

Demographic change in Europe

a toolbox for action

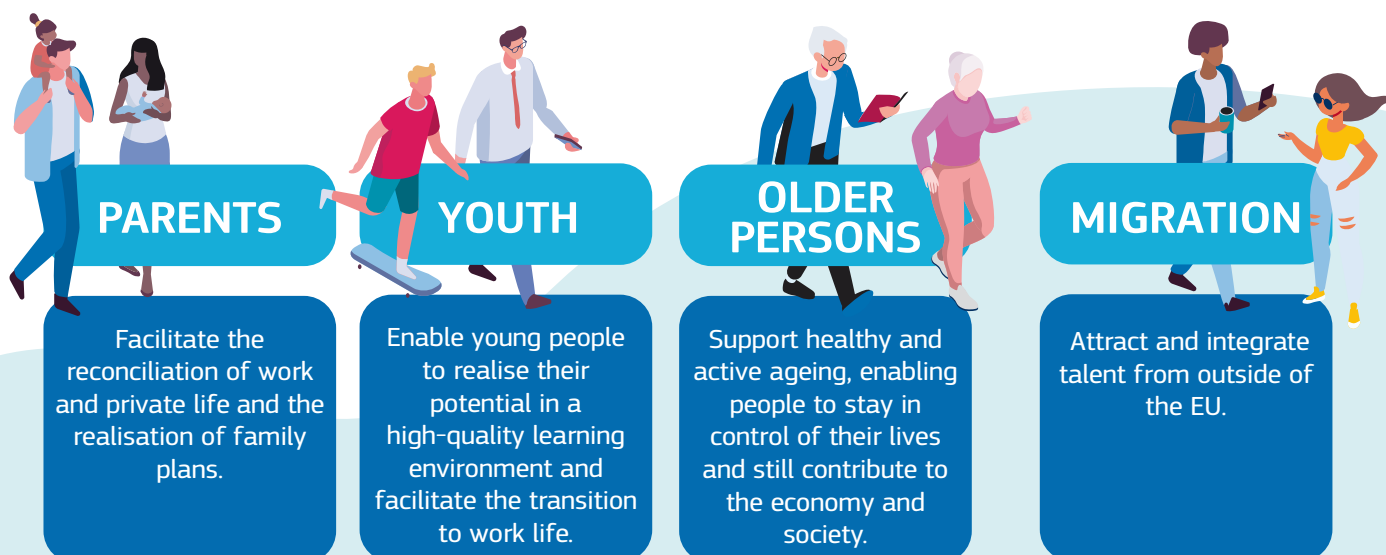
11 October 2023

Demographic change has a profound impact on Europe's competitive edge

- In the coming years, the **EU's population will continue to decline**, which could have a negative impact on the EU's economy, society and may affect its position in the world.
- **Europe is an ageing continent**, raising the dependency ratio from 33% to 60% by 2100.
- The shrinking of the EU working-age population by 57.4 million persons between now and 2100 and its continued ageing risk **negatively impacting the competitiveness**.
- If left unaddressed, demographic change will further **exacerbate labour shortages and increase pressure on public budgets**.
- These consequences may hamper the efforts of both the private and public sector towards **the green and digital transitions**.
- **Territorial disparities**, due to depopulation and "brain drain", are at risk of **undermining social cohesion**.

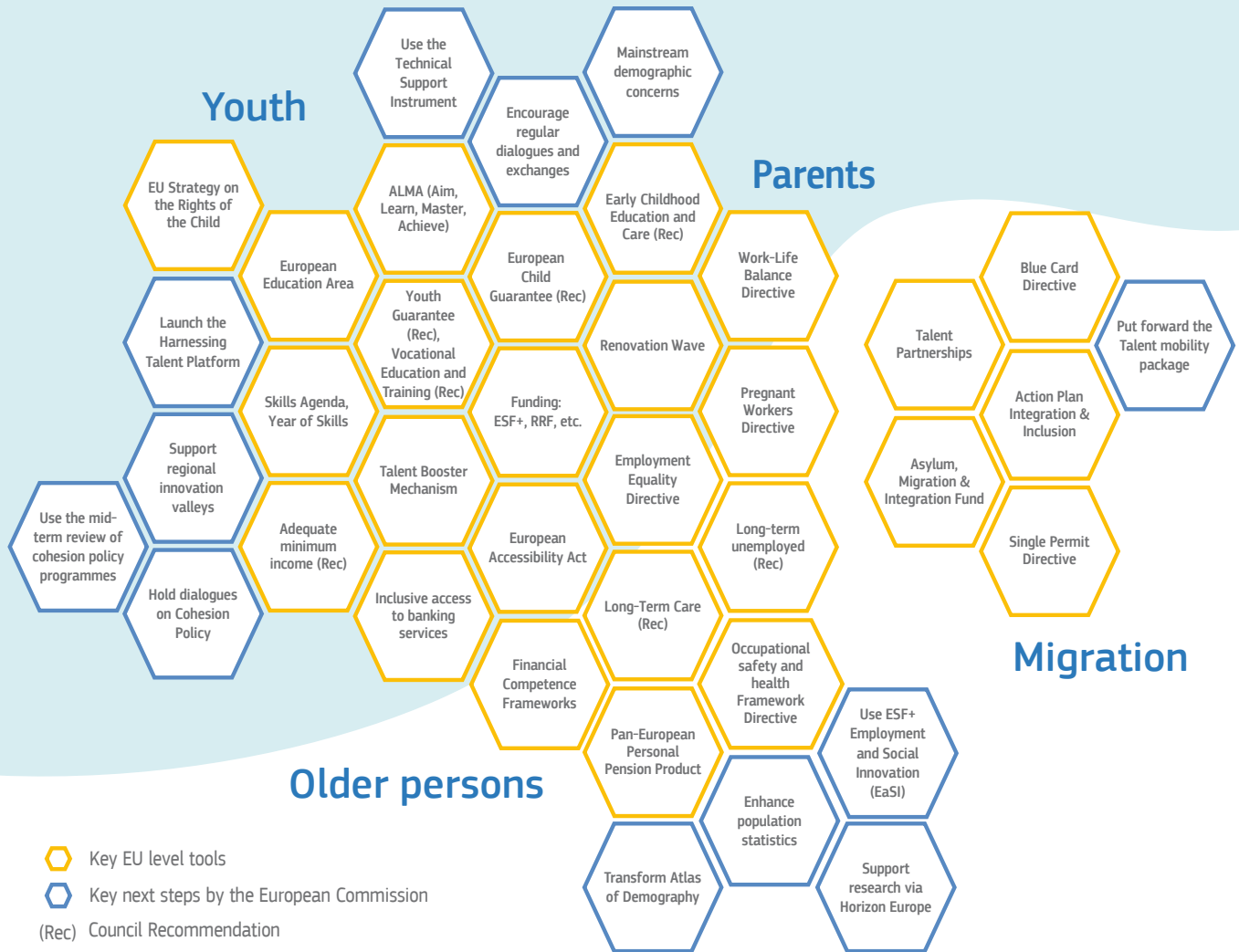
A toolbox to address and manage demographic change

Demographic change requires comprehensive and integrated solutions. Reforms and investments are needed, using a combination of EU and national-level instruments, to maintain the EU's competitive edge. The demography toolbox draws on experiences from across the EU and sets out a comprehensive approach to demographic change structured around 4 pillars.



Promote economic prosperity and well-being in all regions with place-based policies.

Key EU-level tools available to Member States to manage demographic change



The Commission calls on Member States to develop and implement integrated policies to tackle demographic change and to mainstream demographic concerns into all policy areas. The Commission is committed to support Member States in effectively using and further developing these tools. A number of financing instruments are available at EU level to support Member States, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the European Social Fund+ (ESF+).

Member States' demography policies should:

