Alternative Forms of Housing for the Elderly
Part 1: Population ageing

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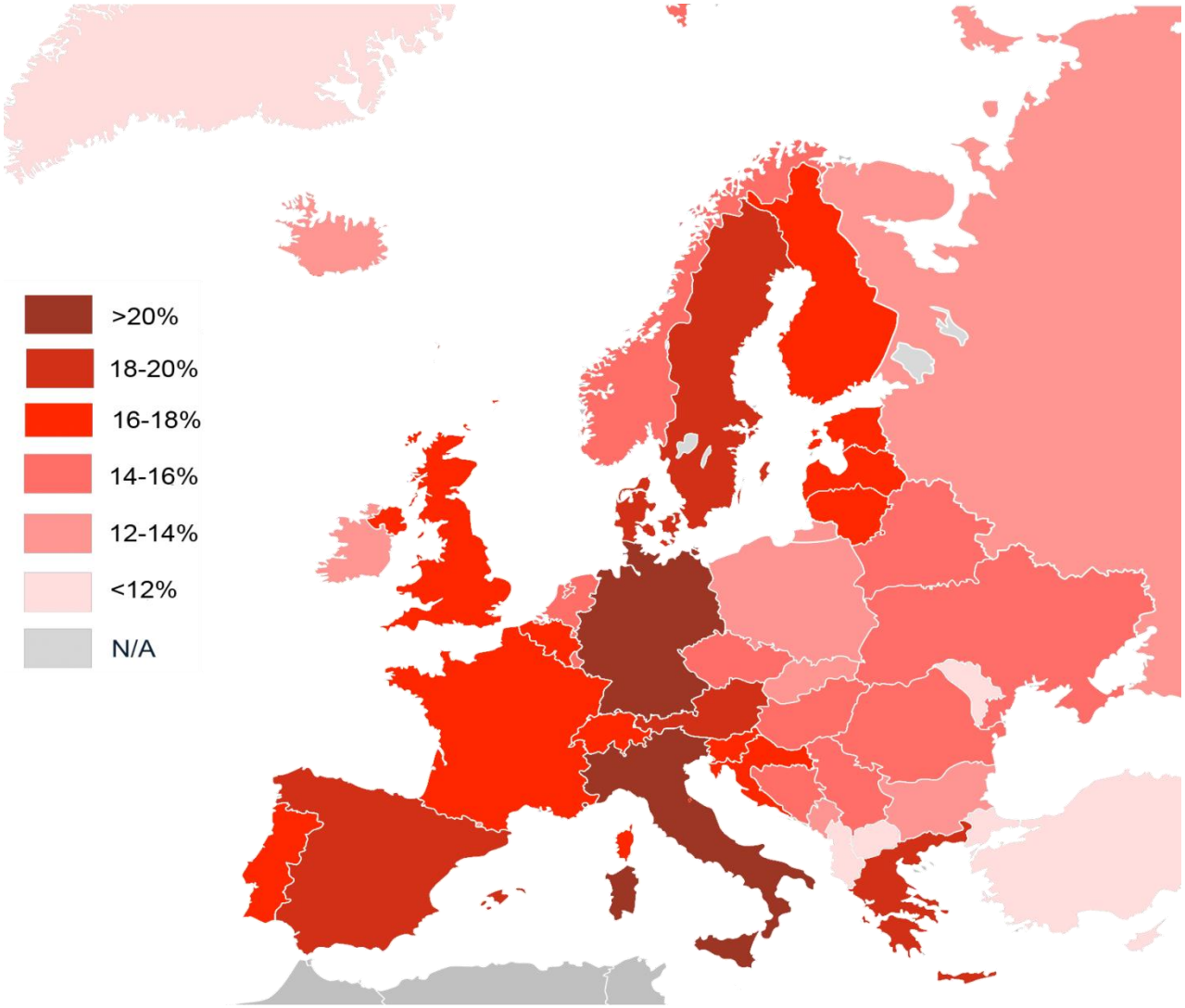
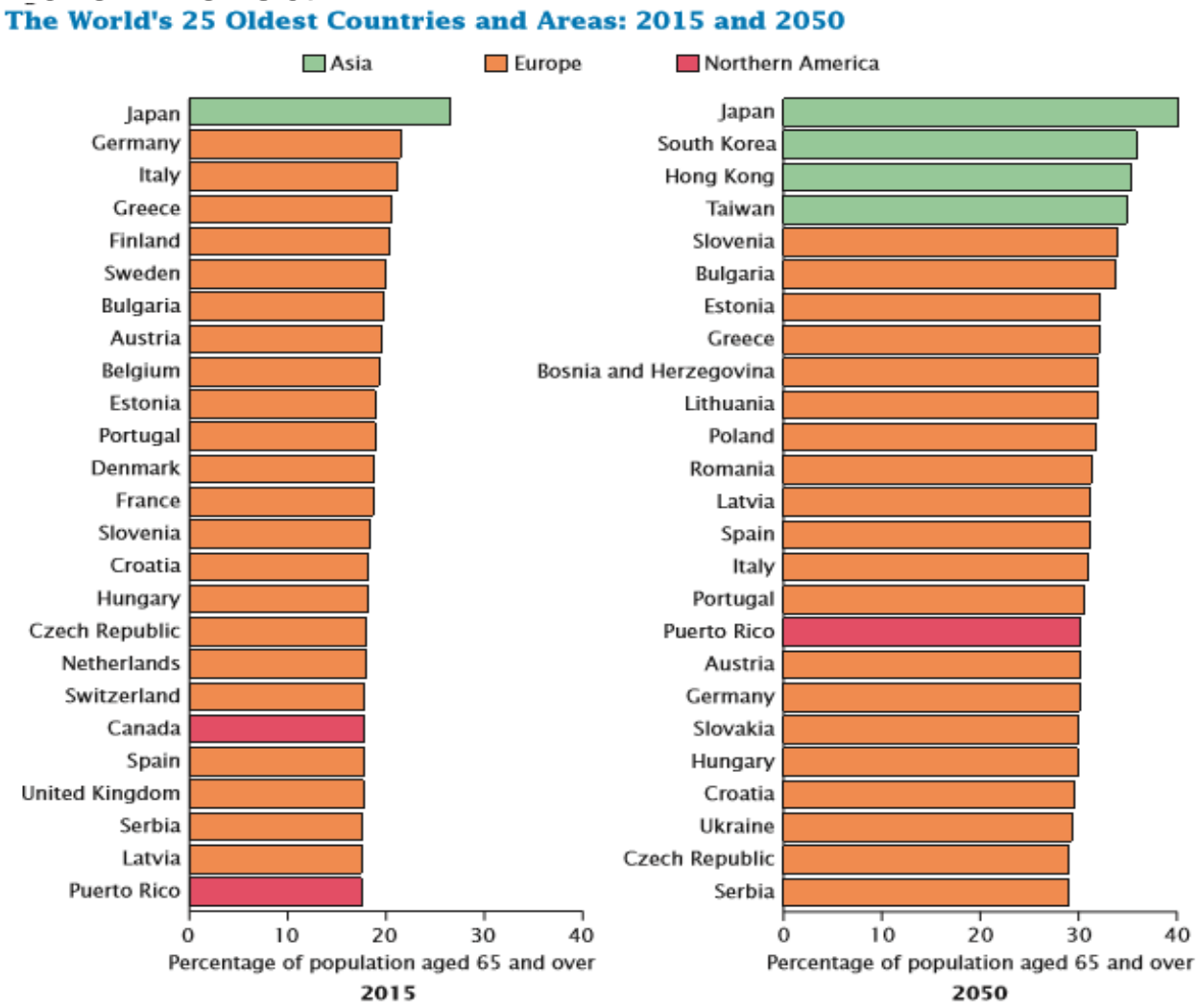
Population ageing

Europe is increasingly dealing with population ageing.



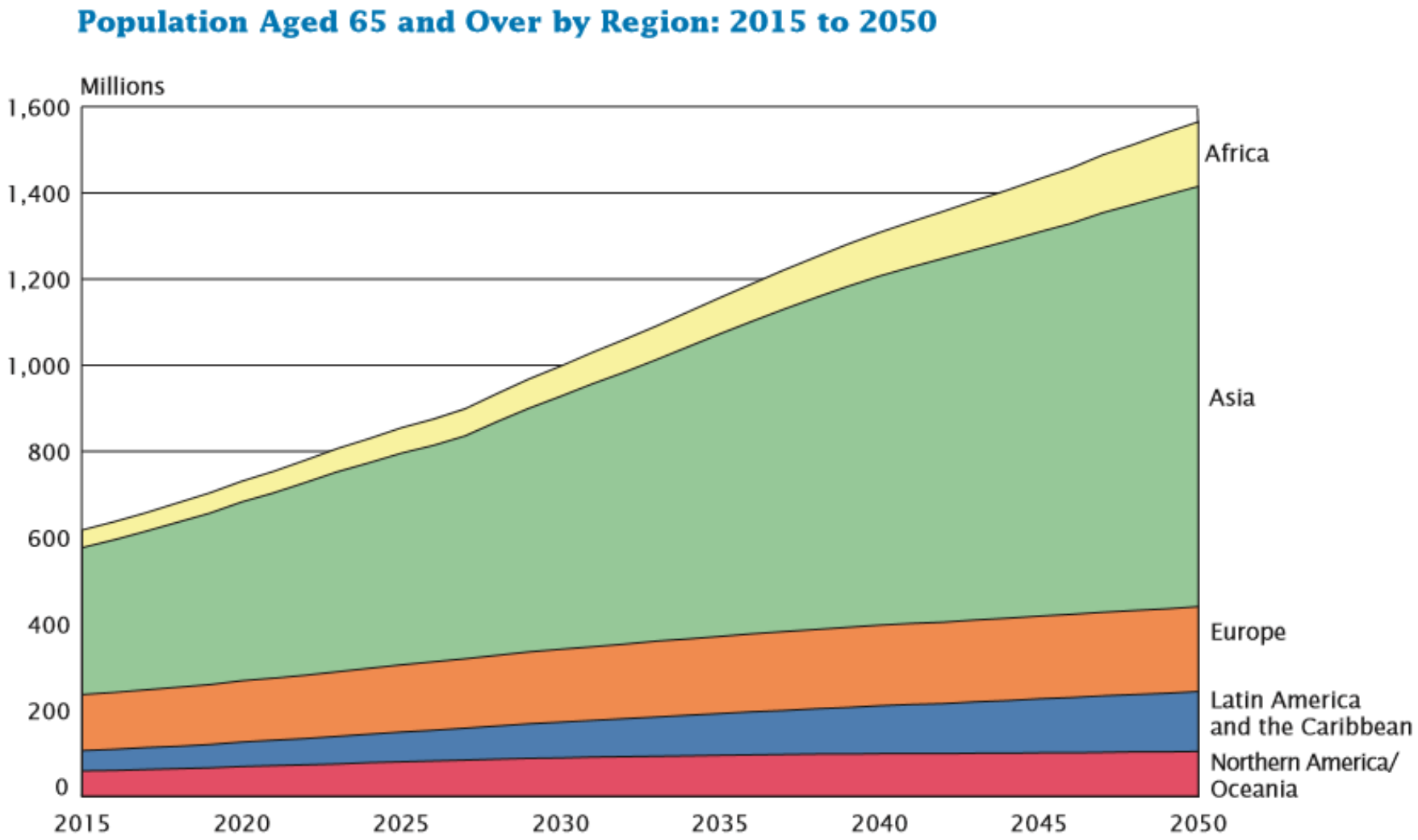
Population ageing

A number of other countries in the developed world are also ageing very quickly, especially two Asian countries, Japan and the Republic of Korea.



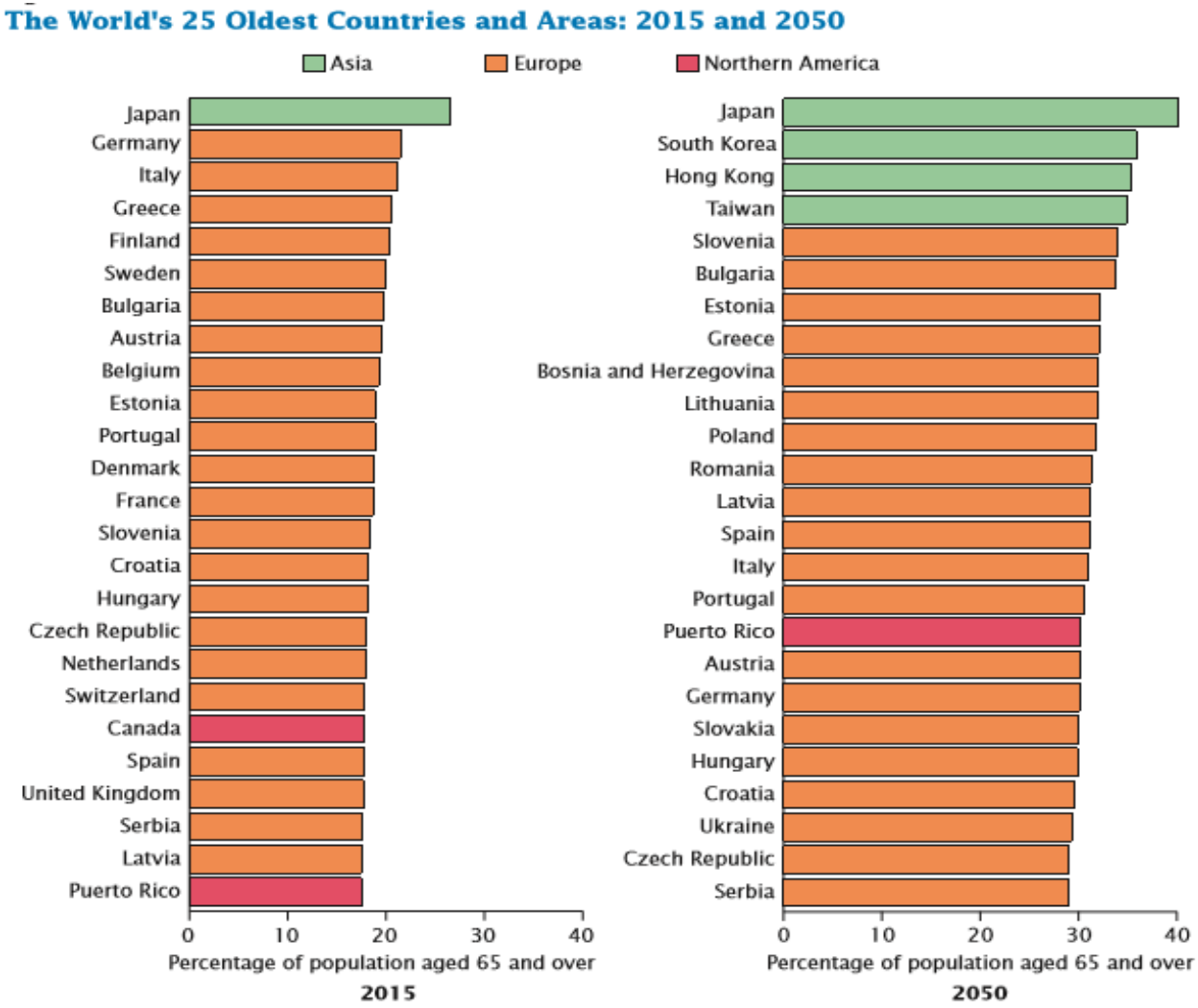
Population ageing

What warrants attention is that (while population ageing in Asia currently is not as advanced as in Europe) its huge population.



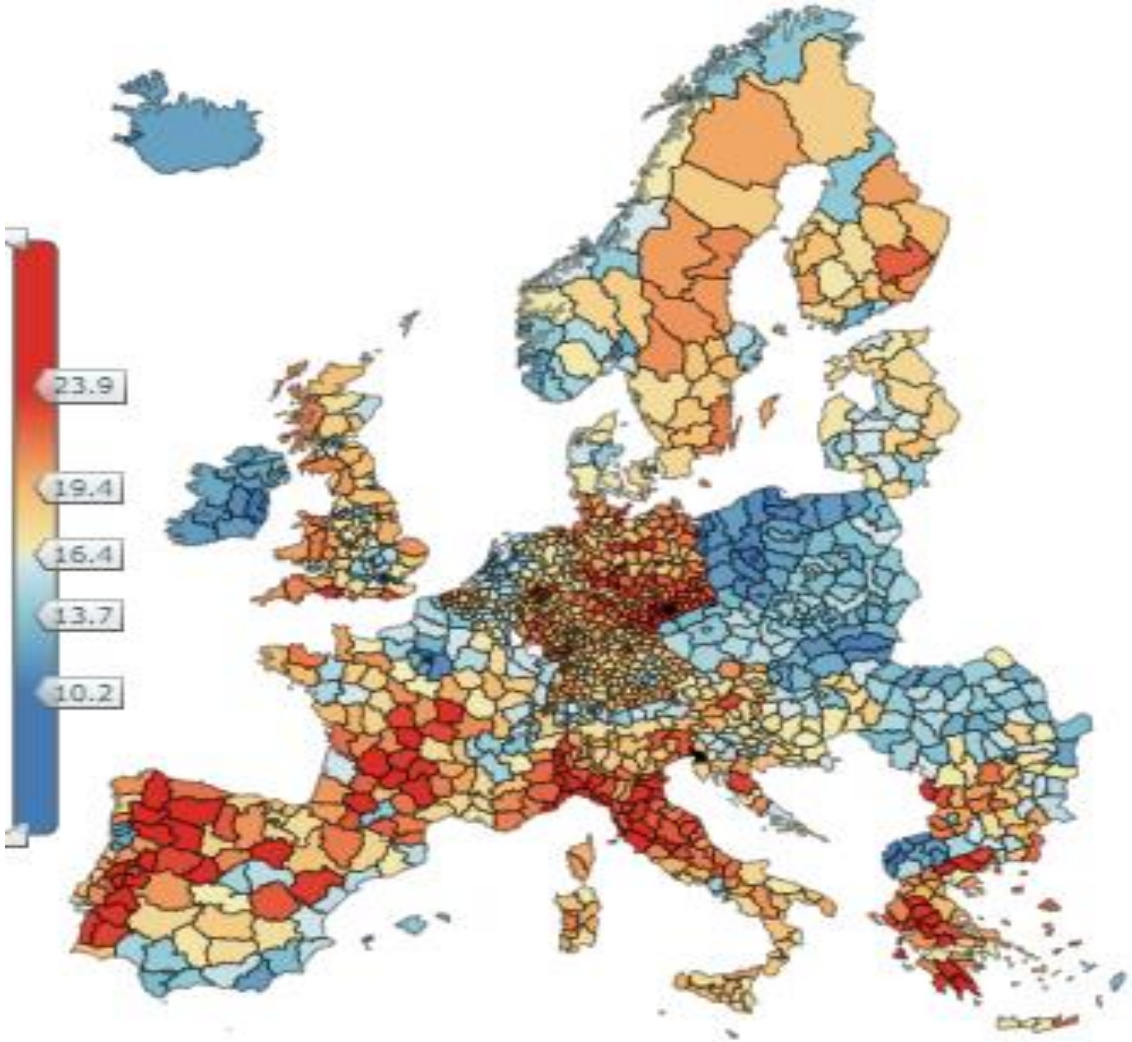
Population ageing

In EU, by 2050 the share of people over 65 will represent 29.3% of the total population.



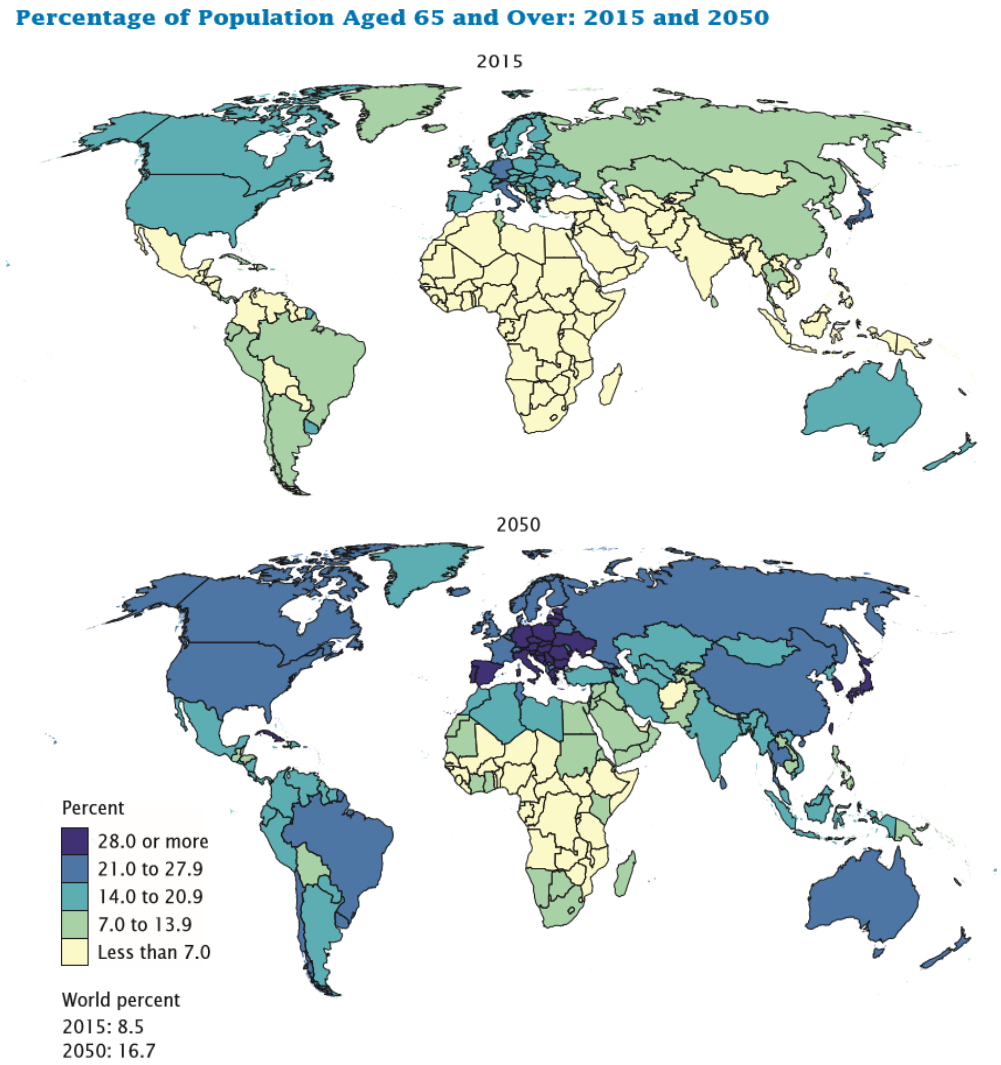
Population ageing

There are differences in ageing among regions within countries.



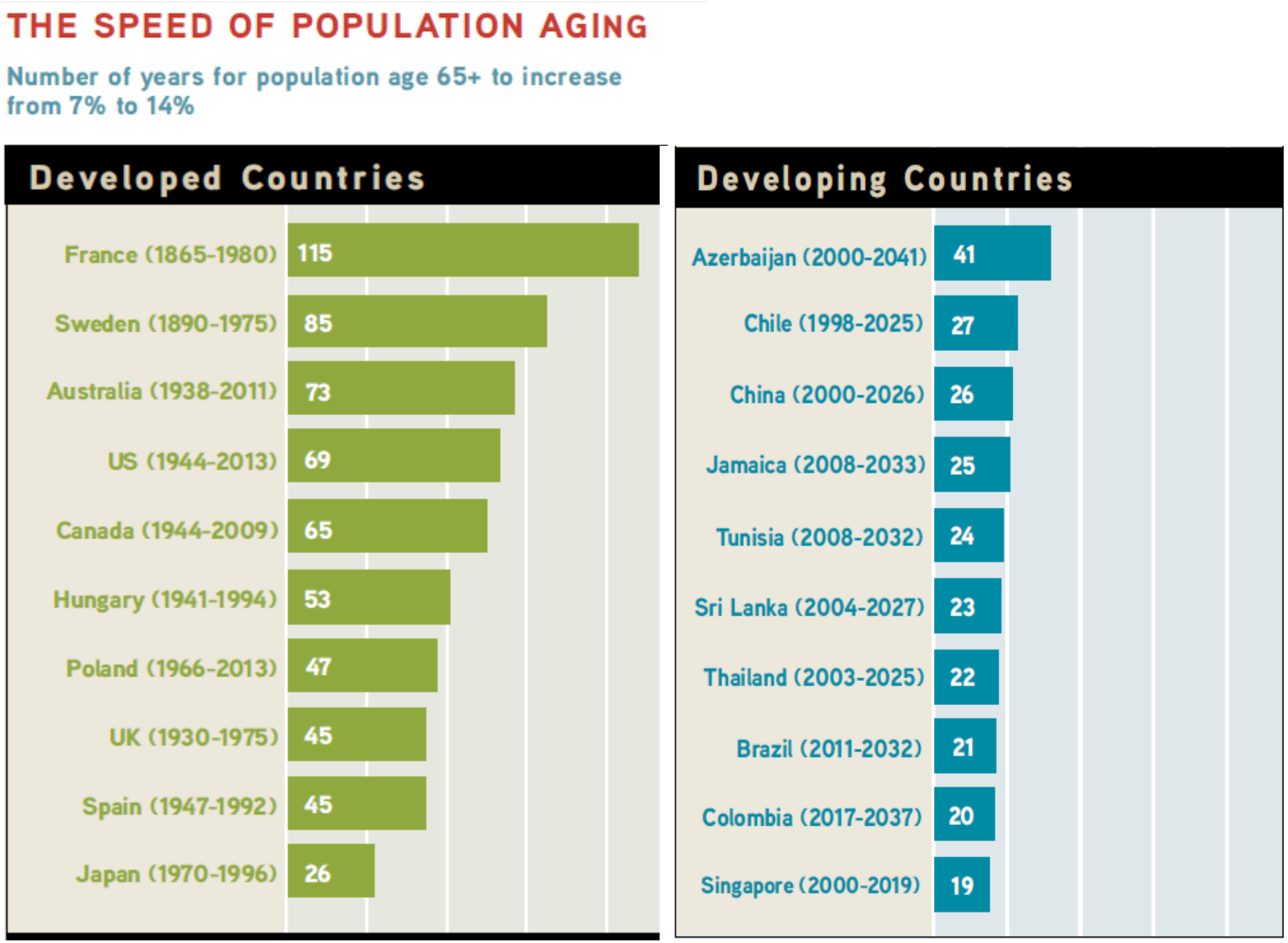
Population ageing

But not just Asia and Europe, the ageing rate is expected to increase further in the future all over the world.



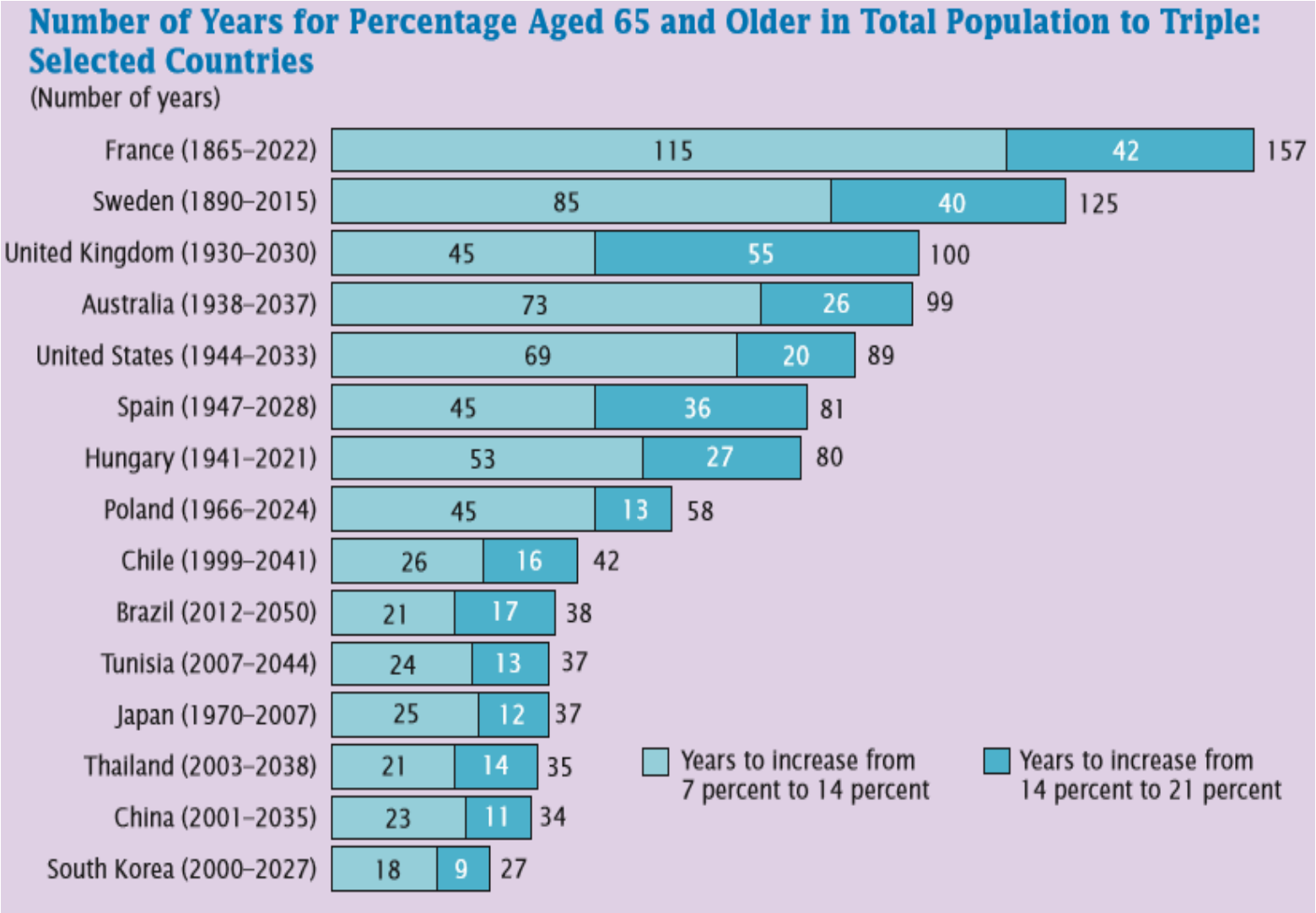
Population ageing

The most rapid increases in older populations are occurring in the less developed world.



Population ageing

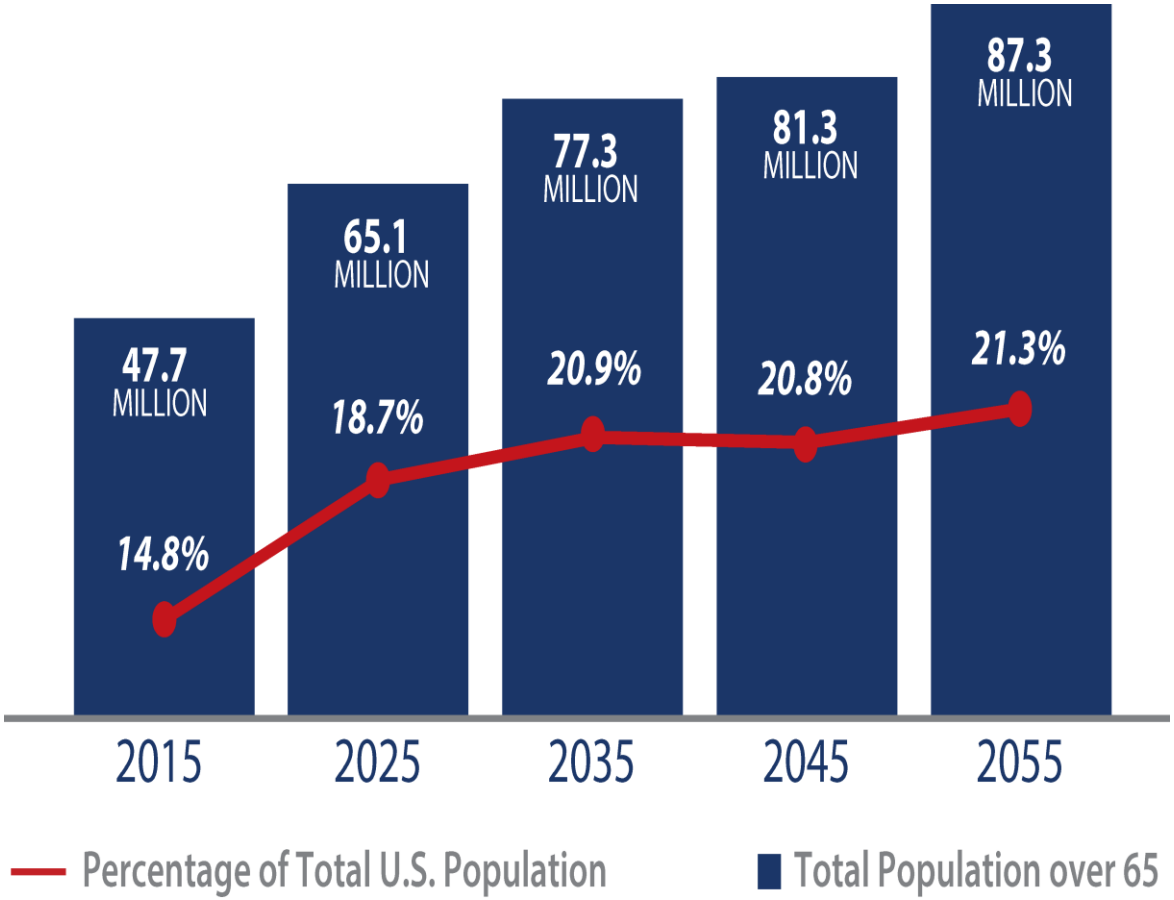
In the near future, countries may face not just doubling but tripling of the share of the older population.



Population ageing

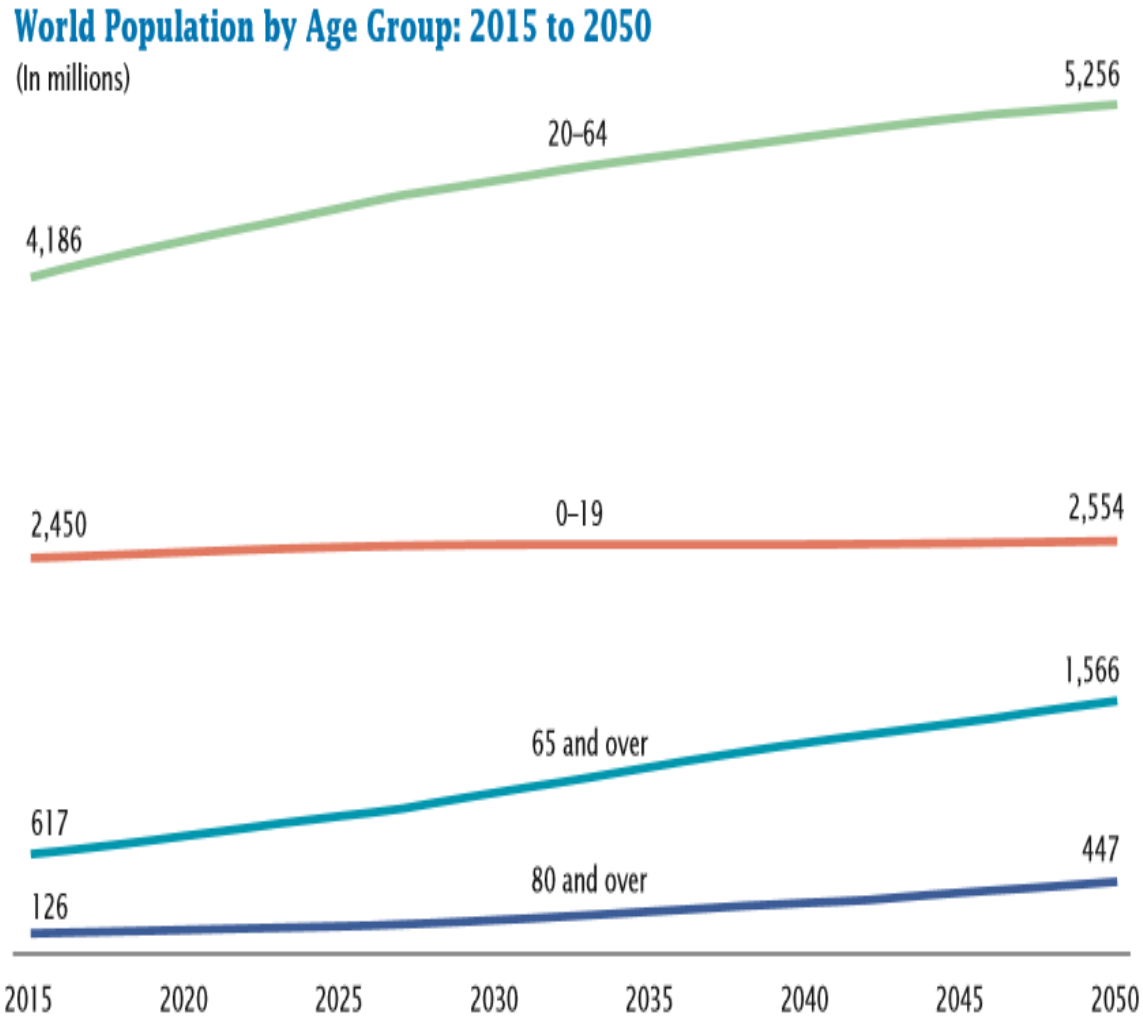
What about the United States?

This country is special example, with an older proportion of 14.8% in 2015 and ranked 48th among the oldest countries of the world, is rather young among more developed countries.



Population ageing

Different growth trajectories of the older and younger populations



Population ageing

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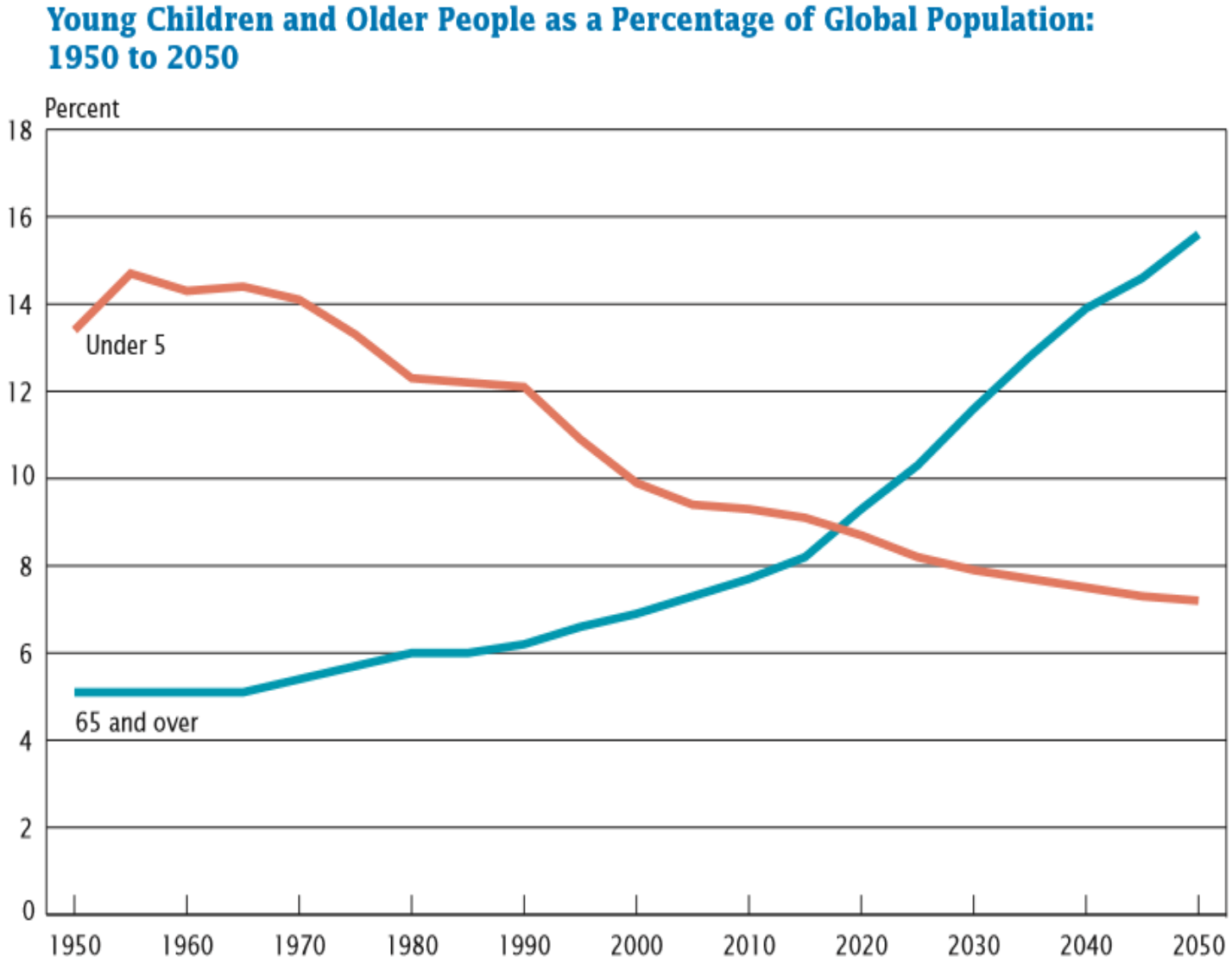
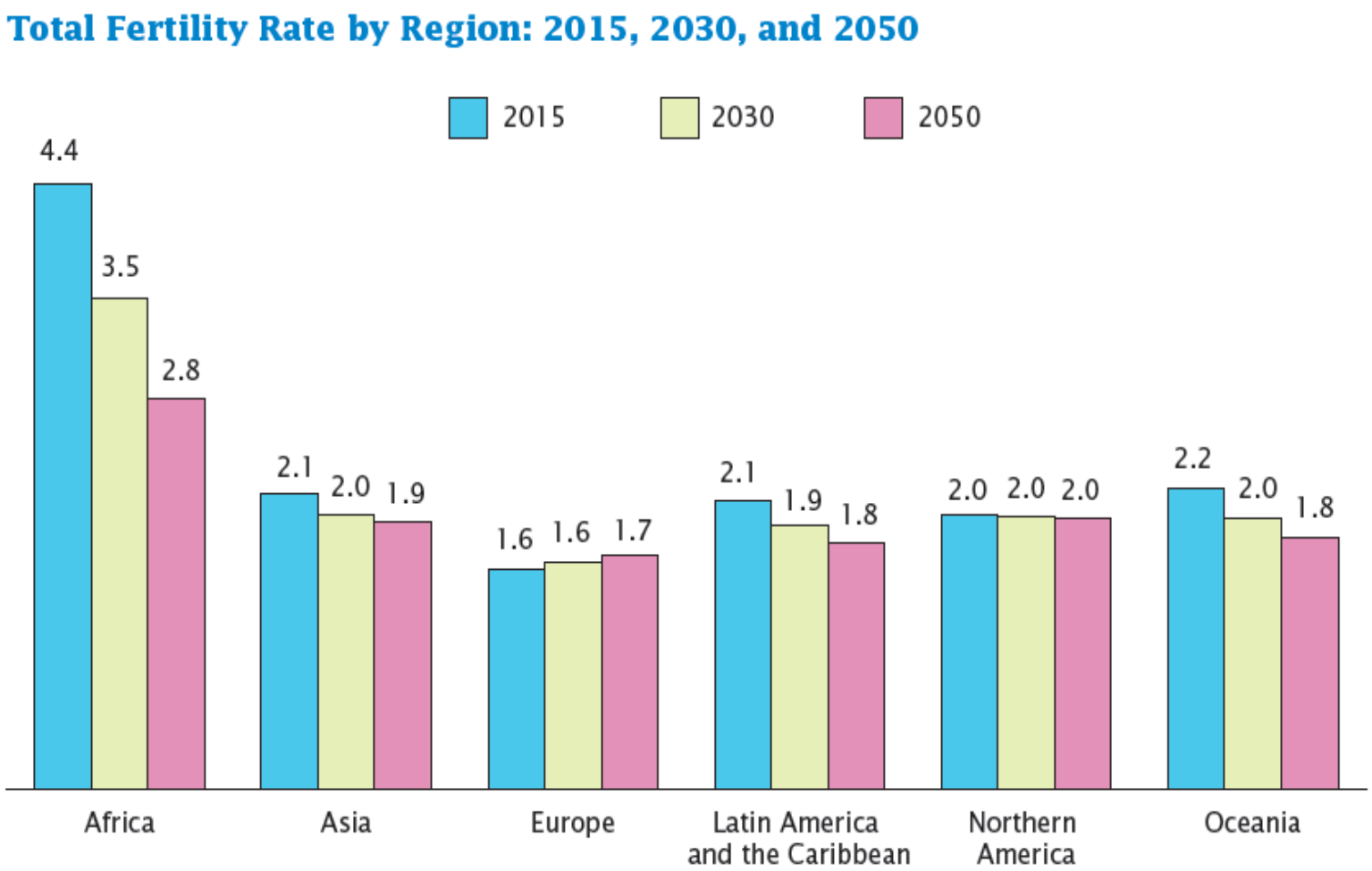


Population ageing

Populations with high fertility tend to have a young age distribution with a high proportion of children and a low proportion of older people. The indicator is total fertility rate.



Population ageing

Beside fertility rate also life expectancy at birth is one of the indicators of population ageing. Global life expectancy at birth reached 68.6 years in 2015.

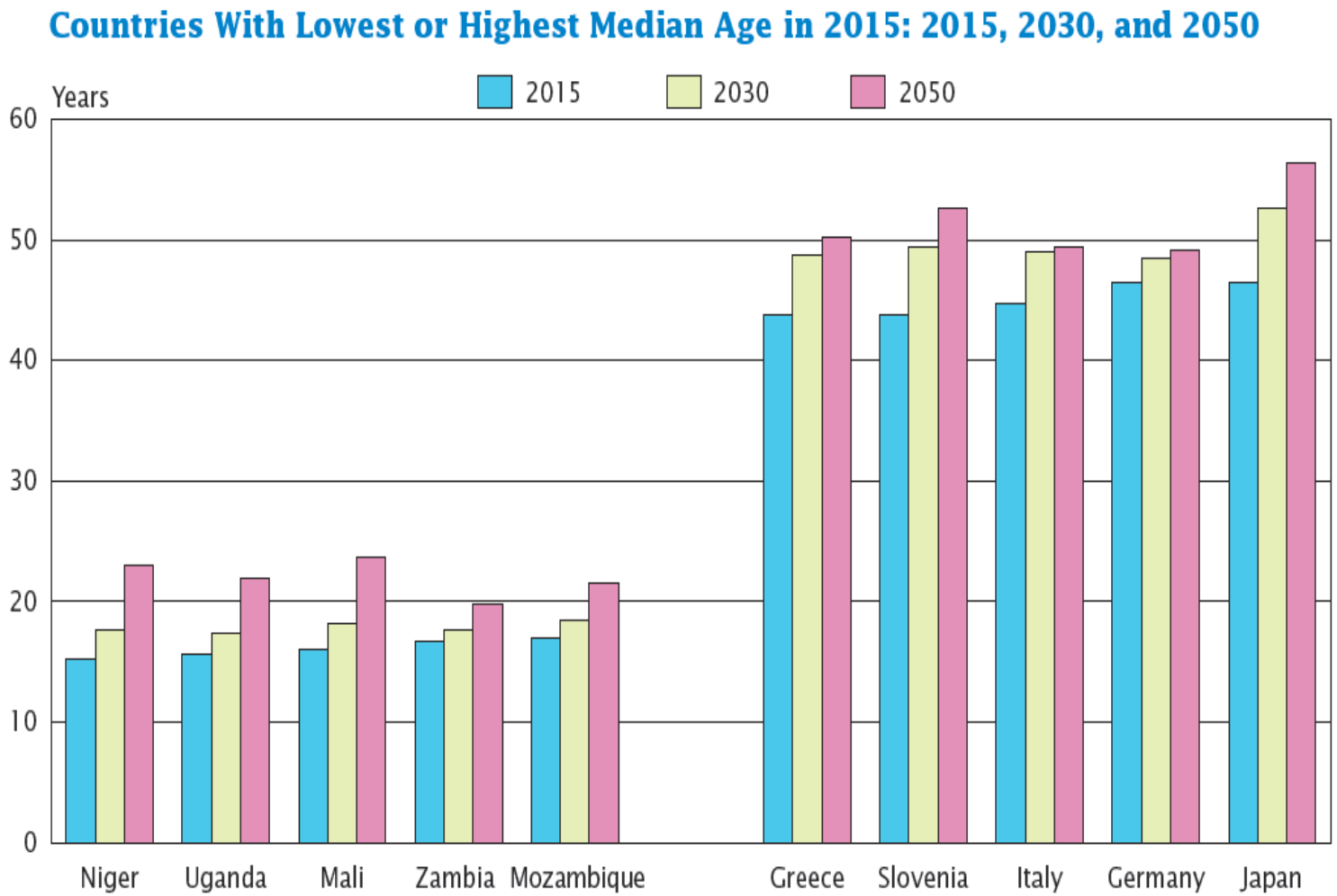
Countries With Highest and Lowest Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex in 2015 and Projected for 2050

(In percent)

Country	Life expectancy at birth					
	2015			2050		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Japan	84.7	81.4	88.3	91.6	88.4	95.0
Singapore	84.7	82.1	87.5	91.6	88.7	94.6
Macau	84.5	81.6	87.6	85.1	82.2	88.1
Hong Kong	82.9	80.2	85.8	84.4	81.6	87.4
Switzerland	82.5	80.2	84.9	84.2	81.6	87.0
Australia	82.2	79.7	84.7	84.1	81.4	86.9
Italy	82.1	79.5	84.9	84.1	81.3	87.0
Sweden	82.0	80.1	84.0	84.0	81.5	86.6
Canada	81.8	79.2	84.5	83.9	81.1	86.8
France	81.8	78.7	85.0	83.9	80.9	87.0
Norway	81.7	79.7	83.8	83.9	81.4	86.5
Spain	81.6	78.6	84.8	83.8	80.9	86.9
Israel	81.4	79.1	83.7	83.8	81.1	86.5
Netherlands	81.2	79.1	83.5	83.7	81.1	86.4
New Zealand	81.1	79.0	83.2	83.6	81.1	86.3
Ireland	80.7	78.4	83.1	83.4	80.8	86.2
Germany	80.6	78.3	83.0	83.4	80.7	86.2
Jordan	80.5	79.1	82.1	83.4	81.1	85.8
United Kingdom	80.5	78.4	82.8	83.4	80.8	86.1
Greece	80.4	77.8	83.2	83.3	80.6	86.3
Austria	80.3	77.4	83.4	83.3	80.3	86.4
Belgium	80.1	76.9	83.4	83.2	80.1	86.3
South Korea	80.0	77.0	83.3	84.2	81.5	87.1
Taiwan	80.0	76.9	83.3	83.1	80.1	86.3

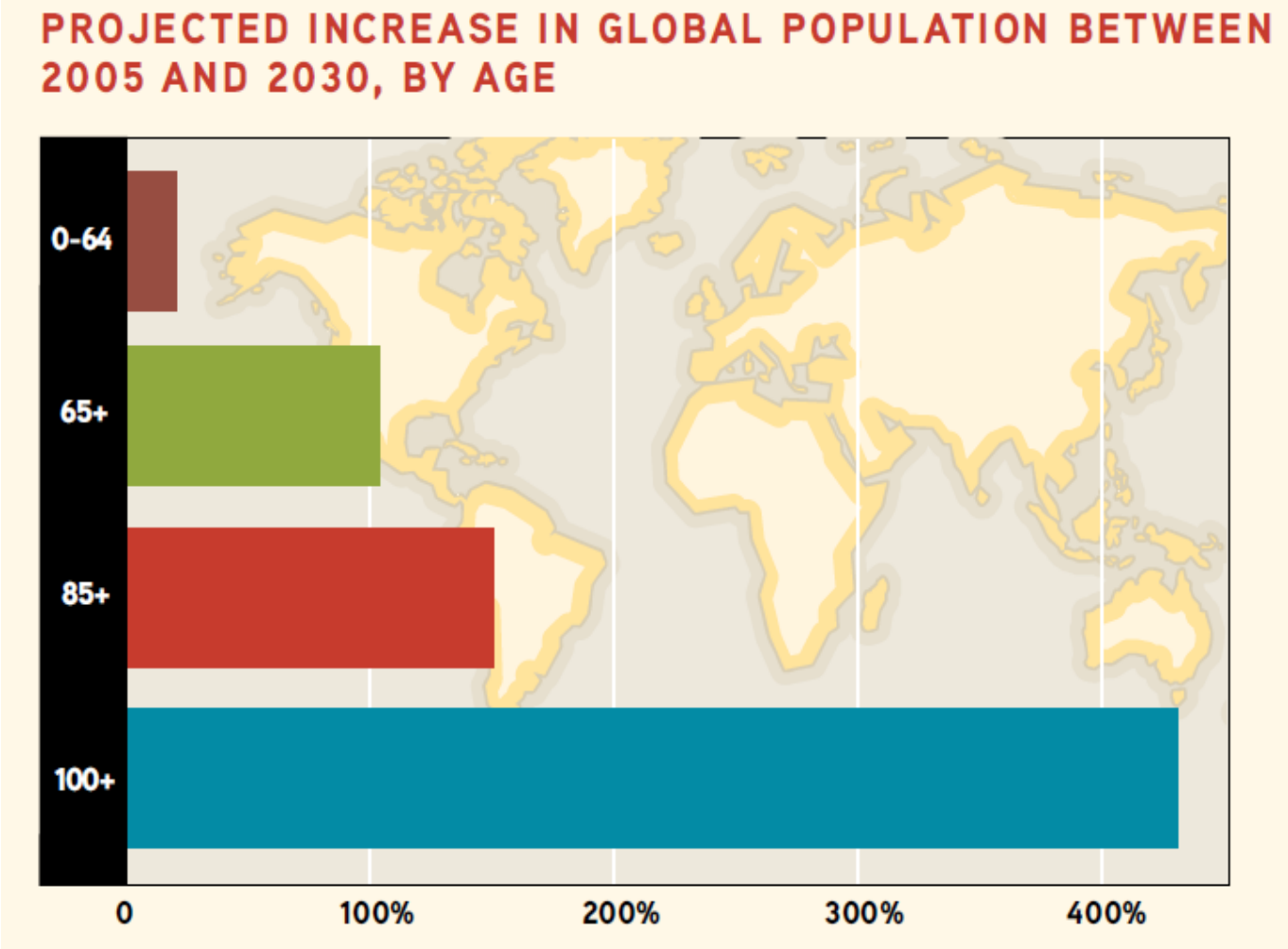
Population ageing

Another way to measure population aging is to consider a country's median age, the age that divides a population into numerically equal shares of younger and older people.



Population ageing

Beside life expectancy and median age an important feature of population aging is also the progressive aging of the older population itself.

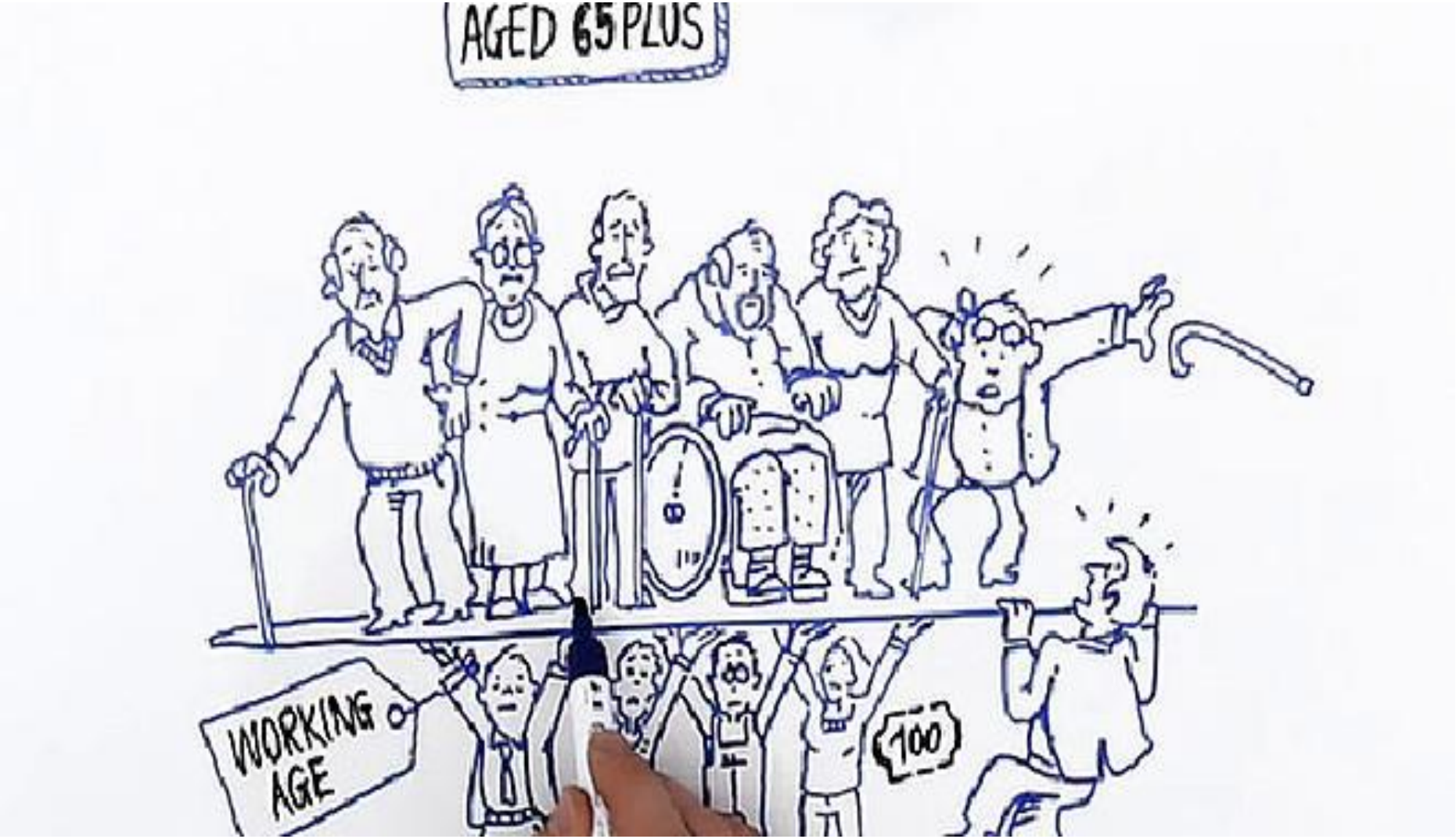


Population ageing

Population ageing and especially the rapid increase in the number of very old is one of the most critical issues that human society is facing today. It goes hand in hand with huge health, economic and social problems.

In the future the expenditure for pensions, healthcare and long-term care alone will increase by 4 to 8% of GDP, and the total costs of healthcare and social-care services are expected to triple by 2050, because post-war baby-boom generation will become an increasing user of these services.

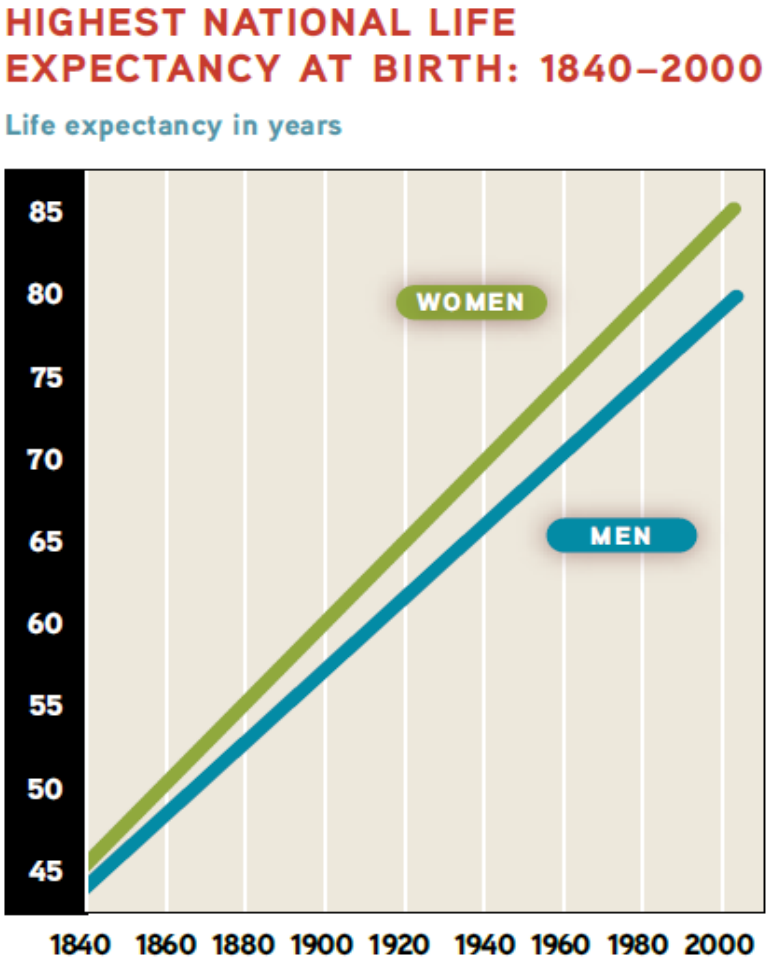
Population ageing



old age dependency ratio

Population ageing

Population ageing is a triumph of development. Global aging is a success story. We celebrate rising life expectancy and therefore our ageing society reflects one of the greatest achievements of mankind.



Population ageing

It is wrong to present population aging as a problem, but as an opportunity. However, as essayist John Gardner once said, “We’re all faced with a series of great opportunities, brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems.”

Our task is to adapt our society and institutions to transform challenges of population ageing into opportunities and to recognise them.

For upcoming ageing society, we have to think an age integration paradigm with positive image on ageing.

In the European Union and other developed countries facing ageing population active aging, a society for all ages, and services enabling the elderly to live independently are therefore concepts that have been the main topics of strategies and documents in recent years.

Population ageing

The Madrid international plan of action on ageing and its Political declaration (Madrid Plan); adopted by UN in April 2002.

Its central concept is “A Society for All Ages” It includes three Priority Directions: 1. Older persons and development; 2. Advancing health and well-being into old age; and 3. Ensuring enabling and supportive living environments.

Global Age-friendly Cities adopted by WHO in 2007.

According to interpretation of WHO, population ageing and urban development should be two closely linked and interconnected processes.

Cities adapted to the needs of ageing society, also known as “age-friendly cities”, are a necessary and logical response to promoting the wellbeing and quality life of the elderly in urban environments.

Population ageing

Figure 6. Age-friendly city topic areas

Among all eight key areas, the first three refer the physical (built) environment, which is the most important among all areas. Because only a built environment that is well-maintained and adapted to the elderly can provide access to all other areas and high-quality ageing in cities and communities.

Population ageing

Therefore, the task of architects, urban planners and real estate management professionals is to manage and adapt the built environment in order to meet the changing needs of society in a sustainable manner.

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Thank you for your kind attention …

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