

Stocktaking on Mainstreaming Ageing in the UNECE region

Bulgaria

About

Historical development

National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing

The main guidelines on identifying opportunities to promote active ageing are contained in the **National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing**, which was adopted within the European Year 2012. The concept's vision is oriented to creating conditions and ensuring equal opportunities for dignified life of full value for elderly people. The National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing develops and builds on an important direction of the National Demographic Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, i.e. Overcoming the effects of population ageing. Through the National Concept of Active Ageing the Republic of Bulgaria aims to create conditions for economic growth, sustainable social system development, improved standard and quality of life of the people and building a cohesive society. The National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing offers a specific perspective for addressing the effects of population ageing in the context of an integrated approach reflecting the particular specifics of ageing.

The National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing identifies nine key operational goals which relate to:

- Ensuring equal opportunities for active employment of older people;
- Ensuring financial stability of the pension system and equal opportunities for active and dignified life in retirement age. Creating conditions to curb poverty among pensioners;
- Creating conditions to improve the standard of living of elderly people (including through creating opportunities to increase incomes, rehabilitate housing, modernize the living environment);
- Ensuring equal opportunities for access to health services and increasing the life expectancy in good health for elderly people;
- Ensuring equal opportunities for access to education, lifelong learning, qualification improvement and requalification with a view to improving labour market mobility;
- Developing and modernizing long-term care and ensuring equal opportunities for access to social services;
- Development of voluntary work;
- Development of the so-called "silver economy";
- Overcoming the negative stereotypes and building a positive public image of older people.

At 15th March 2019, the Concept was developed into a National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria for the period 2019 – 2030.

Structures

Responsible institution for the implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, through its Directorate “Living Standard, Demographic Policy and Social Investments”.

The successful implementation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing is realized by the joint efforts of all stakeholders. That is why the Interinstitutional working group on demographic issues, incomes and living standard to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy provides and maintains a constant working format for interinstitutional cooperation, including on the active ageing issues.

Laws, Policies, and Strategic Framework

In March this year the Council of Ministers adopted a National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria for the period 2019 – 2030.

The strategic aim is creating conditions for active and decent living of the elderly people through providing equal opportunities for their full participation in society’s economic and social life.

The strategic aim is developed in four priorities, which are composed in accordance with the main conclusions of analyses and statements in the framework of conducted regional round tables in the field of ageing.

The priorities of the Strategy are defined as follows:

- Priority 1: Promoting active ageing in the field of employment;
- Priority 2: Promoting active ageing in the field of participation in society;
- Priority 3: Promoting active ageing in the field of independent living;
- Priority 4: Building capacity and favourable environment for active ageing at national and regional level.

There are detailed measures to each of the four priorities of the National Strategy for Active Ageing. The realization of the measures will be monitored through biannual plans and biannual reports for the Strategy implementation. The first plan for the period 2019 – 2020 was adopted in 2019 by the Council of Ministers and the second plan for the period 2021-2022 is ready and will be presented to the Council of Ministers. In the autumn 2021, a biannual report for the period 2019-2020 will be prepared as well.

Each four years of the planned period (2019 – 2030) there will be conducted an evaluation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy will coordinate the process of evaluation of the Strategy and will promote stakeholders to take active part in it. In order to be most objective, the evaluation will be conducted by independent external expert.

Methods and tools

The members of the Interinstitutional working group on demographic issues, incomes and living standard to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy include broad range

of representatives of the responsible institutions on the implementation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing, including representatives of:

- ministries,
- state agencies,
- the National Social Security Institute,
- the National Statistical Institute,
- the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
- the Bulgarian Red Cross,
- representatives of municipalities,
- social partners, etc.

The members of the working group are updated annually, as each institution appoints two experts.

Good practices