

Foreword

Our first investigations into causes of death in the Soviet period, conducted at the level of the whole USSR,¹ rapidly convinced us that an in-depth analysis of the Soviet health crisis could hardly go forward without distinguishing between the 15 constituent republics of the USSR, even before it broke down into 15 independent countries. That is why, in 1990, we made a decision to collect the data needed to analyse trends in cause-specific mortality in each republic.

This book is the English translation of an updated version of the book originally published in French in 2003,² and in Ukrainian in 2006.³ While original dataset covered the period 1965–2000, this one is expanded to the year 2006 and all analyses, comments and graphs have been updated.

That work about Ukraine, which comes after the publication of a first volume covering Russia,⁴ will soon be followed by a third on the Baltic states. The electronic version of the book is accompanied by a package of files that brings together the technical appendices and the statistical tables, (see either at Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research: <http://www.demogr.mpg.de/books/drm/009> or at Springer: <http://extras.springer.com/>).

¹ Meslé, F., Shkolnikov, V., & Vallin, J. (1992). Mortality by cause in the USSR in 1970–1987: the reconstruction of time series. *European Journal of Demography*, 8, 281–308. (Also published in French as: *La mortalité par causes en URSS de 1970 à 1987: reconstitution de séries statistiques cohérentes* (34 p). Paris: INED (Dossiers et recherches, No. 35).

² Meslé, F., & Vallin, J. (2003). *Mortalité et causes de décès en Ukraine au XXe siècle* (XVI + 396 p). Paris: INED (Les cahiers de l'INED, cahier n° 152, with contributions by Vladimir Shkolnikov, Serhii Pyrozhkov and Serguei Adamets).

³ Meslé, F., & Vallin, J. (2008). *Смертність та причини смерті в Україні у ХХ столітті* [*Mortalité et causes de décès en Ukraine au XXe siècle*] (416 p). Kiev: INED et IDSS (with contributions by Vladimir Shkolnikov, Serhii Pyrozhkov and Serguei Adamets).

⁴ Meslé, F., Shkolnikov, V.M., Hertrich, V., & Vallin, J. (1996). *Tendances récentes de la mortalité par cause en Russie 1965–1994* (140 p. + 2 floppy disks). Paris: INED/CDEH. (Bilingual French and Russian publication. Données statistiques, No. 2).

As with the earlier volume, this book relies on the results of a project undertaken jointly by the National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED, Paris) and the Centre for Demography and Human Ecology, Moscow, in association with, for the Ukrainian section, the National Institute for International Security Issues in Kiev.

France Meslé, Jacques Vallin, and Vladimir Shkolnikov