

**Nordic Association of Agriculture Science (NJF)**  
**Continuous international scientific conference**  
**“Challengers of Economics, Education and Society Development in the Nordic – Baltic Countries and beyond” organised by Section of Economy, Education and Society**  
**Programme for the virtual seminar on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Wednesday)**  
**12:00 to 13:30 Central European time (13:00 to 14:30 Eastern European time)**  
**Web address: <https://ac.vdu.lt/vk1>**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title:** Ageing population in Europe

**Speaker:** Monika Bišere M.Sc, PhD student, Baiba Rivža Dr.hab.oec, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

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**Annotation:** This literature review investigates population ageing, increasing retirement age and labor force participation of older workers. Population ageing is a long-term development that has been observed for several decades in Europe. This process is being driven by historically low fertility rates, increasing life expectancy and, in some cases, migratory patterns. The total population of the EU is projected to increase from 512 million at the start of 2018 to peak at 525 million by 2044. The population of older people (65 years or more) will increase significantly, rising from 101 million at the start of 2018 to reach 149 million by 2050.

Population aging has a negative effect on the sustainability of public pension systems. The co-occurrence of a long-term decrease in fertility and an increase in the share of pension recipients who also increasingly live to an older age, results in shrinking financial contributions and increasing costs, which risks the solvency of these public pension systems. The old-age dependency ratio in Europe has increased from approximately 22% in 1997, to almost 30% in 2017 (Eurostat 2018). This means that, in 1997 five persons of working age supported one person at the age of 65 or older, only three working persons supported one older person in 2017. This illustrates the major challenge regarding the pension systems that countries are confronted with.

Policy reforms have narrowly focused on two strategies: increasing the statutory retirement age and restricting pathways to early retirement. These reforms will only achieve their goal if: 1) the condition that employers demand older workers; 2) that working environments are conducive to older people remaining in work; 3) workers are in sufficiently good health to work longer.

The increase of the retirement age has increased labor force participation among older workers and has increased the preferred and expected retirement age in the direction of the public pension reform. However, evidence on the effects of an increase of the retirement age on the health and well-being of older workers remains scarce and inconclusive.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title:** Latvian Theme Park Development in Latvian Regions

**Speaker:** Uldis Plumite M.Sc, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

**Annotation:** The economy of Latvia is experiencing rapid development in the European Union and is active participant of the United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In recent years there have been several changes in both sectors and national economic policy. The total population in Latvia was estimated at 1.9 million inhabitants in 2019 and a total GDP per capita was 63% of the EU average, the lowest GDP per capita in purchasing power parity was recorded in Bulgaria - 46% of the EU average, Romania - 60% and Croatia - 62%. Lithuanian and Estonian GDP per capita in 2019 was accounted for 74% of the EU average. Latvia has more than 12 theme parks, but the amusement offer is small. Most of the theme parks are mostly located in Kurzeme and Vidzeme. Attraction Parks historically evolved near the big cities, where the infrastructure is highly developed. The aim is to increase the influx of tourists in regions where tourism products are amusement parks, thus developing more local businesses and the city's environment, increasing the demand for an active economic environment, but regional laws often hinder this development.

Result of the study helps to analyze Latvian regional economic opportunities in the regions and to assess their contribution to local development.

Keywords: regional development, tourism, economics, economic of regional, theme park.