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**Trends in Mortality in Europe: What Might Be Expected in Future?**

Session 402: Health and mortality in Eastern Europe

*Abstract*

The divergence in mortality between Western and Eastern European countries in recent decades was and is still of interest for many researchers. The observed differences between these countries are not only in the levels of mortality but in causes of death, as well.

After the WWII mortality has declined in all European countries but more rapidly in Eastern Europe, where it was higher. This decline was due to mostly the decline in mortality from infectious and respiratory diseases. After the mid of 1960s, however, the improvement continued only in Western Europe when in Eastern Europe it has delayed. Most affected by the health deterioration in Eastern European countries were men in working ages for which mortality increased. Economic and social transition since the end of 1980s and early 1990s in some of the latter countries even accelerated that process. This increase in mortality, however, was followed by new improvement in most of them during the last decade.

Recently developed methodology by F. Girosi and G. King for forecasting age-sex-country-cause-specific mortality is applied to examine future trends in mortality in selected Eastern and Western European countries. Several explanatory variables, like gross domestic product, tobacco and fat consumption, etc., which are known as important determinants of mortality, are used to predict the future trends in cause-specific death rates.