

## **Demographic Crisis on the Post-Soviet Space**

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The main demographic processes, mortality, nuptiality, fertility, and migration, in 15 post-Soviet countries for last 40 years, are examined and the common and specific features of demographic crisis, which these countries go through, are analyzed. This crisis began long before disintegration of the USSR owing to inability of the Soviet society to provide a condition for normal development and accomplishment of the demographic transition, and has been aggravated by the economic and social crisis in the post-Soviet countries in 1990<sup>th</sup> years. The crisis touched on all aspects of the demographic process. It is manifested in incompleteness of epidemiological transition, preservation of archaic structure of the causes of death and high mortality; in delayed and self-contradictory development of new family values and norms of matrimonial and procreative behavior that results in very high number of divorces, the very low fertility, preservation of archaic forms of birth control, etc.; in aggravating trends of depopulation and ageing; in destruction of traditional migratory flows and relations and in inability to bring mechanisms of regulation of migrations and the migratory legislation in balance with a new demographic and political reality.

Alongside with features of demographic crisis, common for all post-Soviet countries, the typical features of certain groups of former Soviet republics are examined : the Baltic states in which overcoming of some aspects of crisis begin to show, in particular, the improvement of situation in mortality; other European countries of the post-Soviet space (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova) where crisis still continues to accrue; the countries of Caucasus and the Central Asia in which the crisis phenomena are combined with the accelerated development of demographic transition.

Prospects of overcoming the demographic crisis and measures to hasten such overcoming are also discussed.