

Press Release

23 November 2011

James W. Vaupel receives important European research prize

The European Science Foundation (ESF) awarded James W. Vaupel the European Latsis Prize 2011. Professor Vaupel, founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Germany and Chair of Population Europe's Board of Trustees, is honoured for his lifetime achievements in the field of demography.

At the award ceremony on 23 November 2011 in Strasbourg, Marja Makarow, Chief Executive of the [European Science Foundation \(ESF\)](#), explained that James W. Vaupel is honoured for a lifetime of ground breaking research into the biology of ageing, the statistics of senescence and the connection between public health and longevity. The prize, donated by the Latsis Foundation since 1999, has a value of 100,000 Swiss francs and is presented at the annual assembly of the ESF. The independent science foundation with member organisations in 30 countries assigns the prize each year to outstanding contributions from a selected field of research.

"It is recognition that this research is important for society, and it is getting on the map of science", says James W. Vaupel in an [interview](#) with Population Europe. Of all the research he has done so far, he considers most important the discovery that "it was possible to increase life-expectancy even at the highest ages". He is convinced that societies should take advantage of this development by raising the retirement age and redistributing work more evenly: "More people work, but they work fewer hours per week, and therefore everybody has more time for families, for education and for leisure."

Get [press kit](#) including full interview for reprint, CV and further material on the work of James W. Vaupel

Comments and Reactions:

"I cannot imagine anyone else in this field who could be more suitable for this renowned award. The Max Planck Society is very proud that Vaupel is among its scientific members."

(Peter Gruss, President of the Max Planck Society, Germany)

"As the Founding Director, James W. Vaupel has developed the Max Planck Institute into a world class demographic research institute with strong European and world-wide networks. He has also put mortality and longevity at the centre of the research agenda. Congratulations on the Latsis Prize. Well deserved." **(Karl Ulrich Mayer, President of the Leibniz Society, Germany)**

"No one has done more for European demography than James W. Vaupel." **(Frans J. Willekens, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)**

[James W. Vaupel](#) is Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Professor at the Institute of Public Health at the University of Southern Denmark and one of the founders of Population Europe. He is also Director of the Max Planck International Research Network on Ageing and Research Professor at the Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, USA. James W. Vaupel is Panel Chair for the European Research Council Starting Grant and Rector of the European Doctoral School of Demography.

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Population Europe was founded in 2009 and has been supported by the European Commission since January 2010. As a collaborative network it provides comprehensive knowledge, information, and insights into fundamental demographic trends and diverging population developments. This expertise is key to understanding the political, social, and economic developments of Europe in the 21st century.

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Demographic Research Monographs
A Series of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic
Research
Series Ed.: Myrskylä, M.
ISSN: 1613-5520