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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Working Group on Ageing

#### Sixth meeting

Geneva, 25-26 November 2013

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**The WGA work programme for the third cycle of MIPAA/RIS (2013-2017)**

## Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2013

Note by the secretariat

### I. Introduction

1. The UNECE Working Group on Ageing was established in 2008 as an intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate implementation of the UNECE Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA) and the follow-up activities to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in León, Spain (6-8 November 2007).
2. At its fortieth meeting in March 2011, the UNECE Executive Committee agreed to renew the Working Group's mandate for the three-year period 2011-2013, bringing the programme of the Working Group into line with the UN planning and reporting cycles (EXCOM/CONCLU/40).
3. The Vienna Ministerial Declaration (ECE/AC.30/2012/3), unanimously adopted by 50 Member States at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2012 (Vienna, Austria), reaffirmed the mandate of WGA and provides the guidance to its work programme.
4. The Working Group at its fifth meeting (22-23 November 2012), took note of the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference, in particular the Ministerial Declaration and the Synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region (ECE/AC.30/2012/4) and decided on its main activities and outputs for 2013 (ECE/WG.1/2012/5).
5. This document is prepared for the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing. It describes the implementation of the programme of work in 2013, covering the Working Group's four main areas of activity: (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 (RIS/MIPAA), including work on indicators of achievement; (c) capacity development; and (d) analysis of intergenerational relationships. The document also contains a brief report on activities undertaken by the secretariat in response to the GA Resolution 65/234 on the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994).

## **II. Implementation of the main elements of the work programme for 2013**

### **A. Policy briefs with good practice examples**

6. The Working Group on Ageing has issued a series of policy briefs that provide information on progressive and innovative policy discourse in order to foster the exchange of good policy practice amongst member States. The policy briefs provide examples of successful policies and programmes aimed at implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. The secretariat has compiled the policy briefs based on contributions from Member States.

7. Since the fifth meeting of the Work Group on Ageing in November 2012, one additional policy brief on the topic ‘Abuse of older persons’ has been prepared. The draft of this policy brief was discussed at the Bureau meeting in May 2013 and presented at the regional symposium ‘Preventing abuse and neglect of older persons in Europe’, organised jointly by the European Commission and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (in Brussels). The publication of this policy brief has been scheduled to coincide with the International Day of Older Persons, 1 October 2013. All policy briefs are available on the UNECE website.<sup>1</sup>

8. Several topics have been suggested for further policy briefs. Given the limited staff resources at the UNECE Secretariat, the preparation of future proposed policy briefs will depend on the availability of additional funds or on in kind contribution from experts.

### **B. Monitoring of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

#### **1. Completion of the second cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA**

9. The global second cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA implementation ended with the High-level panel discussion on the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2013/6) which took place in New York, USA during the 51st session of the Commission for Social Development (6-15 February 2013). Concluding its session, the Commission for Social Development (CSD) approved five draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, including the one on “Second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002” (E/CNH.5/2013/L.6).

10. In preparation for the CSD high-level panel, the UNECE submitted the concluding report of the 2012 Ministerial conference in Vienna and provided access to individual

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<sup>1</sup> Available from [http://www.unece.org/pau/age/policy\\_briefs/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/pau/age/policy_briefs/welcome.html).

national reports to the UN Focal Point on Ageing. Mr. Rudolf Hundstorfer, Austria's Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the host of the 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, took part in the high-level panel and informed participants about the conference and its outcome document Vienna Ministerial Declaration.

## **2. Follow-up on Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Vienna, 2012**

11. The Proceedings of the 2012 Ministerial Conference were published in early 2013.

12. During the fifth meeting of the Working Group in November 2012, it was agreed to set up four smaller discussion groups to cover the four topics emphasized by the Vienna Ministerial Declaration. In spring 2013, the Chair of the WGA together with the secretariat developed Terms of Reference for the discussion groups and issued a call to the WG members to subscribe to a specific group. The first teleconference of the leaders/rapporteurs of these discussion groups took place in September 2013.

13. The four discussion groups should serve as a forum to deliberate on up to two or three issues in-depth, exchange about experiences and good practices and prepare a short summary to be presented at the 6th meeting of the WGA.

## **3. Indicators**

### *Active Ageing Index*

14. In March 2013, the UNECE, in cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EC) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (European Centre) had published the *Active Ageing Index (AAI)* for 27 EU countries. The Index aims to provide the policymakers with a tool that indicates various domains for policy interventions in promoting active and healthy ageing.

15. The secretariat developed a special wiki-page dedicated to the index.<sup>2</sup> The wiki provides information on the AAI conceptual framework, methodology and results. It also provides potential index users with access to an excel file that contains detailed data sets on the AAI for the 27 European Union Member States. A special policy brief that introduces the AAI was developed together with EC and is also available to download from the wiki.

16. The second phase of the AAI project should increase the country coverage and establish index levels for the most current and previous periods. This work on AAI should potentially also connect to the process of monitoring progress (especially in the implementation of MIPAA). As in the first phase, the work on AAI is expected to benefit from the advice of an international group of experts convened by the secretariat.

## **C. Capacity development**

### **1. Road maps for mainstreaming ageing**

17. The development of Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing was an integral part of the initial programme of work adopted by the Working Group on Ageing at its

<sup>2</sup> [www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/AAI/Active+Ageing+Index+Home](http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/AAI/Active+Ageing+Index+Home)

establishment during its first meeting in November 2008 (ECE/WG.1/2008/3, paragraphs 28-33). These Road Maps, developed in collaboration with Member States at their request, provide a guide through which the country in question can enhance implementation of the commitments of RIS/MIPAA taking into account specificities of the country.

18. Two Road Map projects – for Armenia and the Republic of Moldova - were completed during 2009-2011 and approved by the respective governments in 2012. The Ageing Strategy and related Action Plan – an integral part of the Road Map - were adopted by a Government Decree in Armenia, and the Moldovan government agreed that the Road Map should be treated as a complementary element to Moldova's National Strategic Programme on Demographic Security for 2011-2025, which does not focus explicitly on mainstreaming ageing.

19. In 2013, the Government of Georgia submitted a request to UNECE for the preparation of the Road Map on Ageing. The funds secured for the initial phase of the project from the UNECE Regional Programme for Technical Cooperation support the desk study and the fact-finding missions to Georgia before the end-2013.

## **2. Workshops**

20. The secretariat and the WG member from Austria were involved in conducting the Capacity Development Workshop for Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia "National Policy Responses to Population Ageing". The workshop took place on 17-19 September 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine, and was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs together with the local office of the United Nations Population Fund.

21. A planned joint UNECE and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV capacity-development training workshop on *Community Services for the Elderly* in April 2013 was postponed for 2014 due to the limited number of registered participants.

## **D. Knowledge base for policy action on ageing**

### *The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)*

22. The secretariat has continued to act as a clearinghouse for administration of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which is among the leading data sources for policy-relevant research on demographic trends and processes in the UNECE region. For those countries which participate in the GGP, the survey and contextual data constitute a rich source of evidence for the evaluation of implementation of RIS/MIPAA.

23. Currently the first wave survey micro data of 15 countries can be accessed online upon application. Additional wave 1 data are expected to become available from Poland and Sweden. Second wave data can be made available to applicants online from five countries: Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Germany and the Netherlands. Second and third wave data from additional countries will be made available to researchers after submission and harmonization at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). As countries have to make their own funds available for implementation of the Generations and Gender Survey, UNECE has continued to provide support for the fundraising endeavours of countries seeking to implement the GGP.

24. The UNECE has continued to process applications for GGP data, granting access to data sets in response to 111 applications since the last meeting of the Working Group on Ageing. Access to second wave data sets has been granted 59 times since the last meeting

of the Working Group on Ageing.<sup>3</sup> The secretariat has also maintained, updated and improved the functionality of a bibliography of GGP-based research.<sup>4</sup> The bibliography which is searchable online currently has more than 900 data entries of publications making use of GGP data.

25. The UNECE secretariat has continued to manage the GGP Network of National Focal Points and organized a meeting of this group on 26 October in Milan, Italy. As the co-ordinators of this group, the UNECE Secretariat has had an important bridging function between those responsible for programme management and development and those responsible for implementation in countries.

### III. ‘ICPD Beyond 2014’ Survey and UNECE Regional Conference “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century”

26. In 2012-2013, following the General Assembly Resolution 65/234, the UNECE Population unit was engaged in the joint project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on assessing the progress of and identifying policy priorities and actions for implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) for the period beyond 2014.

27. A comprehensive survey was conducted among UNECE member States to state achievements and challenges in implementing the ICPD PoA. Based on completed questionnaires received from 45 UNECE countries a regional report was prepared highlighting trends and identifying areas that need additional efforts (ECE/AC.27/2013/3).

28. In preparation to the regional conference, three thematic expert meetings were convened by UNECE and UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The meetings gathered more than 75 experts from academia, governments, parliaments and civil society organisations to discuss issues related to (i) population dynamics and sustainable development (25-26 March 2013, Vienna), (ii) inequalities, social inclusion and rights (15-16 April, Belgrade), and (iii) families, and sexual and reproductive health over the life course (25-26 April 2013). The report of the expert meetings “ICPD Beyond 2014 review in the UNECE Region”<sup>5</sup> was published before the regional conference and used as the reference document during the conference debates.

29. The UNECE Regional Conference “Enabling Choices: Population Priorities for the 21st Century” was held on 1-2 July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was attended by 43 country delegations as well as NGOs, scientists and international organizations with a total of more than 300 participants. The UNECE regional report was launched during the high-level plenary session of the Conference. The Chair’s summary provided the main outcome document (ECE/AC.27/2013/2 Annex I).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Data can be accessed by registered users at [www.ggp-i.org](http://www.ggp-i.org).

<sup>4</sup> Available from <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/ggp/biblio/Biblio/current.05.12.html>

<sup>5</sup> UNFPA and UNECE (2013). *ICPD Beyond 2014 Review in the UNECE Region: Report of the expert meetings*. ([http://eeca.unfpa.org/webdav/site/eeca/shared/documents/ICPD-Geneva/ICPD\\_Beyond\\_2014\\_review\\_in\\_the\\_UNECE\\_region\\_WEB.pdf](http://eeca.unfpa.org/webdav/site/eeca/shared/documents/ICPD-Geneva/ICPD_Beyond_2014_review_in_the_UNECE_region_WEB.pdf))

<sup>6</sup> For more details about the conference see <http://www.unece.org/icpd-2014/unece-regional-conference.html>.

## **IV. Conclusions**

30. The Vienna Ministerial Declaration among the important achievements acknowledges the establishment of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing as an intergovernmental body for regional cooperation in the implementation and monitoring of RIS/MIPAA.

31. Its key position as the facilitator of RIS/MIPAA implementation in the region has been confirmed and strengthened during the second review and appraisal process and through the support that member States expressed in the declaration and through active membership in its work. The WGA acts both as a productive source of substantive outputs and as an effective networking resource for national focal points to exchange information and share experiences.

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