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Challenges, policies and governance of the territories in the post-covid era

Desafíos, políticas y gobernanza de los territorios en la era post-covid

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Population ageing in European cities: policy challenge and opportunity

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Abstract: Introduction A rapidly ageing population increases the demand for healthcare, transportation and recreation services and facilities suitable for the elderly. Thus, the repercussions on urban economies range from different consumption patterns to ad hoc infrastructures and support services. Governments are challenged with the increased demand for safety nets, health protection and assistance, which includes the management and organization of service providers, carers and employees involved in the sectors under the umbrella of the silver economy. Because city governments are closer to their citizens, they have the opportunity to leverage at best their assets (buildings, land, parks) and shape them in relation to the needs of several interest groups. Urban centres foster both positive and negative externalities due to their ability to generate more wealth, higher productivity, better quality of life and opportunities, while at the same time they are faced with serious issues concerning inequality, migration, safety and social cohesion. The latter 2 has to be taken into account when developing programs because older people are at risk of frailty and loneliness.