

Ageing in Moldova: challenges and opportunities for better life

Chisinau, Moldova

13-16 March 2007

General facts about Moldova

Area	33,800 km ²
Population	~ 4 mln people
Government	Parliamentary republic
Capital	Chisinau
Territorial division	32 districts

Demographic facts

- Census 2004
(excluding Transdnistria)

Total 3,393,332

Women 51.9%

- Rural population 57.7%

Projected population

- 2050 3,000,000

- 2130 1,500,000

Challenges

- Declining birth rate
- Growing mortality
- Large-scale emigration of active population
- Ageing

Negative consequences

- Demographic decline
- Ageing
- Increasing ratio of older persons
- Irreversible changes in the population age structure

Normative documents

- Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation (EGPRSI)
- Plan of Active Population Employment till 2020 drafted
- National Program “Moldovan Village” approved and launched
- Pension Reform Strategy approved
- Law on State Social Insurance enforced
- National Strategy on Reproductive Health approved and being implemented
- Youth Strategy approved and being implemented
- Law and Concept of Migration approved

Ratio of pensioners to total population, including active one

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population (million)	3,627.2	3,617.7	3,606.8	3,386.0	3,395.6
Pensioners (thousand)	663,287	634,553	627,553	620,692	618,277
Ratio of active population to pensioners	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3

Ratio of salary to pension

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 (as of 1 January 2007)
Average salary	543.7	651.5	890.8	1103.8	1319.5	1965.4
Average pension	140.34	166.87	217.98	336.75	397.18	442.96
% pension to salary	20.97%	24.13	24.47	25.52	30.10	22.53

Measures to improve situation of older persons

- Further pension reform
- Structural change of government bodies
- Setting up a structure in charge of collection, processing and projection of demographic data
- Monitoring of mainstreaming demographic data and trends into economic and social policies

Observance of MIPAA/RIS 2002 Commitments

- **COMMITMENT 2. INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF OLDER PERSONS** (Veterans' Council, NGO, local authorities)
- **COMMITMENT 3. PROMOTION OF EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN RESPONSE TO POPULATION AGEING** (to raise the growth rates in transition economies. To reduce poverty, Moldova drafted its Poverty Reduction Strategy (EGPRS).
- **COMMITMENT 4. ADJUSTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN RESPONSE TO DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES AND THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES** (Moldova approved a Pension Reform Strategy, set up a Committee on Population and Development, and has been indexing pensions since 2003)
- **COMMITMENT 5. ENABLING LABOUR MARKETS TO RESPOND TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION AGEING** – The retirement age was determined at 57 years for women and at 62 years for men. An Employment Program was adopted for up to the year 2020)
- **COMMITMENT 6. PROMOTION OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND ADAPTATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHANGING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS** (no special measures planned).
- **COMMITMENT 7. STRIVING TO ENSURE QUALITY OF LIFE AT ALL AGES AND MAINTAIN INDEPENDENT LIVING INCLUDING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** (Moldova is now formulating its Program of Long-Term Development).