

## **SOCIAL NETWORKS AND FAMILY SUPPORT OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SPAIN**

Laura Lorenzo Carrascosa

[lauralorenzo@ieg.csic.es](mailto:lauralorenzo@ieg.csic.es)

Spanish Council for Scientific Research

The considerable increase of older people in developed countries, combined with changes in family-related behaviour and weakening family networks, have caused concerns about older people's family support in future.

This study aims at examining family networks and the support of older people in Spain. Spain has one of the life expectancy highest of the world (80.2 years in 2005). At the same time, it also has one of the lowest fertility rates in the world (1.4 children per woman in 2006). This demographic shift coupled with changes in family-related behaviour (divorce, cohabitation and non-marital childbearing), have caused concerns about the availability of family support for older people.

Using data from the 2004 'Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe' (SHARE), this poster focuses on social and family context of older people in Spain. In order to address these topics, I will first present a description of the family support, living arrangements, social activities and family contacts of the population aged 65 and over in Spain. Then, I will examine the effects of demography and socioeconomic variables on the family networks.