



## **International Actuarial Association (IAA) Mortality Working Group Update #7 — St. Petersburg, Russia, 2016**

The Mortality Working Group (MWG) meets twice a year as part of a 5-day period of meetings of the IAA committees and working groups. The first meeting of 2016 took place in St. Petersburg, Russia in May 2016 and this summarises the discussions.

The MWG exists to study mortality and monitor studies completed by other organizations worldwide, to make this information available to actuaries and others worldwide, and to contribute to and organize other opportunities for communication where appropriate.

There were five guest speakers at this meeting.

- Marius Pascariu, from the Max Planck Odense Centre on the Biodemography of Aging, University of Southern Denmark, presented a paper demonstrating a new method of forecasting life expectancy at birth by extrapolating two variables, the gender gap in the population, and the gap between female life expectancy in the population and total life expectancy (LE) in the country with the highest LE in that year.
- James Vaupel, a guest speaker from the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research presented a detailed survey of possible future developments in life expectancy. His presentation supported his opinion that LE will continue to increase.
- The Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR) was described by Michael Sherris.
- There will be an “Old Age Workshop in Sydney Australia in February 2017.
- Dmitry Pomaskin, from the Russian Association of Actuaries, provided information on certain topics currently being worked on in Russia
- The role of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) was discussed by Jules Gribble. They have a particular interest on the impact of mortality stresses.

Other topics in this meeting included:

- Future of the Human Mortality Database (HMD) – Funding continues to be a huge issue. The future existence of the HMD is at risk.
- The MWG website and information pages – This website is an essential tool for broader communication. The MWG is committed to its continual improvement in content and structure.
- The impact of immigration on mortality was discussed by Dov Raphael. He provided information on the impact of Israeli mortality by Russian immigrants.
- Several new research items were discussed, including the new Longevity bulletins produced by the IFoA’s MRSC, faltering of mortality improvement in the UK, rising white mortality in the U.S. and the importance of medical error as a cause of death.
- Al Klein discussed that new mortality tables been developed by the Chinese Association of Actuaries.

- Several country reports were updated. These reports provide information on the current status of mortality information, both population and insurance focused. Updates were provided for:
  - Poland
  - Sweden: A highlight was the observation that the increase in life expectancy at age 65 was substantially lower than that at birth.
  - United Kingdom
  - United States: A highlight included a new report “Early release mortality” by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). It indicated that mortality in 2015 was actually higher than 2014.
- Updates were provided on the MWG projects currently being worked on.
  - Insured / population / annuity mortality rate comparisons
  - Old Age mortality
  - Mortality improvements at older ages
  - Long term drivers of mortality
- Future mortality focused seminars or conferences will be occurring in Australia, Japan, UK and USA.

This is a summary of the MWG’s discussions in St. Petersburg. The full minutes, presentations and papers from this meeting (and previous meetings) are available (without the need to register) at:

[www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates](http://www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates)

This Update has translated versions in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

#### **Your response and suggestions**

The IAA Mortality Working Group welcomes your input and suggestions on our work. Please address any comments to the Mortality Working Group at [iaamwg@actuaries.org](mailto:iaamwg@actuaries.org)

#### **References**

Mortality Working Group Information Base: <http://www.actuaries.org/mortalityinfo>

IAA Mortality Working Group Updates: [www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates](http://www.actuaries.org/mortalityupdates)

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