

IAB-Colloquium zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

Gewonnene Jahre - Potentiale eines längeren Lebens

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("Years Gained" - Recommendations by the Joint Academies' Initiative Aging in Germany)

The starting point of the recommendations is a gratifying one: the demographic development of the past century has prolonged human life considerably. Moreover: we reach old age at better health. The demographic change is hence a challenge but creates great opportunities, too. The achievements of the welfare state as well as the overall level of prosperity are in principle sustainable with an aging and shrinking population. It becomes necessary, though, to change structures in different areas of life. The traditional sequential ordering of biographies in education, work and retirement needs to be rearranged.

How may the necessary resources be activated? The future of a society with an aging population depends on its will to reform. The recommendations by the Joint Academies' Initiative delineate important steps to change obsolete institutional arrangements in the world of education, work, in the economy, regions and municipalities, in families, civil society and politics, in people's minds and everyday practice. The demographic change needs to be accompanied by institutional, social and cultural changes to become a demographic chance.

The demographic change forces us to broaden our focus from a highly productive middle age life phase to actively shaping the entire adulthood and age. Training and time for family in middle adulthood on the one hand, active participation of older cohorts in labour market and civil society on the other hand – this is the great challenge and at the same time the biggest promise of the demographic change for the individual and society at large.

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11:00 Uhr

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