningen University & Research**

- **Blanca Casares Guillén, Policy Expert, AEIDL – European Association for Innovation in Local Development**
- **Sebastian Polak-Rottmann, Senior Research Fellow, German Institute for Japanese Studies**
- **Moderator: Claudia Neu, Chair of Sociology of Rural Areas at the Universities of Göttingen and Kassel**

15.35 – 15.50 – Break

15.50 – 16.50 – Who Belongs? Democracy in a Changing Demographic Landscape

- **Lenka Dražanová, Research Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute**
- **Michèle Lamont, Professor of Sociology and European Studies, Harvard University**
- **Anna-Maija Mertens, Executive Director of the German Institute for Compliance and President of the European Movement Germany**
- **Michaela Moua, European Commission – EU Anti-Racism Coordinator**
- **Moderator: Öndercan Muti, Project Coordinator, Population Europe | Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research**

16.50 – 17.00 – Conclusions