



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Population Activities Unit
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Ageing in the EECCA Countries - some items for discussion

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Ageing in the EECCA Countries - some items for discussion

- Outline
 - ✓ Summary of questionnaire results in the UNECE region
 - ✓ Some issues specific for the EECAA region



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Ageing in the EECCA Countries - some items for discussion

- Sources for information:
 - Questionnaires (2004/2005) sent to national focal points on ageing
 - Meeting of National Focal Points on Ageing (2006)
 - Expert meeting (2007)
- Country documents and presentations submitted in preparation of the workshop (13 covering all subregions)



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Questionnaires on national policies

- Collect information on the execution of the Regional Implementation Strategy
- Facilitate exchange of information, experience and good practices
- Questionnaire sent out to the focal points



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National action plans

- 14 countries have adopted a national action plan on ageing
- In 8 countries a plan is either in preparation or in the process of adoption



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Priority areas

- Welfare and well-being, 11 countries
 - Adaptation of the pension system
 - Improvement and accessibility of social services, including decentralisation
 - Financial assistance to older persons
 - Mobility – improving the system of public transport



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Priority areas

- Health care, 9 countries
 - Affordable, accessible and available health care for older persons
 - Health care integrated with social services
 - Need for preventive measures
 - Improving the overall efficiency of health care system through its reform
 - Social services, local level in particular
 - Integral part of social protection system



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Priority areas

- Active aging, 8 countries
 - integration of older persons in the labour market to promote economic development
 - inherent value of labour force participation for older persons
 - general issues related to inclusion into society, including participation in civil society and social life



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Priority areas

- Lifestyle and image issues, 2 countries
 - Increased participation, positive image and increased quality of life
- Research, 3 countries
 - Theoretical analysis of and practical solutions for the social, economic, political and cultural consequences of ageing



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Participatory activities

- Information from 16 countries on seeking the views of older persons and providing them with information
- Regular meetings with civil society organisations representing older persons
- Dedicated governmental consultation mechanisms, such as councils or committees of older persons
- Communication through different media: publications, TV, special telephone lines, internet



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Capacity building

- Information from 17 countries
- Education and training programmes for people working with older persons
 - Improve knowledge on age-specific medical and psychological issues
 - Also for family members who care for older persons
- Training older persons themselves, e.g. on how to avoid accidents and to stay fit
- Creating environment enabling training: networking with research institutions, universities; national coordinating mechanisms, standardization



Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

Country documents and presentations submitted in preparation of the workshop (13 covering all sub-regions)

- **Rural/urban divide – rural poverty**
- **Poverty**
- **Gender gap**
- **Discrimination / human rights**
- **Service provision**
- **Participation**
- **Data**



Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Rural/urban divide – rural poverty**

Belarus: „Some 10% of the rural population reside in remote rural communities. In these communities, the elderly represent 80-90% of the total population.“

Kazakhstan: „The poverty rate in rural areas is almost three times as high as in urban areas.“

Turkey: „The poverty rate of elderly is 33.63% in rural areas and 16.21% in urban areas.“

- Social conditions – exclusion, migration, family
- Economic conditions – economic hardships



Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Rural/urban divide – rural poverty**
 - Access to services, in particular care and transport
E.g. Belarus: increasing provision of services by mobile teams. „Nearly 70% of clients receiving home based care are rural residents.“



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Poverty**

Social exclusion/ poverty/ vulnerability

- Tajikistan: 43% of male pensioners continue to work due to low pensions

Need for a multidimensional definition of poverty

social poverty : exclusion, non-participation

economic poverty

poverty as a human rights violation



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Gender gap**
 - Higher mortality rate of men
e.g. Kazakhstan: difference in life expectancy : 11,6 years
 - „Shortage of men“, at the age of marriage



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Discrimination / human rights**

Elderly recognised as particularly vulnerable groups

Right to social inclusion of the elderly as a priority issue (Serbia)

Need for legislation

Need for implementation!



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Service provision**
 - Need for a new paradigm based on human rights principles !



Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

Service provision – human rights principles

- ✓ **Availability:** Are services really available to the elderly? (costs!)
- ✓ **Accessibility:** Do the elderly have the capacity to access the services? (e.g. medical services/ transport)
- ✓ **Acceptability:** Is the service relevant and culturally appropriate? (e.g. care)
- ✓ **Adaptability:** Does a service really respond to the needs of communities and individuals/ men and women? (needs assessment)



Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

Service provision – decentralisation

- A key requirement: Non-discrimination and inclusion of all groups of society.
- Public services should be delivered as close to the people as possible
- Participation can only be meaningful and effective when decisions are taken at the local level -- empowerment
- Fragmentation and decentralisation can be obstacles to efficient and efficient service delivery to the elderly (e.g. BiH)



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- **Participation: How to make it effective and meaningful?**
 - ✓ Participation is more than the validation of decisions already taken
 - ✓ Institutionalize mechanisms to include the poorest parts of society, with particular regard to the differentiated needs of men and women and the elderly (e.g. vulnerability assessments, round table meetings, performance assessments)



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Some specific issues in the EECCA countries

- Data dissegregation (age groups, gender, area)
 - E.g. Kazakhstan does not have official statistics of sickness registration of the elderly
 - Missing data on elderly who are outside the social security system (Serbia)
- Perception of elderly
- Housing conditions
- Coordination of actors (national and local authorities, civil society, development partners)
- Changes in cultural values and traditions
 - E.g. changing family roles



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Thank you !

**I am looking forward to your
questions and comments!**

