



PORTUGAL

*AGEING IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL INCLUSION IN
PORTUGAL*

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First of all, I would like to thank both **Spain for convening the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing “A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities”** here in Leon and the **Executive Secretary of the UNECE for its excellent preparatory work.**

I am very pleased that Portugal is participating in this Panel “PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION”, because in my country the promotion of inclusion is a priority for the Portuguese government and is based in a new generation of social policies.

In this context, the National Action Plan for Inclusion (NAPincl) 2006.2008 constitutes a strategic instrument

Indeed, the major aims of the global strategy for social inclusion defined in the NAPincl 2006-2008 are the promotion of inclusion of all citizens, ensuring the access to the resources, rights, goods and services needed for participation in society, as well as both the promotion of participation in labour market and fight poverty and the exclusion.

In the light of these aims, **three priorities** were assumed by this national strategy for social inclusion for the 2006-2008 period:

- i) Fight child and older poverty, through measures ensuring basic rights of citizenship;

- ii) Correct the disadvantages in education and training/qualification;
- iii) Overcome discrimination by integrating people with disability and immigrants.

Before mentioning the specific policy measures provided within NAPIncl for social inclusion of older persons, I would like to say that in Portugal, like the majority of EU member states, the older people are one of the social groups most vulnerable to situations of poverty and social exclusion.

In this context, **the low income has been identified as the main factor of elderly poverty** and the measures presented seek to respond to this situation through a solidarity supplement so as to increase the income of these individuals to a minimum threshold of 4200 euros yearly (at 2006 prices). Apart from this, it is sought to **reinforce and consolidate the equipment and service network** so as to give responses to present needs, privileging when possible, the solutions which enable the older persons to remain in their natural setting but also giving special attention and particular response to increasing **dependency**. Special emphasis is given to the **housing situation of the older people**, following a policy of housing requalification within the protection of autonomy framework of these citizens.

Now, it is important to mention thus some specific measures that have been developed or are foreseen in Portugal to promote social inclusion of the older persons and which part of them were presented in MIPPA report. And they are the following:

- **Supplement for the Elderly (CSI)**

It is a monetary allowance to increase the pre-existing low resources of the elderly for a minimum threshold. The amount is defined by reference to a threshold established annually and the allocation is differentiated according to the concrete situation of each elderly applying to it.

- **Programme for the Extension of the Social Equipment Network (PARES)**

It seeks to support the expansion, development and consolidation of the social equipment network by investing mainly in the creation of new places in social facilities in the areas for childhood, elderly and disabled people.

- **Pilot-project of housing requalification**

Improving basic housing conditions and mobility of the elderly receiving home care, preventing institutionalization and dependent situations.

- **Long-Term Care Network**

Promoting the supply of services such as short term admittance in alternative to the hospital rationalizing hospital resources; Long term admittance for the elderly and dependent people; Day units to promote an autonomous life in the community.

And finally...

- **Volunteer work**

Creating a National Voluntary Network through local promotion, in the support to the elderly.

THANK YOU.

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