

Iran to have comprehensive national atlas of population dynamics

Social Desk

The CEO of the 15 Khordad Foundation, Hamidreza Alianzadegan, announced the preparation of a comprehensive national atlas of population dynamics, aimed at facilitating the effective management of Iran's population plans.

Alianzadegan emphasized the necessity of such an atlas for macro and interdisciplinary tasks in the field of population, and to mitigate the challenges posed by Iran's aging society, Mehr News Agency reported.

"The atlas will be incorporating practical indicators for population management," he said.

The 15 Khordad Foundation, in collaboration with the National Cartography Center of Iran and other national organizations, will undertake the task of preparing the atlas. The atlas is expected to play a significant role in understanding the size and growth of the population, demographic composition and changes, age structure, marriage and divorce rates, and workforce and employ-

ment trends.

Alianzadegan also announced the activation of the Secretariat of the National Population Award, with the 15 Khordad Foundation selected as the primary base of the country's Population Status Chamber, as approved by the Central Council of the National Population Award.

In response to the vice president's emphasis on women and family during the unveiling of the new version of the country's population atlas, Alianzadegan stressed the need for the comprehensive national atlas of population dynamics to be prepared promptly and made available to organizations responsible for the country's youth population.

According to the CEO of the foundation, teams will be formed to prepare, evaluate, and process information, converting indicators into graphic content for use in the comprehensive national population dynamic atlas.

Also, Alianzadegan underscored the importance of the youth population, describing it as a national



MEHR

wealth and a cornerstone of the country's economic and social growth.

He further expressed gratitude to the CEO and members of the Council of Deputies of the National Cartography Center of Iran for their efforts in defining the demographic tasks in the organization. He emphasized that the comprehensive national atlas of

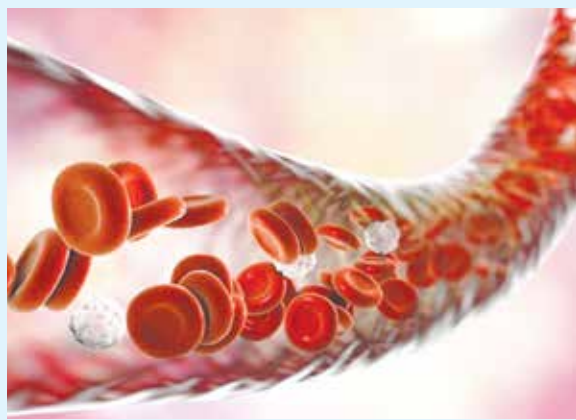
population dynamics will include gender statistics as supplements to the country's statistics.

Ali Javidaneh, the head of the National Cartography Center, stressed the urgency of implementing the results of the synergy joint working group with the 15 Khordad Foundation in compiling the comprehensive national atlas of popu-

lation dynamics. He noted the declining fertility rate in the country and projected that Iran's population growth rate will reach one percent in the next decade, a figure he described as concerning.

Javidaneh emphasized that the atlas could serve as an invaluable tool for policy and planning in the field of population.

First come first served at Iran's national cord blood bank



IRNA

Social Desk

The Blood Transfusion Organization (BTO) of Iran, home to the nation's only free umbilical cord blood bank, is working in collaboration with six hospitals in Tehran to collect and store cord blood, a valuable source of stem cells, according to Nasim Ezzati, head of the Cord Blood Bank and Stem Cells Group of the BTO.

Ezzati underscored the

importance of the cord blood bank, which provides reserves to patients across the country at no cost, IRNA reported.

The hospitals involved in this initiative include Najmiyeh, Baqiyatallah, Milad, Parsa, Sarem, and Mostafa Khomeini.

"Instead of discarding this invaluable resource, expectant mothers can donate it to the National Cord Blood Bank," Ezzati said.

"This donation can

then be used to treat children and adults suffering from malignancies and diseases that can only be cured with stem cells, particularly those derived from umbilical cord blood."

However, Ezzati noted that the donation is contingent upon giving birth in one of the six cooperating hospitals. This is due to the specialized conditions under which cord blood must be collected to ensure its quality is preserved.

The BTO's cord blood bank stores these donations for public use, with

neither the donor nor the recipient incurring any costs. Ezzati emphasized the distinction between the BTO's cord blood bank and private banks.

"In the BTO's cord blood bank, the first eligible patient can use the donated cells," Ezzati explained. "In contrast, in private banks, only the donor and their family can use the stored stem cells."

This initiative underscores the BTO's commitment to providing life-saving treatments to patients across Iran, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Amazing results of one man's mission to reforest a barren Irish hillside

Social Desk

Eoghan Daltun, an Irish pioneer in the rewilding movement, has been working tirelessly the native forests of Ireland, which once covered 80 percent of the country but now for 1 percent.

Standing on a slope in the Beara peninsula in west Cork, Daltun pointed out the environmental degradation that has occurred in the area. The verdant fields, craggy hills, and conifer trees, while picturesque, represent a barren landscape, biologically empty due to the sheep devouring wildflowers and seedlings, and the monoculture plantation of conifers devastating biodiversity. Over the past 14 years,

Daltun has transformed 30 acres of rugged hillside into a showcase of biodiversity and climate action. He has fenced off the land to keep out non-native animals, eradicated invasive alien plants, and allowed nature to take its course. The result has been a flourishing of wildflowers and tree seedlings, and the establishment of a forest canopy that supports a variety of insects and native mammals.

Daltun's efforts are part of a global initiative to rewild gardens, estates, and countryside to halt catastrophic biodiversity losses. Despite Ireland's pastoral reputation, it is one of the EU's worst carbon emission offenders and has struggled to protect ancient bogs and

contain invasive species. While the country has increased its forest cover to 11 percent, most of it is made up of monoculture plantations, which are considered dead zones.

Rewilding initiatives are gaining traction in Ireland. Trinity College Dublin replaced manicured lawns with native Irish wildflowers, and Randal Plunkett, an estate owner in County Me, replaced livestock and crops with wilderness. The Health Service Executive is also considering rewilding the of its headquarters.

Daltun, who sold his home in Dublin in 2009 to buy a patch of the Beara peninsula, has been a vocal advocate for rewilding. He believes that protecting the remaining natural habitats

is crucial, and his efforts have been well-received by the public. His book, 'An Irish Atlantic Rainforest: a Personal Journey into the Magic of Rewilding', has won international acclaim and has helped to raise awareness about the importance of rewilding.

However, Daltun acknowledges that significant action will require subsidies, community consultation, and popular support. He

emphasizes that ecological and social justice must go hand in hand, and that rewilding should not be seen as a hobby for the wealthy, but as a necessary step towards preserving biodiversity and combating climate change.

** This piece is an edited version of a longer piece published originally by The Guardian on July 4, 2023.*

The Guardian



On the occasion of Iran's National Pen Day:

Written word still holds its immense power



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

OPINION

Today, our country Iran celebrates its National Pen Day, a day which could serve to remind us of the power of the written word and its profound impact on individuals and society alike.

This day is not a celebration of the pen as a physical tool, but a recognition of the transformative power of writing in shaping individual minds, influencing individual and collective opinions, and driving societal change. Since the dawn of recorded history, writing has been a fundamental pillar of human societies. It is the primary basis upon which information is recorded and knowledge is communicated.

It is through writing that we express our thoughts and emotions. It is through writing that we record history, and share stories. It is through writing that we educate, inform, and inspire. We Iranians are heir to a rich literary tradition with its deep respect for the written word. Our country is home to some of the world's most celebrated poets and authors, whose works have not only shaped our enduring culture, but have also contributed significantly to the world literature.

Moreover, today we should take some time and reflect on the power of writing to effect change. The pen, as the saying goes, is mightier than the sword.

Through the written word, we can challenge injustices, question, and advocate for change. Writing is a powerful tool for any kind of activism. It is a means through which we can voice our opinions, express our hopes and fears, and call for action. In addition to all its societal benefits, writing could be a potent tool for personal growth and self-expression. It allows us to reflect on our own lives, explore our thoughts and feelings, and articulate our dreams and aspirations. Pen, in that sense, is a vehicle for the journey of self-discovery and self-understanding.

In our extremely digital age, it is hard to overstate the importance of writing. While technology has transformed the way we communicate, the essence of writing remains the same. Whether it's a handwritten letter, a blog post, or a tweet, writing continues to be a powerful medium of expression and communication. Iran's National Pen Day is a celebration of this power. It is a day to appreciate the importance of writing in our lives and in our society. It is a day to honor the writers who have used their pens to enlighten, inspire, and better us. It is a day to encourage everyone, especially the younger generation, to embrace the power of the written word.