

Mainstreaming Ageing - Moldova

About

Republic of Moldova has adhered in 2002 to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) committing to take measures that will respond to the demographic ageing challenges and integration of ageing in national policies. In 2012, Republic of Moldova, with support of UNECE has elaborated the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing (<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30030>) that provides a guide through which the country can uphold the commitments of the MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS). This Road Map was intended to help identify concrete actions relevant to the economic, social, cultural and political specifics of Moldova, to aid the country in fulfilling these internationally-agreed commitments within the framework of national situation.

Structures

During 2007-2017, the demographic policies, including demographic aging, were coordinated by National Commission for Population and Development, chaired by Deputy Prime-Minister. Its secretariat was facilitated by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (in 2017 reorganized in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection/MHLSP). The Commission brought together representatives from different ministries and government institutions, academia, NGOs and international partners such as UNFPA and IOM.

After the liquidation of the position of depute-prime minister on social issues, as a result of the reorganization of the Government, the Commission did not meet again.

Unfortunately, there are not ageing units in different ministries. The Demographic Policy Unit within the MHLSP is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Program for integration of ageing issues into policies.

Laws, Policies and Strategic Framework

Implementation of the Republic of Moldova's commitments related to ageing were included in the Program for Mainstreaming Ageing and its Action Plan on implementation of the Road Map for mainstreaming ageing in policies for 2014 – 2016, adopted by the Government of Moldova in June 2014 (<http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=353338> (Ro) <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=353338&lang=2> (Ru).

According to the objectives of the Programme, poverty problems of elderly, as a result of low incomes and pensions have been outlined. In 2016, it was a need to independently assess the quality of implementation of the Action Plan. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from this evaluation served for development of the next Action Plan 2018-2021.

A new Plan for the period 2018-2021 was developed and approved by the Government in 2017. For the first time, Moldovan Government has allocated domestic resources in implementing the Action Plan on Active Ageing. The objectives of the Plan are focused on:

- Mainstreaming
- Participation

- Sustainable economic development
- Social protection
- Labour market
- Education and lifelong learning
- Independent living.

Based on the Action Plan, a set of concepts were developed with the support of the UNFPA and UNDESA that aimed to boost active ageing programmes at local level and in private sector, as follows:

- Concept on age-friendly workplaces;
- Concept on Skills Guarantee Programme;
- Concepts on mainstreaming ageing and consultation of the older people at the local level;
- Concept on national training program for community mobilizers;
- Concept of the volunteer program for elderly.

As a result:

- In 5 companies were tested age-friendly procedures;
- Support was provided to the National Employment Agency in testing Skills Guarantee Programme in 5 territorial employment agencies;
- 10 Local Public Authorities/ LPAs were engaged in active ageing programmes to ensure that older people can enjoy an active and healthy ageing;
- methodological support was provided for responsible people in ministries to integrate the ageing perspective into policies;
- 25 elderly volunteers were identified, trained and involved in volunteering activities and intergenerational dialogue.

In 2016, Moldovan Government was the first one in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region to benefit from the high-level technical advice and expertise of the International Advisory Panel on Population and Development. As a result, a new Concept Vision on Population and Development was elaborated with UNFPA support and validated by National Commission on Population and Development with a policy mix of proactive and adaptive policy interventions. The Concept focus on low fertility, ageing, migration of working-age population and low life expectancy. It has been mainstreamed into the National Development Strategy Moldova 2030.

Methods and tools

Data collection and analysis

The National Bureau of Statistics periodically produces and disseminates basic statistical data on the population, including the age structure of the population. At the same time, annually the information *Elderly in the Republic of Moldova* is elaborated and disseminated on the eve of the International Day of Older Persons, which contains data on the demographic situation, the health status of the elderly, the social protection, the labor market and the standard of living (<http://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=en&id=6141&idc=168>)

In 2017, the National Bureau of Statistics performed the statistical research "Transition from work to retirement", which is a complementary module, attached to the Labour Force Survey. At the

MoHLSP proposal, the questionnaire included questions related to: What learning activities do you carry out in order to keep your job or to re-employ you? The main reason why the person did not extend his working time, with the inclusion of separate indicators - Care of grandchildren and elderly adults. These data are subsequently used in the calculation of the Active Aging Index.

In 2018, The Government decided to allocated domestic money (around 500,000 USD), from the state budget, for implementation of the Generations and Gender Program, in order to establish a new policy framework in addressing the country's demographic challenges, including in the field of aging, based on data and human rights.

The gaps of ageing statistics - the lack of some statistical and empirical data necessary for the full development of all composite indicators of the AAI according to UNECE methodological requirements, but for the calculation of AAI anyway the solution will be identified.

Awareness raising, advocacy and education

Periodically, the MHLSP, the Presidency and the Parliament organize conferences, round tables, workshops where various topics related to aging are addressed.

At the local level, MHLSP, in collaboration with the UNDESA and UNFPA organised workshops to train civil servants and the elderly how to respond to the challenges of aging.

<http://demografie.md/index.php?pag=news&opa=view&id=683&tip=noutate&start=10&l=>

<http://demografie.md/index.php?pag=news&opa=view&id=678&tip=noutate&start=20&l=>

<http://www.cr-falesti.md/index.php/articole-postari/17-daspcf/2613-atelier-de-instruire-a-functionarilor-publici-si-persoanelor-in-etate>

The Ministry of Education included “Education for Human Rights” (2015) in the list of optional courses, which includes subjects referring to “Age-based Discrimination”, “Concept of Solidarity between Generations”, “Rights of Youth in the Context of Solidarity between Generations”. Within the optional course „Ethics of Family Life” are also addressed the topics regarding the relationship parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren.

Stakeholder engagement

In the process of policy development, implementation of various actions stakeholders are consulted - Platform for active aging, which brings together more than 20 NGOs of the elderly, Congress of Local Authorities in Moldova, UNFPA, Confederation of Trade Unions and Employers and other partners. At the same time, public consultations are organized when any normative act is elaborated.

There are some good practices of involvement of the elderly in the decision-making process at the local level: activity of Seniors Clubs; constructive dialogue between the elderly women organization and LPAs, etc.

Since 2007, HelpAge International launched globally the campaign ”Age Demands Action” that gives voice to older people and Moldova office established partnership with the Ministry in this

regard. The campaign in Moldova was conducted annually since then on 3 key important dates called spikes:

07 April, World Health Day

15 June, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

01 October, International Day of Older Persons

The campaign offers a good platform for older people to meet Government representatives and advance claims regarding better protection of their rights. It is a platform that gathers rights defenders, civil society organisations, media and other interested parties to approach ageing issues, to analyse progress of ageing integration into policies and to trace out future directions of work. The regular dialogue is a good mechanism to revise progress in realisation of older people's rights and of their claims, and is grabbing the public attention to the actions needed to be taken for people to secure them a happier life in older ages.

This year campaigns in Moldova on 07 April and 15 June involved older people volunteers and campaigners from HelpAge's grass-root level network – 13 local NGOs, and activities were held at both local and national levels. The Government was a key partner in this event. The MHL&SP was part of the national level event within the 7 April campaign for the launch of HelpAge's Global AgeWatch Insights' report, which is an overview of the progress being made in realising the right to health of older people around the world today. At local level, for 15 June campaign – state institutions were part of raising awareness on ageism and discrimination of older people, with participation of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (155 persons total, 5 communities in Orhei district, <https://bit.ly/30nquPC>) and with participation of Police Office in Soldanesti town event (70 persons total, 5 communities from Soldanesti and Rezina districts, <https://bit.ly/2S2LnN7>). For wider public coverage a series of 3 TV spots produced by HelpAge were broadcasted on regional and national TV channels during 2018-2019, to inform older people and their family members how to recognize abuse and domestic violence, where to address for support and how to be better informed and protected. The links for the spots were also posted on Facebook:

Spot 1 <https://cutt.ly/3wsr7Lw>

Spot 2 <https://cutt.ly/4wstwjn>

Spot 3 <https://cutt.ly/Uwstrqt>

Other activities are planned for this year 01 October campaign that will "celebrate the journey towards age equality" and will raise awareness on barriers older people face towards equality and their experiences of ageism and discrimination.

Age-sensitive analysis

In 2014, in cooperation with the UNDESA and UNFPA, the Ministry has developed a methodology for the mainstreaming ageing in public policies - as a pragmatic, simple and easy to use tool. The methodology was approved by the decision of the National Commission on Population and Development.

It has been ensuring that the interests and needs of the elderly are considered in developing local and national policies. The methodology was included in the practical guide.

Based on practical guide, methodological support was provided for representatives of ministries and LPAs to integrate the ageing perspective into policies during 7 seminars.

<https://msmps.gov.md/ro/content/consolidarea-capacitatilor-functionarilor-publici-privind-integrarea-imbatranirii-elaborarea>

In addition to that, the methodology of "mainstreaming ageing into public policies" developed in Moldova as a practical guide in 2015 (<https://cutt.ly/PwsyFI0>) is applied by the "Platform for Active Ageing", an independent, informal, non-governmental entity of 24 member NGOs, for which HelpAge International holds the Secretariat. The Platform is overseeing policies related to ageing at national level and is representing the interests of older people and was the main actor to be consulted during the elaboration of action plans for the Government Programme on Active Ageing 2018-2021. So far the Platform was actively involved in policy analysis, consultation and advocacy in the areas of health, social protection, employment and preventing and combating elder abuse.

Generation-proof / age-sensitive / age-responsive budgeting

In 2016, the pension system was reformed in order to ensure a fair, sustainable and transparent pension system, by gradually equating the retirement age and the contribution period for women and men. Thus, the retirement age for men increased to 63 years to January 1, 2019 (4 months annually). For women, the same age is set, which will be reached on July 1, 2028 (6 months annually). Likewise, the contribution period for women and men will be unified (34 years). The contribution period for men was established from July 1, 2018, and for women to July 1, 2024.

Monitoring and performance assessment

The MHLSP presents annually to the Government a report on the implementation of the Action Plan on implementation of the Road Map for mainstreaming ageing in policies for 2018 – 2021, according to the progress indicators set out in the Plan.

Good practices

1. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection has succeeded to launch a grants programme (3 editions) for NGOs to promote active ageing principle at local level that lead to release of several local initiatives that empowered older women and men to participate in their communities. Thus, 34 non-governmental organizations participated in the contest. Following the evaluation of the files, small subsidies were granted to 13 organizations involved in promoting active aging through a series of actions that contribute to the integration of the elderly in society, to the diversification and extension of social services for the elderly. <https://msmps.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-sanatatii-muncii-si-protectiei-sociale-si-premiat-castigatorii-concursului>
<https://msmps.gov.md/en/node/5811>
2. On the occasion of the World Day of Older Persons, 2 editions of the National Award for the Elders "For an active life at any age" were held. Of the 93 candidates, 19 elderly people won the competition, with outstanding achievements in the fields of cultural-artistic, folk

crafts, health, education, civic activity, volunteering and agriculture, being awarded money prizes. In July, current, the third edition of the Contest was launched.
<https://msmps.gov.md/ro/content/11-persoane-varstnice-au-fost-premiate-astazi-cadrul-concursului-pentru-o-viata-activa-la>