

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Final report on the project “Ageing, Generations and Gender. International action supporting implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and studies on gender and intergenerational relationships”

Agreement No VS/2009/0116 (SI2.530194)

Project period: 1 March 2009 — 30 June 2010

1 Background

In the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), population ageing is the dominant demographic trend of this century. Simultaneously, other pertinent demographic developments such as declining fertility, increasing age at family formation, and changing family patterns also challenge many areas of public policy. In the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) and in the León Ministerial Declaration “A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities” (2007), UNECE member States have committed themselves to respond to challenges and opportunities of their ageing societies.

In 2008, UNECE has established the Working Group on Ageing – an intergovernmental body with the mandate to coordinate and streamline implementation of major international policy documents on ageing. At its first meeting on 1-2 December 2008, the Working Group adopted its work programme that consists of activities in four areas: (a) preparation of policy briefs with good practice examples; (b) monitoring implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including work on indicators of achievement; (c) analysis of intergenerational relationships; and (d) capacity development.

In order to provide knowledge base for population policy measures the UNECE initiated in 2000 and continues to coordinate the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP). GGP has two main pillars: the first pillar is the system of national Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS), and the second pillar is the contextual database that provides information on macro-level factors influencing demographic trends. GGP also serves as an important source of data in various programme elements of the Working Group on Ageing. Seventeen countries have collected data in the first wave of the Generations and Gender Survey, 11 countries have already proceeded to the second wave. The data of eight countries of the first wave of the GGS as well as the Contextual Database are available at <http://www.ggp-i.org>.

The results in project “Ageing, Generations and Gender”, as described in this report, contributed to support member States in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Furthermore, a study on gender and intergenerational relationships in the context of the GGP has been undertaken.

2 Project activities

2.1 Policy briefs with good practice examples (UNECE and ECV)

To enhance exchange of good policy practice among member States, the UNECE Working Group on Ageing has issued a series of policy briefs that provided information on the state of the art of policy discourse. The policy briefs demonstrate successful examples of policies and programmes aimed at implementing the UNECE RIS /MIPAA. The secretariat has compiled the policy briefs based on contributions from member States.

The first five policy briefs that were finalised and published in 2010 include the following topics: Mainstreaming ageing; Gender equality, work and old age; Older persons as consumers; Integration and participation of older persons in society; and Lifelong learning.

Since the second meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in November 2009, additional policy briefs on the following topics were prepared: Health promotion and disease prevention; Towards community long-term care; and Advancing intergenerational solidarity. In the two latter policy briefs, the findings from the UNECE Generations and Gender Surveys and contextual databases have been used.

Draft policy briefs entitled “Towards community long-term care”, and “Advancing intergenerational solidarity”, were presented and discussed at the second meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing (Sliema, Malta, 27–28 May 2010). Based on the inputs and comments provided by Bureau members, UNECE staff has updated and finalised these two policy briefs. All finalised policy briefs are available electronically at the UNECE website (see deliverables 3.1).

In March and May 2010, the secretariat requested the Working Group members to submit good practice examples on the topics of the policy briefs under preparation. In parallel, relevant material from international and national sources and reports were collected and systematized. The secretariat has endeavoured to include in the briefs examples of successful implementation of policies and programmes in various countries of the region. The good practice examples are now organized in a database that currently includes 160 entries. The examples of good practice were made available to the members of the Working Group on a webpage with limited access (see deliverables 3.1).

In addition to the English version prepared by the secretariat, the first four policy briefs have been translated into Russian and Serbian, courtesy of the governments of Armenia and Serbia respectively. The governments of Austria and Germany have been translating all policies briefs into German.

2.2 Monitoring the implementation of MIPAA/RIS (ECV)

2.2.1 Indicators of achievement

During 2010, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre Vienna, ECV), in cooperation with the member States focal points on ageing and the UNECE secretariat, continued its work on monitoring the implementation of UNECE RIS/MIPAA, including the further development of indicators, collection of data on the already developed indicators, and dissemination of information on the monitoring process through the MonitoringRIS website (see deliverables 3.3) and the Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter.

In 2010, ECV has completed the elaboration of two new sets of indicators: gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators and long-term care indicators. A list of gender-specific

mainstreaming ageing indicators was developed along with the methodological notes and templates for collecting the corresponding data. As a follow-up, a publication highlighting findings based on the use of the gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators was prepared and issued (deliverable 3.1).

Long-term care indicators were accompanied by methodological notes and a book on the subject of long-term care, as well as by two policy briefs (see deliverables 3.2).

In addition, the European Centre organized two international conferences on long-term care (Jerusalem, Israel, 6-9 September 2009, and Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 February 2010) and co-organized a workshop on gender and retirement (Paris, France, 8 March 2010).

2.2.2 Website monitoring RIS (ECV)

In 2009, the contents, structure and layout of the monitoring RIS website have been reorganized to make it more user-friendly. The frequency of updating the website has also been increased. The main changes on the website were presented to the Working Group at its second meeting in November 2009. The role of this website as the main source for exchanging information on the implementation of RIS/MIPAA in the UNECE region were strengthened through the increased involvement of countries in terms of providing material for the updates.

2.3 Studies and data collection on generations and gender (UNECE)

2.3.1 Coordination of the Generations and Gender Programme

UNECE recruited three consultants for the co-ordination and methodological work in the Generations and Gender Programme. Interaction with member States on programme implementation was upheld throughout the project period. This involved two waves of updating of the database of programme progress and the bibliography list that currently contains 263 items. On continuous basis, UNECE reviewed and the requests for the microdata of the Generations and Gender Surveys. To date, 150 research projects worldwide use these data. The website ggp.unece.org has been improved and continuously updated.

UNECE co-organized the seventh meeting of the GGP International Working Group in Marrakech, Morocco on 27 September 2009 (back-to-back with the XXV Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population). UNECE also contributed to the organization and substantive discussion at the 17th meeting GGP Consortium in Milan on 14-15 January 2010.

Data of the Generations and Gender Surveys was used in the policy briefs “Towards community long-term care”, “Advancing intergenerational relationships” and “Age-friendly employment policies and practices” (see section 2.1).

The following methodological tasks accomplished by UNECE consultants in this project include:

- Excel spreadsheets with standard tables for the eight countries for which first-wave Survey data are currently available.
- Selection and presentation of key indicators.
- Conceptual development of the method of standardization of the collected data on individual and household income.
- Development of an imputation procedure for making the income data collected in the generations and gender Surveys comparable across countries and implementing it in the available micro-data files.

- Cleaned and commented computer code for producing the tables from harmonized micro-data files of Generations and Gender Surveys and for transferring them into Excel spreadsheets;
- Report describing the accomplished work on standard tables that would allow producing these tables from new data collected in future Generations and Gender Surveys in other countries.

2.3.2 Analysis of intergenerational relationships

At its second meeting on 23-24 November 2009, the UNECE Working Group on Ageing held an in-depth discussion on intergenerational relationships in ageing societies, based on an analytic paper. This paper synthesised the currently available knowledge on interdependencies between older and younger family members and linkages between, on the one hand, national contexts, such as policy regimes, economic circumstances, norms, and, on the other hand, individual behaviours, well-being and values. It also proposed policy recommendations, outlining alternatives that depend on national circumstances as appropriate. Based on the country case studies and comments presented at the meeting, the paper was finalized and is currently in print as a UNECE publication (see Deliverables 3.3).

2.4 *Capacity development for MIPAA/RIS: UNECE Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing*

Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing are designed as instruments for governments to translate internationally agreed policy frameworks on ageing – most importantly the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy – into concrete actions at country-level. Based on an in-depth analysis of the ageing situation in the country, the Road Map provides recommendations on policy directions to be pursued and concrete steps to be taken by a country's government towards mainstreaming ageing. Road Maps are prepared based on a desk study, a field study and result from a participatory process that involves national stakeholders as well as international experts.

Road Maps are prepared at the official request of UNECE member states. Two countries – Armenia and the Republic of Moldova - have expressed interest in 2009. In the framework of this project, the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing has been completed in Armenia. The desk and field studies have been carried out in the Republic of Moldova.

2.4.1 Armenia

In preparing the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia, a desk study was carried out, reviewing 23 documents relevant for the policy-framework in place. These included governmental plans and development programmes as well as government decisions, descriptions of organizational structures and monitoring tools. During the field study in 2009, 24 interviews were carried out. Experts for interviews were selected from all sectors, including government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector, trade unions and international organizations represented in the country. The data collected and observations made were summarized in a Road Map document that was circulated among national stakeholders for feedback that was taken into account when finalizing the document. The following policy areas were examined and recommendations provided:

- Integration and participation of older persons
- The image of older persons
- Social protection
- Health

- Institutional care
- Housing and independent living
- Education
- Labour market
- Gender
- Monitoring and evaluation of ageing-related policies
- Institutional arrangements and allocation of responsibilities
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Research and data collection
- Integration into international processes
- Outlook, the road ahead

In agreement with the government of Armenia, these topics were found to be central for the further development of this policy area. Taken together, they provide a good account of Mainstreaming Ageing.

In general, it was found that the government of Armenia had a good awareness of MIPAA/RIS and its principles and attempted to implement them in policy and practice wherever possible. However, the Road Map was appreciated for generating additional ideas for very concrete measures to strengthen the MIPAA/RIS reality at country-level. At the same time, the added value of the Road Map was in providing an integrated framework for more coordinated action in all the policy areas identified as relevant. The observations and recommendations of the Road Map were then directly integrated into the process of developing a ten-year National Strategy on Ageing. Based on the goals and objectives outlined in the Strategy, UNECE and its consultants, together with designated officials from Armenian government agencies, developed a two-year Action Plan to implement the Strategy. Both the Strategy and Action Plan are expected to be adopted by government.

Detailed recommendations for all policy areas can be found in the Road Map report as well as in the Strategy on Ageing and the Action Plan, which are attached. The Road Map report will be circulated among UNECE member States at the next meeting of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing in November 2010 where a substantive discussion is foreseen. The full report will be published by the UNECE after discussion of the Working Group on Ageing in November 2010.

2.4.2 Republic of Moldova

Work on a Road Map has begun in the Republic of Moldova. During the desk study, a literature search was carried out and the two main documents provided by the government of the Republic of Moldova – the Social Report 2009 and the Green Paper on Population – were especially taken into account. During two field missions in 2010, 80 people contributed information, either during interviews or in the framework of focus group discussions. They included representatives of relevant ministries, civil society, trade unions, private sector, academia and media as well as international organizations. High-level meetings took place with Mr. Ion Negrei, Deputy Prime-Minister, Ms. Valentina Buliga, Minister of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Mr. Vadim Pistrinciuc and Mr. Sergiu Sainciuc, both Deputy Ministers of the same Ministry.

Based on the collected data, the chapters of the Road Map are currently under development. The policy areas selected for review and development of recommendations are the following:

- Integration of older persons in society
- Image of older persons
- Independent living, health and well-being
- Social protection

- Sustainable economic growth and development
- Labour market
- Education and life-long learning
- Migration
- Intergenerational solidarity
- Stakeholder participation
- Institutional framework
- Research landscape
- Monitoring and evaluation

In agreement with the government of Moldova, these issues were found to be most relevant when seeking to improve the general Mainstreaming Ageing situation.

Road Maps on Conclusion

The Road Maps have emerged as important instruments to focus activities in implementing MIPAA/RIS at country-level. In the process of preparing a Road Map, national and international experts are being brought together and partnerships are being built that may evolve into support mechanisms for implementing the Road Map recommendations. Countries of the UNECE region with similar challenges related to ageing of their populations may consider the relevance of recommendations of already available Road Maps to their own policy responses.

Based on the experience gained in the process of preparing the first two Road Maps it appears feasible to develop at least one additional Road Map per year in order to address the specific ageing situations of various countries in the region. It is envisaged that UNECE member States will make experts on specific topics available to become part of the international team involved in preparing and implementing the Road Maps so that they can become an increasingly collaborative exercise of UNECE member States. To be able to develop new Road Maps in the future, additional financial resources have to be made available either by member States or by other international donors.

3. Deliverables

3.1 Policy Briefs

1. UNECE Policy brief on Mainstreaming ageing
2. UNECE Policy brief on Gender equality, work, and old age
3. UNECE Policy brief on Older persons as consumers
4. UNECE Policy brief on Integration and participation of older persons in society
5. UNECE Policy brief on Lifelong learning
6. UNECE Policy brief on Health promotion and disease prevention
7. UNECE Policy brief on Towards community long-term care
8. UNECE Policy brief on Advancing Intergenerational relationship

UNECE Policy Briefs are available at http://www.unece.org/pau/age/Policy_briefs

9. Hoffmann, F., Rodrigues, R.: Informal Carers: Who Takes Care of Them? Vienna, 2010. Policy Brief April 2010. http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1274190382_99603.pdf
10. Rodrigues, R. and Schmidt, A. Paying for Long-Term Care. Vienna, 2010. Policy Brief September 2010. http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1283437589_95069.pdf
11. Good practice database: http://www.unece.org/pau/age/Policy_briefs/GoodPractices.html

3.2 Monitoring the implementation of MIPAA/RIS

1. Marin, B., Zólyomi, E.: Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements. Ashgate (UK), 2010. Book series "Public Policy and Social Welfare", Volume 37. http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1262169707_87923.pdf
2. Huber, M., Rodrigues, R., Hoffmann, F., Gasior, K., Marin, B.: Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care. Europe and North America. European Centre, 2009. ISBN 978-3-902426-49-9 http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1601
3. List of gender-specific indicators
4. List of long-term care indicators
5. Country profiles: <http://www.monitoringris.org/index.php?id=31>
6. MonitoringRIS website: <http://www.monitoringris.org/>

3.3 Studies and data collection on generations and gender

1. Updated website <http://www.unece.org/pau/ggp/>
2. Documents of the meeting of the Generations and Gender International Working Group, including the report: <http://www.unece.org/pau/ggp/iwg/2009Marrakech.htm>
3. Report on the standardization of the data on individual and household income collected in Generations and Gender Surveys, including the programme code
4. Standard tables of the Generations and Gender Surveys and the related report: <http://www.unece.org/pau/ggp/tables>
5. Presentation of key indicators: http://www.unece.org/pau/_docs/ggp/2009/IWG/GGP_2009_IWG007_PresnKeyIndicators.pdf
6. United Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): Intergenerational family relationships in ageing societies. 2010. http://www.unece.org/pau/_docs/age/2010/Intergenerational-Relationships/ECE-WG.1-11.pdf

3.4 Capacity development for MIPAA/RIS: Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing

1. Report of the Road Map for mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia
2. Strategy on Ageing in Armenia
3. Action Plan for Implementing the Strategy on Ageing in Armenia

4. Financial report

On 17 June 2009, UNECE received the pre-financing payment of EUR 180,000. The United Nations accounting system operates and records all expenses in United States dollars. The received amount was converted using the official UN exchange rate USD 1 = EUR 0.717 that was in effect at the time of receipt. The euro amounts in this financial report are converted from the recorded expenditures in United States dollars using the above-mentioned exchange rate.

The project was carried out according to the revised financial plan submitted on 7 December 2009. As outlined in the attached table, the total project cost corresponds to the budgeted cost and the deviations between actual and projected cost items are minor. Only the expenses on field missions for the country road maps turned out 16% lower than projected because in the last missions in June 2010, the United Nations representation in the Republic of Moldova provided their technical support to a greater extent than planned.

Administrative cost of the project is calculated as 7% of the contribution of the European Commission (EUR 200,000). The interest income is reflected as of end of 2009. Information on the interest income for 2010 would only become available at the end of 2010.

