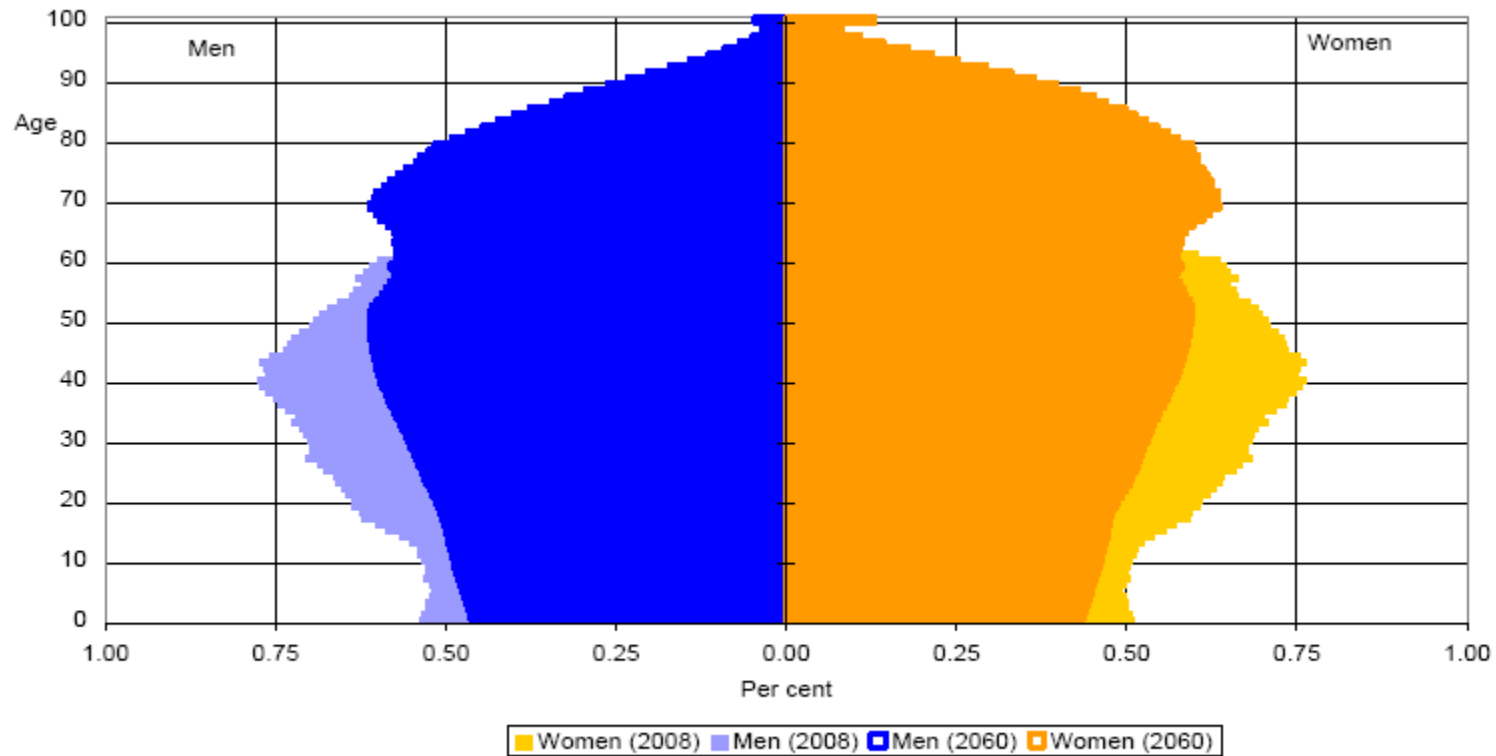




OLD AND YOUNG BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERN SPIRIT

ALEX STRUNGĂ
POPULAR UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA

THE DEMOGRAPHICAL CHALLENGE



Source: Eurostat, EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario



SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS CHALLENGE

- *What means for us 'old' and 'young'? Which is a product of:*
- How the seniors view *themselves*? How they perceive the advantages, disadvantages and challenges of being a senior?
- How youngsters view *themselves*? How they perceive the advantages, disadvantages and challenges of being young?
- How seniors view the youngsters?
- How young people view seniors?



WACHELKE AND CONTARELLO STUDY (2010)

Table 1

Rejection rates, statistical test results and structural status of elements linked to the social representation on aging, per age group.

Element	Young			Mature		
	Ref. / %	χ^2 (1)	Status	Ref. rate	χ^2 (1)	Status
General decline	28 / 70	6.40*	Central	31 / 77.5	12.10***	Central
Family	31 / 77.5	12.10***	Central	27 / 67.5	4.90*	Central
Social exclusion	25 / 62.5	2.50	Per.	27 / 67.5	4.90*	Central
Death	15 / 37.5	—	Per.	27 / 67.5	4.90*	Central
Wisdom	24 / 60	1.60	Per.	25 / 62.5	2.50	Per.
Health problems	23 / 57.5	.90	Per.	26 / 65	3.60	Per.
New activities	21 / 52.5	.10	Per.	13 / 32.5	—	Per.

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$ *** $p < .001$



TRADITION AND MODERN SPIRIT IN ROMANIA

- The majority of post-socialist states were extremely closed and beaurocracy centered, and attracted to oriental cultures (russian, chinese, arab);
- Modernity means democracy, social openness and and a strong interest for European Union;
- Differences across other dimensions: demography, geography, economy, culture, education, religion, technology;
- The conflicts are mainly due to the **lack of jobs** (economic factors) and to the **difference of social representations.**



THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Education is the point of convergence between tradition and modern spirit, old and young



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IN EDUCATION?



DIFFERENT GENERATIONS, DIFFERENT EDUCATION?



DIFFERENT GENERATIONS, INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION?



THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITIES



THE ROLE OF INTERNET AND NEW MEDIAS



THE ROLE OF REGIONAL NETWORKING



CONCLUSION: A CHANGE OF PARADIGM

- A different model of education – INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION
- A different model of cooperation – REGIONAL NETWORKING IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT
- A different role of the UNIVERSITY – as the platform for these new projects
- A different communication infrastructure – NEW MEDIA as a bridge between Danube nations and people





EUROPEAN AND PARTICULARLY .. DANUBE PROJECTS

Thanks to ZAWiW, we participated (or are currently participating) in great projects like:

- DANET
- DASUN
- DALEC 1 & DALEC 2
- DASTO
- Personal Town Tours
- Feasibility study 'OLDER ADULTS' LIFELONG LEARNING AND ICT USE IN THE DANUBE REGION'
- DANUBE NETWORKERS ON TOUR



CENACLUL AS INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY IN ROMANIA





QUESTION FOR PARTNERS

*WHAT MODELS OF INTERGENERATIONAL
EDUCATION ARE BEING USED IN YOUR
COUNTRY?*



THANK YOUR FOR THE ATTENTION!

