



# POPULATION

## Mainstreaming ageing into all policy areas

The important demographic transformations under way in many UNECE countries with developed and emerging market economies have resulted in the number of older persons exceeding the number of children and in fertility rates falling well below replacement levels. Population ageing issues have thus continued to be the focus of the UNECE Population Unit's work in 2010–2011, with activities in this area guided by the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). The UNECE Working Group on Ageing leads and assists countries in implementing RIS/MIPAA and continued this work over the course of the year through, inter alia, the development and publication of policy briefs; monitoring of indicators; capacity-building; and in-depth discussion on intergenerational relationships.

### POLICY BRIEFS

To facilitate exchange of examples of good practice among the UNECE countries on the policy areas affected by demographic change, the Working Group has initiated a series of policy briefs. These briefs provide information on the state of the art of policy discourse, as well as demonstrating successful examples of policies and programmes aimed at implementing the 10 commitments of RIS/MIPAA. The UNECE secretariat has been compiling and publishing the policy briefs based on contributions from member States.

In 2010, four policy briefs were published: on life-long learning; health promotion and disease prevention; community long-term care; and intergenerational family solidarity. Two further policy briefs — addressing policies and practices related to age-friendly employment: and tapping the potential of volunteering — were presented and discussed at the Working Group's annual meeting in November 2010 and will be further developed for publication.



## ROAD MAPS FOR MAINSTREAMING AGEING

In 2010 UNECE has moved forward with a new project: “Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing”, conceived by the Working Group in 2009. This project aims to assist countries in devising comprehensive strategies and concrete actions to mainstream ageing into all policy areas, helping countries to both tackle the challenges and capitalize upon the opportunities of rapid population ageing. The challenges are particularly salient in many of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in which the effects of increased longevity and reduced fertility are compounded by large-scale emigration of the working-age population and the impacts of the economic crisis. At the same time, many of these countries are in need of assistance to build capacities for effective policy formulation.

The first country to engage in the Road Map project was Armenia, where the work has now been completed and ready to be implemented in concert with the country’s National Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing. In the Republic of Moldova the process is currently under way, with wide-ranging desk reviews and field studies completed, and a report of the process drafted. Owing to the participatory approach employed in the Road Maps, stakeholders from all areas were consulted, and Moldovan experts continue to be involved as the final project report is produced. UNECE plans to continue this project with a third country in 2011, employing lessons learned during the process in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova.

In addition to the Road Map project in Armenia, in 2010 UNECE also captured the experiences of older persons in Armenia on film, producing a television documentary in cooperation with United Nations Television. The film covers the often difficult circumstances of older people living alone and in care homes, the work of local non-governmental organizations, the changes in family formation brought about by demographic ageing and emigration, and the positive contributions being made by the Armenian Government and UNECE. As part of the project “UN in action”, the documentary will be shown on news media, and after the launch of the Armenian Road map it will be disseminated more broadly.

*In some UNECE countries, older persons outnumber children and fertility rates have fallen well below replacement levels*





UNECE efforts to enhance national capacities in the area of mainstreaming ageing also included involvement in a number of expert meetings and training workshops, such as a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Population Fund workshop in the Republic of Moldova in October 2010, in which participants from 11 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia exchanged information on a variety of national surveys on ageing, sharing experiences including the successes and challenges faced in implementing such surveys.

## **GENERATIONS AND GENDER PROGRAMME**

Throughout the past year, UNECE continued to coordinate the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) of data collection and research, which helps to understand the causes and consequences of the demographic developments and provides the basis for informed responses to policy challenges. The GGP looks into issues of low fertility, the reconciliation of career and family, the integration of young people in society, inter- and intra-generational solidarity, and gender equality.

*Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing aim at helping countries to both tackle the challenges and capitalize upon the opportunities of rapid population ageing*