

# Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Anatolii Vishnevskii, Director of the Centre for Demography and Human Ecology, Moscow, and Gérard Calot, Jacques Magaud, Patrick Festy and François Héran, successive Directors of INED, for their encouragement in bringing this long, costly study of Soviet cause-of-death data to fruition. Nor should we omit to mention Alain Blum, Director of Research at INED, who has promoted many collaborative ventures between Russian and French demographers and quickly came to understand the value of bringing the experience that INED has acquired in the area of causes of death to bear on the wealth of completely unpublished Soviet data on this topic.

Our thanks also go to Vladimir Shkolnikov, Serhii Pyrozhev and Sergei Adamets, not only for their direct contributions to some chapters in this book, but also for their work in assembling the basic data, without which these analyses would not have been possible. From the outset, the whole vast research project on the health crisis in the countries of the former USSR – of which this book forms a part – has relied on patient, laborious data collection, which was made possible in the late 1980s when previously secret archives were opened. Following our first attempt to collect all the archival data relating to causes of death for the whole USSR,<sup>1</sup> in 1991 Vladimir Shkolnikov undertook to draw this material together for each of the 15 Soviet republics for all available years (1959–1990), along with existing population and all-cause mortality data for a longer period. For Ukraine, Serhii Pyrozhev completed this database by adding the most recent cause-of-death statistics and some archival documents that were not available in Moscow. Finally, Sergei Adamets explored all the Russian, Ukrainian and international literature on Ukraine’s eventful demographic history.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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).

We would also like to thank Emelian Rudnitskii, researcher at the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, for his valuable collaboration in using the archives to reconstruct population change, and in particular mortality, in Ukraine; Galina Gurova, Goskomstat statistician, for her help in understanding many aspects of Soviet classification and coding practices; Dmitrii Bogoiavlenskii, researcher at the Centre for Demography and Human Ecology, Moscow, for providing us with basic data on mortality by nationality in the republics of the former USSR; Gaiane Safarova, researcher at the St Petersburg Institute for Economics and Mathematics, for her encouragement and advice on estimating the demographic consequences of the crises in Ukraine.

We are also grateful to the whole data capture and verification team, who patiently entered and checked some 2,000 original manuscript tables which were often difficult to decipher: Jeanine Besse, Élodie Brémaud, Anna-Maria Falconi, Selma Hussein, Ernestine Ngongdi, Mokhtaria Tazi and Tatiana Vichnevskaia. We also extend our thanks to Lisa Godek and Éric Lepenven who, during research placements at INED, helped to reconstruct the cause-specific deaths series, as well as to Ludovic Garonne for layout of the statistical appendices.

Special mentions must be also done in the frame of that English version, which is not the direct translation of the French original published in 2003 but an updated one. We thank a lot Ella Libanova, head of the Ukrainian Institute for Demography and Social Sciences, for providing us with data for the years 2001–2006, Sylvia Jator, research-assistant at INED, for preparing the English version of the technical and statistical appendices (available either at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research: <http://www.demogr.mpg.de/books/drm/009> or at Springer: <http://extras.springer.com/>), Karen George, for the translation, and Mathilde Paul for preparing the layout.

Original work was funded partly within the framework of the joint research programme of the International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (INTAS Grant No. 94–645). Updating was partly funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR, EDICCOD project) while INED supported the cost for translation.

France Meslé and Jacques Vallin