

## Country Note on Mainstreaming Ageing - SPAIN (2019)

### **About**

Since 1978 when Spanish Constitution was approved, article 50 established the right of older people to economic sufficiency through public pensions and also stated that public powers shall promote their wellbeing through social services dealt with health, housing, culture and leisure.

Article 50 was developed by a range of laws and other normative instruments in order to achieve the goals of wellbeing of other people and their economic security.

Afterwards, in 2002 the Second World Assembly on Ageing took place in Madrid, our capital; and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) was approved. Its Regional Implementation Strategy approved in the Berlin Declaration was since then the framework in which public policies were displayed in the ageing area.

The approach to ageing policies in Spain is a mix between the adaptation to demographic change and a range of specific measures. It exists a Government Office for Demographic Challenge and at the same time different Departments are implemented a diversity of measures, policies, programmes and actions dealt with older people.

### **Structures**

Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Consumers, through Imsero (Institute for Older Persons and Social Services) is in charge of coordinating ageing issues across Spanish Government.

Mainstreaming ageing is applied across different levels of government: national, regional and local. The 17 Autonomous Communities are competent for social services and therefore for ageing matters.

Nevertheless Imsero coordinates the whole approach to ageing through the Territorial Council of Social Affairs in which are represented not only the regional and local representatives but also representatives of civil society (older persons associations).

Territorial Council is chaired by IMSERSO. In it, every action, law, plan dealt with ageing, is consulted by State to the regions and to each regions

to the others. Moreover, local entities and civil society are informed and give their opinion before to approve the legal instruments or to implement the action, plan or policy.

## **Laws, Policies, and Strategic Framework**

In 1992 the first Gerontologic Plan was approved. That national strategy on ageing had five domains: 1.Pensions; 2.Health; 3.Social Services; 4.Culture and Leisure; 5.Participation

Such Plan was implemented from 1992 to 2000.

Nowadays, it's foreseen a Estrategy on Older People that will be established according with all members of Territorial Council.

The monitoring framework to asses progress towards its implementation was the Interterritorial Council of Imsero in which Autonomous Communities (regions), Municipalities and civil society are represented.

Nevertheless, plans and programs for active ageing are put in place by IMSERSO since 1985. The Social Tourism and Termalism (SPA) Programmes for older people allow to have holidays or get hydrotherapy treatments from october to may. More than 3,8 million and 280.000 people respectively are beneficiaries of both active ageing programmes.

Apart from legislation dealt with: pensions, health, civil rights and other issues concerning older people, in 2006 was approved **Law on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Support to People in Dependency Situation**. (Ley 39/2006; [www.BOE.es](http://www.BOE.es)). That is the most important policy dealt with ageing.

Its scope is broader than older people, but more than 80% of persons in depedency situation who need long term care are 65+ people. The Law covers all dependency situation caused by age, illness, dissability or other circumstance. It defines dependency situation when a person needs help of other/s to play daily life activities. Also children between 0-3 years are covered by the Law. But the implementation of that target group is not already displayed.

Taking into account that management of the benefits granted by the Law is a competence of Autonomous Communities (regions), the rate of its development is different among the regions.

In 2012 during the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations, was released White Book of Ageing in which mainstreaming ageing in Spain was put in place in the government policy according to European Union and United Nations guidelines on ageing.

The White Book, which was released from State Council of Older Persons, is not a legal document, but acts, as *soft law*, like a powerful instrument in order to shape a common policy framework for national, regional and local Administrations in ageing policies.

## **Methods and tools**

### *Data collection and analysis*

Statistics on ageing are produced from data of INE (National Institute of Statistic); Moreover Ministry of Health produced data on ageing in its National Health Survey.

Ageing-related data are disseminated through Imsero website and also annual ageing reports are released in the same way.

Imsero through their research centres and CSIC (High Center of Scientific Research) spend funds from government dedicated to advance ageing-related research

Data gaps related to ageing statistics are usually dealt with labour market and participation. The way to address such gaps could be to stablish a common working group between different government departments dealt with older people and coordinated by Imsero.

### *Awareness raising, advocacy and education*

There are a range of awareness raising activities in different Imsero,s centres: Bergondo (La Coruña), Madrid, Lardero(La Rioja), San Fernando (Cádiz), Albacete, Valencia, Salamanca, León, etc...

Seminars in these Centers were summed up and teachers from primary schools of each city shared experiences with responsables and users of Centers and also in that Seminars were presented diverse material for sensitization about older people and people with disabilities: guides, books of tales,etc... Such material are spreaded at the schools and visits to Centers of children are took place.

Also Imsero has an annual Plan on Specialized Training for government officials and private workers in order to awareness raising in ageing- related issues, such: long term care, legal capacity, dependency, dementia, accesibility, participation, etc...

Transport, housing, security, health are also issues that government raise awareness through: presentations, sector-specific notes, and other tools. For instance, National Policy Department collaborates with “Plan Mayor Seguridad” (Plan Older/More Security). ([www.policia.es](http://www.policia.es)) dealt with people who live alone.

Population ageing are not officialy included in school/education curricula.

Nevertheless, Imsero has developed awareness raising activities in schools in the framework of Progress Programme of European Commission.

### *Stakeholder engagement*

Stakeholders are consulted on ageing-related issues; also there are information campaigns to raise awareness on ageing among general public. Moreover, older persons are involved in the policymaking process through State Council of Older People.

SCOP is an official body with executive competences in the governmental policy on ageing.

Is organized as follows: Plennary and Permanent Commission.

Plennary has 61 members: Minister, Secretary of State of Social Services and General Director of IMSERSO, 7 members of State; 4 members from Regions; 2 from Local entities; 25 from Older People organizations; 19 from Regional Councils (17 from Regions + 2: Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla); 1 from Council of Spanish People Abroad

Permanent Commission has 17 members proportionally from the distribution abovementioned.

### *Age-sensitive analysis*

There are not tools to screen and evaluate laws, policies and programmes to ensure that the needs of all generations are taken into account; nor age-sensitive analysis.

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

In that item only sustainability of pensions are in the core of ***Pacto de Toledo***. That working group in which government, parliament, unions, entrepreneurs and civil society are represented advice and monitor the Spanish national policy on public pensions.

### *Monitoring and performance assessment*

In that item Imsero releases a annual report in which goals established every year are assessed.

And every five years compiles and prepares the National MIPAA/RIS report in the framework of UNECE Working Group on Ageing.

### *Other methods & tools*

Imsero organizes every year summer courses in two International Summer Universities: Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (Santander) and Summer Courses of El Escorial (Madrid). Ageing-related issues are the content of its programmes: (isolation, healthcare, long-term care, human rights, pensions, intergenerational solidarity, etc..).

The target group are: Older people associations, Public Administrations, privat care companies, caregivers, Universities, etc...

## **Good practices**

1. Project of sensitization about older people among children. Was presented in the Working Group on Ageing (II Session) and mentioned in Policy Brief #4 “Participation of older people in society” (page 10)

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/\\_docs/age/2009/Policy\\_briefs/4-Policybrief\\_Participation\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/_docs/age/2009/Policy_briefs/4-Policybrief_Participation_Eng.pdf)

