

## **Political borders and demographic trends in Europe**

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### **Background and Purpose of the research**

National and over national frontiers have always been very important to settle on socio-economic, cultural and political conditions able to influenced population demographic attitudes. Depending on the socio-political conditions under which the border is drawn, migration (internal and international) and familial and occupational structures may be deeply affected. One of the most representative examples is the substantial line of fracture and the difference as regards to the population demographic dynamics between Europe of 15 and the oriental part of the continent.

### **Data and Methods which were used**

The research will be focused on the analysis of the effects produced by borders changes on the population demographic trends. Analysing demographic trends of border populations in a comparative ways we will try to arrive to a synthesis of the cases that in the European contest seem to show better the relation between political frontiers and demographic regimes.

The analysis will focus, principally, on stock and flows data concerning international migration, population movement, marriages, births, deaths, etc., coming from international sources (Sopemi, IOM, UN, Eurostat, Unchr). Furthermore will be considered national statistical sources in order to consider the detailed differences produced by international and internal border changes.

### **Main results and Conclusions**

During the XX century, the “demographic Europe” has been broken in two parts. At the beginning this fracture was considered as a result of the temporally difference in the start of the demographic transitional process. After this difference has been interpreted as one of the main manifestation of the geopolitical division of the continent in two different socio-political systems. The demographic trends concerning the “two Europe” reveal a line of frontier between these two territories that traces physical and political borders really existing. And nowadays, even if political borders are disappeared we know that a demographic frontier persists but it moves to a progressive convergence to international standards.