

# LESSON 3.

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS

### GLOSSARY:

**demographic data** – dane demograficzne

**strain** – trudność, napięcie

**to make headlines** – być na czołówkach gazet

**'bad news sells'** – „złe wiadomości dobrze się sprzedają”

**to stress** – podkreślać, akcentować

**tough** – trudny, ciężki

**life expectancy** – średnia przewidywana długość życia

**labour market** – rynek pracy

**to tackle** – rozwiązywać

**to encourage** – zachęcać, stymulować

**to alleviate** – ulżyć, złagodzić

**substantial** – znaczny

**nonetheless** – mimo to

**birth rate** – wskaźnik urodzeń

**to enhance** – polepszać, poprawiać

**facilities** – udogodnienia

**retirement age** – wiek emerytalny

**incentive** – bodziec, zachęta

**population growth rate** – przyrost naturalny

**living standards** – stopa życiowa

**overpopulated** – przeludniony

**underpopulated** – słabo zaludniony

**census** – spis ludności



CD 1

3

**Now listen to the interview.**

– **Can demographic changes lead to economic strains? My guest tonight is Christopher Moore. He is a demographic data consultant for the New York Times. Christopher, demographics often make headlines these days.**

– Yes. All of these headlines are big. If I wanted to be mean, I might say that it's a 'bad news sells' strategy, but of course it is good that newspapers are stressing tough demographic problems.

– **What, in simple terms, are demographic problems?**

– People are living longer, having fewer children, and life expectancy is rising. As a result, Europe's population is ageing. This has a great influence on the labour market. In Italy, if nothing is done, the working-age population will have decreased by about 20% between 2006 and 2035.

– **What can be done to tackle the problem?**

– Well, encouraging immigration is always an answer.

– **But isn't that a short-term strategy? I'm afraid that immigration won't solve the situation for good.**

– Actually, the problem lies elsewhere. If we really want to alleviate the problem, the scale of immigration would have to be substantial. You won't believe it but Germany would need more than three million immigrants a year up to 2050 to balance the uneven age structure.

– **That's rather unrealistic idea.**

– True, but it's worth looking into. An alternative is to raise the birth rate. This could be done – generally speaking – by increasing financial support for parents and enhancing child-care facilities. But first of all, demographic problems need economic solutions. This leaves us with two strategies. The first one is to encourage people to stay longer in the labour market, in other words to raise the retirement age. In order to do that, we must offer the right incentives to persuade people stay at work. The second strategy is to get more of the working-age population into jobs.

**Exercise I.**

▪ **Answer the following questions according to what you've heard.**

1. By what percent will the working-age population in Italy decrease 2035?

---

2. How many immigrants would Germany need to take in to balance the uneven age structure?

---

3. How should we encourage people to stay in the workplace?

---

4. What kinds of solutions are needed to solve demographic problems?

---

**Exercise II.**

▪ **Fill in the gaps with the right prepositions.**

in / to

1. My father has always encouraged me \_\_\_\_ my project of studying abroad.

2. Suzie was encouraged \_\_\_\_ take part in this competition by her teacher.

3. His determination led him \_\_\_\_ the victory.

4. The bombarding decreased \_\_\_\_ frequency soon afterwards.

5. They were not particularly optimistic if England can make it \_\_\_\_ the finals.



**Exercise VI.**

- **Fill in the gaps with the words listed below.**

growth rate / census / underpopulated / living standards / overpopulated

1. \_\_\_\_\_ areas are cities and villages.
2. This year's \_\_\_\_\_ showed that almost half of the population do not use the Internet.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ areas are deserts and jungles.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in the poor districts are very low.
5. Population \_\_\_\_\_ is higher in large cities than in villages.

**Exercise VII.**

- **Which word doesn't match?**

1. birth rate retirement age population growth rate tough
2. overpopulated underpopulated census stress
3. tackle stress enhance census
4. headline newspaper article slogan

# LESSON 4.

## DEMOCRACY AND THE MEDIA

### GLOSSARY:

- to exercise power** – sprawować władzę  
**granted** – udzielony, przyznany  
**democratic elections** – demokratyczne wybory  
**to spring to mind** – przychodzić na myśl  
**Fourth Estate** – czwarta władza  
**clergy** – kler  
**nobility** – arystokracja  
**to lie behind sth** – stać za czymś, być prawdziwym powodem czegoś  
**point of view** – punkt widzenia  
**to reveal** – ujawniać  
**executive power** – władza wykonawcza  
**sovereignty** – suwerenność  
**legislature** – władza ustawodawcza  
**suffrage** – prawo do głosowania  
**poll** – sondaż



CD 1

4

And now listen to the recording.

### – Who is in control of the country?

– Deciding where the real power lies in modern democracies isn't so easy. We can consider several candidates. We can ask whether the individual, who participates in the election of his or her government, is the real holder of power in society. Or perhaps it's the government itself, exercising the power granted to it in democratic elections, which has the real power? Then again, maybe it's business, with its powerful connections and lobby groups, which is in command? These are the candidates that initially spring to mind when we ask who's in control.

### – What about the media?

– As early as the 19th century, social commentators identified the media as yet another group with a great deal of influence. Since those times, the media has often been referred to as the Fourth Estate; the First Estate being the clergy and the King or Queen, the Second being the nobility, and the Third being made up of the rest of society, by which I mean people as a whole.

### – What do the media do today?

– A simple answer to the question 'what is the role of the media in our society today?' is that it is the means by which we receive our news as citizens of a given country. Nowadays it's also recognised