

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# **ENSURING A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES**

## **Promoting quality of life and active ageing**

Proceedings of the  
**UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing**  
19-20 September 2012  
Vienna, Austria



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication includes the keynote papers and summaries of panel discussions at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which was held in Vienna, Austria from 19-20 September 2012. It also includes the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration, as well as declarations from non-governmental organizations and the Research Forum. Importantly, it includes the Synthesis Report on the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE Region, which was the cornerstone of discussions at the Ministerial Conference.

The Conference was hosted by the Austrian Government under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and included the participation of NGOs and the scientific community. The Host country and the United Nations Population Fund supported the participation of a number of delegates. The European Commission sponsored the Civil Society and Research Forums.

The conference organizers would like to thank the contributors, including the keynote speakers and rapporteurs, as well as the Conference participants and the members of the Working Group on Ageing who acted as the Preparatory Committee for their contributions and engagement in the discussions.

At the UNECE secretariat, Viviane Brunne and Anna Barbuscia worked on the analysis of the country reports and the preparation of the Synthesis Report; Evita Sisene and Anvar Nigmatov developed statistical annex tables. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich oversaw preparation of the Synthesis Report and editing of the Conference proceedings.

The Conference report was edited by Danielle Carpenter Sprüngli. The report was laid out by France Font-Verot, and the cover was designed by Yves Clopt.

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## FOREWORD

Over the next 40 years, the Earth's population is expected to grow by 2.2 billion to reach 9.2 billion people. Nearly all of the population growth will happen in developing countries. In contrast, most developed countries will see their populations age, and possibly even decline, as the result of lower birth rates and longer life expectancies. The ageing phenomenon, however, will also accelerate in the developing world. This situation is already pushing many countries worldwide, and especially those of the UNECE, to examine public policies surrounding retirement, health care, access to higher education and on-the-job training, and equal access to employment for both men and women, young and old, through the lens of an ageing population. Worldwide the population of those aged 65 and over is growing faster than all other age groups – from 130 million in 1950 to 1.5 billion in 2050.

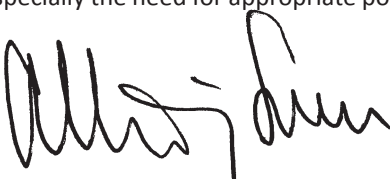
However, population ageing is not even between countries. In the majority of UNECE countries people are already relatively old compared to the rest of the world, and this trend will continue. By 2050, 23 per cent of the population in the region is projected to be 65 years of age or older. This share currently stands at 14 per cent.

The United Nations first put ageing on its international policy agenda at the World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna in 1982. Thirty years later, the UNECE countries gathered in Vienna for the UNECE Ministerial Conference under the theme “Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing”. The 2012 Conference reviewed the progress made since 2007 in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) agreed upon at the second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 and the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) adopted at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held in Berlin in 2002.

The delegations from 50 UNECE Member States participated in the 2012 Conference, as well as representatives from 11 intergovernmental organizations, and numerous scientists and representatives from non-governmental organizations. The Conference had two aims: to take stock of progress over the last five years in MIPAA/RIS implementation, and to agree on priorities for action for the coming years.

The 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Conference reaffirms the commitment made in 2002 and 2007 by Member States to implement MIPAA/RIS. The Declaration highlights the accomplishments made over the last five years, yet recognizes that demographic changes are generating both opportunities and challenges in the region in the pursuit of active ageing, including: access to employment for older persons, age-friendly work environments, appropriate health and social care, accommodation and financial security; inclusive systems and support for active ageing, lifelong learning, and participation in various spheres of society without discrimination, particularly with regards to older women. The Declaration also stresses the importance of mainstreaming ageing and promoting active ageing in national policy processes; and the need to raise awareness of the benefits of promoting active ageing, underlining the necessity to allocate sufficient resources for its implementation.

This publication aims to diffuse the Conference proceedings to a wide audience, inspire broad public debate, and raise awareness of the issues surrounding ageing in UNECE Member States, especially the need for appropriate policy responses to this demographic change.



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## ***LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS***

AD	assistive device
AROPE	rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion
BAGSO	German Federal Association of Senior Citizen's Organizations
BDA	Confederation of German Employers
BMASK	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
CASE	Centre for Ageing and Supportive Environments, Lund University
DALE	disability-adjusted life expectancy
DEAS	German Ageing Survey; Befunde des Deutschen Alterssurveys
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
Ed./Eds.	editor/editors
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EIPAHA	European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
ERA-AGE	European Research Area in Ageing
EU	European Union
Eurofound	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
EU-SILC	European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FLARE	Europe's first post-doctoral programme in the ageing field
GALI	global activity limitation
HLY	healthy life years
IFA	International Federation on Ageing
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organization
INIA	International Institute on Ageing, United Nations - Malta
IZA	Institute for the Study of Labor
LFP	labour force participation
LFS	labour force survey
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
NGO	Non-governmental organization
REAP-AGE	Research Application and Dissemination Platform on Ageing
RIS	Regional Implementation Strategy
SHARE	Survey on Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe
TUS	time use survey
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

## **THREE-LETTER COUNTRY CODES FOR UNECE MEMBER STATES**

Albania (ALB)	Liechtenstein (LIE)
Andorra (AND)	Lithuania (LTU)
Armenia (ARM)	Luxembourg (LUX)
Austria (AUT)	Malta (MLT)
Azerbaijan (AZE)	Monaco (MCO)
Belarus (BLR)	Montenegro (MNE)
Belgium (BEL)	Netherlands (NLD)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH)	Norway (NOR)
Bulgaria (BGR)	Poland (POL)
Canada (CAN)	Portugal (PRT)
Croatia (HRV)	Republic of Moldova (MDA)
Cyprus (CYP)	Romania (ROU)
Czech Republic (CZE)	Russian Federation (RUS)
Denmark (DNK)	San Marino (SMR)
Estonia (EST)	Serbia (SRB)
Finland (FIN)	Slovakia (SVK)
France (FRA)	Slovenia (SVN)
Georgia (GEO)	Spain (ESP)
Germany (DEU)	Sweden (SWE)
Greece (GRC)	Switzerland (CHE)
Hungary (HUN)	Tajikistan (TJK)
Iceland (ISL)	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MKD)
Ireland (IRL)	Turkey (TUR)
Israel (ISR)	Turkmenistan (TKM)
Italy (ITA)	Ukraine (UKR)
Kazakhstan (KAZ)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GBR)
Kyrgyzstan (KGZ)	United States of America (USA)
Latvia (LVA)	Uzbekistan (UZB)