

HelpAge International

**MIPAA+5 Bottom-Up
Review in South East Europe**

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HelpAge
International
Leading global action on ageing

HelpAge International

HelpAge International (HAI) is a global network of not-for-profit organisations with a mission to work with and for disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

HAI's network of affiliate organisations is supported by Regional Development Centres in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, East Europe and Central Asia

Influencing lasting change

- **Working with governments to include older people in national poverty reduction plans**
- **Campaigning for universal pensions**
- **Implementing the International Plan of Action on Ageing**
- **Including older people as sufferers and carers in programmes to combat HIV/AIDS**

South East European Network

Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

The four-year programme “***Empowering Disadvantaged Older People to Combat Discrimination in South East Europe***” incorporates eleven local NGO partners in nine countries to form a regional South East European Network (SEEN), with the overall aim to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged older people.

This is achieved by enabling older people to increase their access to appropriate public services, combating discrimination, and empowering older people and their organisations with the necessary skills and confidence to advocate actively for their rights.



HAI MIPAA review - methodology

- **Collect basic information**
- **Interviews with national ministries and local government representatives**
- **Interviews with older people**
- **Comment and analysis from older people's organisations**
- **Presentation of findings at national level**
- **Joint planning on next steps with Ministries, ageing focal points and civil society**

1. Problems with data collection

- **No data available**
- **Data produced by different methodologies, not comparable**
- **General data on older people not disaggregated by sex or age**
- **Poverty data amongst older people not generally available**
- **Access to data a challenge**

2. Low awareness of MIPAA

Amongst

- Older people
- Local government structures
- National government structures

3. Resources allocated to older people

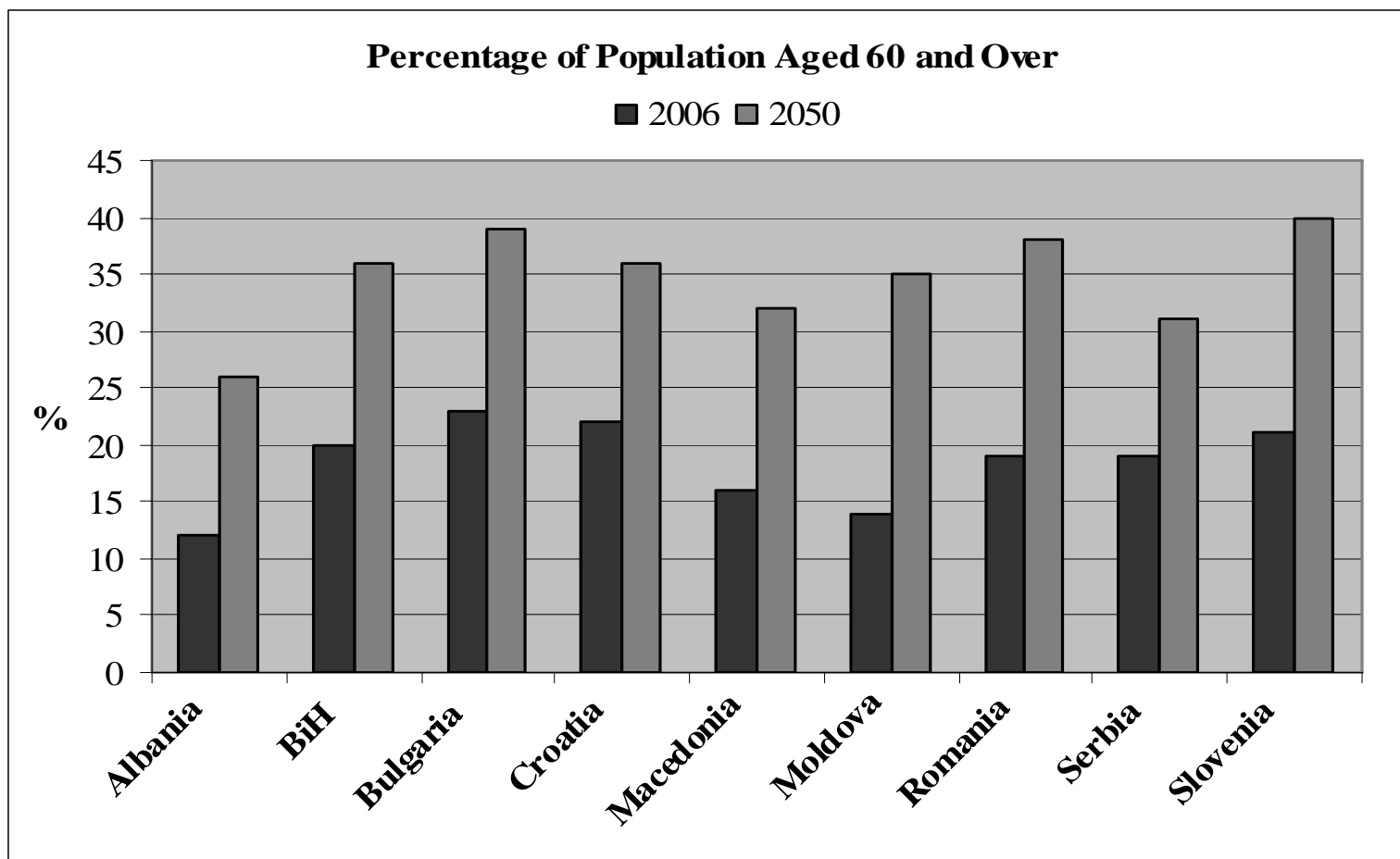
- National budgets do not allocate resources for older people
- Allocated resources for poverty reduction do not target older people's poverty, or acknowledge rate of population ageing
- Limited resourcing for public assistance programmes which include older people - but they have to compete with other groups

Development partners not yet sensitive to older age issues

Older people's poverty

	% of population over 60	% of people over 60 living below national poverty line	% of total population living below national poverty line	Social pensions
Moldova	13.2	31.5	29	\$5/month
Serbia	22.5	14.8	10.6	-

Sources: World Bank Poverty Update 2006 in Moldova, PRSP and Republic Bureau of Statistics in Serbia



Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division,
Population Ageing 2006



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Older people's recommendations...

Health

- Free health care
- Improvement in quality of health services
- Free transport
- Improved attitudes of health care providers
- Decent housing and living environment

Income and economic security

- Social pensions
- Increased levels of social pension (Moldova \$5/month)
- Recognise and act on older carers' needs (migration)

*Overall better provision of linked social protection
(health, social care, social pensions)*

“...Nothing about us without us!”

Participation:

- **In family, community and society**
- **In development activities**
- **In dialogue with authorities**

Leading to an environment where they are not stigmatized and treated as second rate citizens

Recommendations by NGOs

- **Investment in poverty research, with age and sex segregated data**
- **Linking older people to national poverty strategies**
- **Better evidence-based policy**

Taking MIPAA forward

- **Development of National Action Plans**
- **Participation**
- **Investment in Focal Points**
- **Recognition of diverse capacities in UNECE; one size does not fit all - Development of sub-regional EECA group?**

