

A photograph of two elderly individuals walking away from the camera on a gravel path. The person on the left is wearing a dark blue quilted jacket and grey trousers, using a blue walking stick. The person on the right is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. They are walking towards a body of water in the background under a soft, golden light.

UNECE Policy Brief #17 - Migration and Old Age

Birte Ifang, UNECE Population Unit
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UNECE

Policy Framework

2002 Regional Implementation Strategy of MIPAA

“Governments should strive to develop measures to assist older migrants to sustain economic and health security. It is especially important to promote a positive image of their contribution to the host country and respect for their cultural differences” (*Commitment 5: Labour Markets, “To enable labour markets to respond to the economic and social consequences of population ageing”*)

2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration – Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing

In fostering the implementation of MIPAA/RIS in its third implementation cycle (2013-2017), UNECE member States are committed to “taking into account the diverse needs of a growing number of older persons among ethnic minorities and migrants to ensure their integration and equal participation in society” (*para “j”, II. Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons*) and “recognising and improving the situation of informal and formal carers, including migrant carers, through training and dignified working conditions including adequate remuneration” (*para “l”, III. Dignity, health and independence in older age*).

Groups addressed in this Policy Brief



Context and strategies

Challenging Context

- Increasing and diverse group
- Low participation of migrants in the receiving communities
- Restrictions in migrants' access to welfare



Suggested Strategies

Focus on four key areas:

- Health- and social care services
- Pension and social protection rights
- Labour market
- Community inclusion

Structure of the Policy Brief

- Introduction
- **Equal access to health- and social care services**
- **Access to social protection and portability of pensions**
- **Encouraging formal employment and legalisation**
- **Promoting inclusion and participation in the community life**
- Conclusion and recommendations



1. Equal access to health- and care services

Challenges

- Non-secured access to health care
- Limited access to social services
- Cultural and language barriers
- Vulnerability in terms of financial security and integration

Suggestions

- Ensuring equal access to health care services and medical treatment
- Affordable insurance coverage
- Programmes to enhance access to health and social care services
- Provision of information and courses on language and cultural awareness

2. Access to social protection and portability of pensions

Challenges

- Loss of pensions and non-transferable pension rights
- Limited access to social protection services
- Low awareness among older migrants regarding social entitlements and obligations in the receiving country

Suggestions

- Portability of pensions across UNECE countries
- Improve access to social protection services
- Information about social protection and pension rights

3. Encouraging formal employment and legalisation

Challenges

- Undocumented migrants face barriers on the job market
- Prevalence of informal employment, especially among migrant care workers
- Lack of equal payment and equal rights to work
- Discrimination at the workplace
- Difference in attitudes and standards of care work
- Unawareness of rights and legal protection instruments in the host country
- Difficult validation of foreign qualifications

3. Encouraging formal employment and legalisation

Suggestions

- Development of strategies to transfer from unregulated to formal labour market
- Measures towards formalising the care sector
- Envisaging equal salaries and equal rights to work in country legislation
- Prevention of discriminative practices
- Establish international guidelines and harmonize standards for care work
- Raise awareness about legal protection and consultation opportunities
- Simplified validation practices of qualifications
- Provision of (re)training opportunities

4. Promoting inclusion and participation in community life

Challenges

- Lacking familiarity with the receiving country's language and culture
- Higher chances of lower mental and physical health of older migrants
- Lower social participation due to above factors
- Lack of or limited access to life-long learning and re-training opportunities
- Different integration experiences between generations
- Scanty availability of affordable housing in the community



4. Promoting inclusion and participation in community life

Suggestions

- Improving availability and affordability of language training and culture learning
- Improve social participation of older migrants in the community
- Cooperation with other stakeholders
- life-long learning opportunities
- Actions to develop intergenerational relations and solidarity
- Affordability of social dwellings



Possible good practice examples

- Activities aimed at reducing barriers in accessing health- and social care services
- Bilateral / multilateral agreements on pension portability
- Incentives to formalize (care) work
- Information centres and counselling bodies
- Projects to prevent discrimination
- Community-level projects and initiatives to integrate older migrants
- Efforts to improve the situation of undocumented migrants





Thank you