



# Press release

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## 1 Population

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Participation of the elderly in society

## Promoting active ageing

Neuchâtel, 26.01.2012 (FSO) – **To encourage old people to participate in society, to enable them to stay in good health and to remove obstacles between the generations - these are the main aims of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations in 2012. With this in mind, the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) is contributing to the event with the publication of various articles on the topic of active ageing in its *Demos* newsletter.**

### Growing number of old people

In Switzerland, as in most European countries, the next few decades will be characterised by major changes in demographic growth and in the age distribution of the population. Longer life expectancy and the current age structure of the population are in fact increasing the speed at which the population is ageing. Therefore the number of old and very old persons is growing faster and faster. Even with large numbers of immigrants, the number of persons of working age cannot increase as quickly as the number of persons of retirement age. The majority of these changes are already incorporated into the current age pyramid of the population.

These changes will take place, therefore, regardless of any future trends in fertility, death or migration. The social, economic and political consequences of the forthcoming trends are multiple. In order to face the challenges as well as embrace the opportunities of this new, long-life society, the potential of old people and their contribution to the community must be recognised, in particular of the great number of baby boomers born in the 1960s who will soon be reaching retirement age.

### Active ageing

The European Year for Active Ageing aims to encourage policy makers and stakeholders alike to promote active ageing. Active ageing implies the constant participation of senior citizens in social, economic, cultural, intellectual and civic life. Senior citizens who participate can continue to feel useful, can develop their skills, keep up a social network and have a sense of self-confidence.

The FSO is contributing to this event by the publication of various articles on active ageing in its *Demos* newsletter. Three editions will be published throughout 2012 containing different contributions from or commissioned by the FSO. The first, to be published in January, deals with the cultural and

social behaviour of senior citizens. The second will focus on the employment and economic situation of senior citizens and will be published at the end of May. The third edition will consider the mobility and the social participation and exclusion of older people and is planned for the end of October.

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