

## Making participation meaningful: bringing governments and civil society together

### *The 4<sup>th</sup> review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA*

21 April 2021, 2pm to 4.30pm CEST - online

#### **Background**

Participatory approaches to policymaking and the evaluation of policies are increasingly recognised as a successful method. For the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) such a “bottom-up, participatory” approach had already been adopted in 2006. Since then, this approach is being applied to several other policy processes, e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals. For the review of the implementation of MIPAA, the number of countries that reported in previous cycles is increasing.<sup>1</sup>

The fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) has recently been initiated with the issuance of Guidelines for national reporting<sup>2</sup>, adopted by the Bureau of the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) in September 2020 and presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SWGA in November 2020. Member States are now undergoing the review process to submit their reports to the UNECE this autumn.

#### **Rationale and aim**

In previous review cycles many countries involved various government sectors, civil society organisations, research institutions and service providers in the reporting. There are examples of focus group discussions, public hearings or other consultation processes that considered the diverse views of civil society and other stakeholders. However, not all member States have implemented a participatory approach in a systematic way.

Sharing the experiences with countries that have successfully adopted a participatory approach to the review process on MIPAA may encourage other countries to bring national focal points on ageing and civil society organisations together. The knowledge obtained will also be useful for other policy processes that aim to involve civil society organisations in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies.

The workshop’s aim is to inform and motivate both governments and civil society organisations to engage in a participatory approach to policymaking in general and to the review of MIPAA in particular. The workshop will provide examples of successful strategies on how to collaborate. It will also discuss barriers that impede innovative and forward-looking approaches.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://unece.org/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial\\_Conference\\_Lisbon/Practical\\_infos/Synthesis\\_report\\_MIPAA15\\_Room\\_Document\\_with\\_Annex.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Practical_infos/Synthesis_report_MIPAA15_Room_Document_with_Annex.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review\\_and\\_appraisal/Guidelines\\_for\\_National\\_Reports-final\\_EN.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review_and_appraisal/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf)

Questions that can lead the discussion:

- A participatory approach to the MIPAA review – why bother? What are the benefits?
- What do we mean by "meaningful participation"?
- What is the task of national focal points on ageing<sup>3</sup> and how can civil society organisations (CSOs) contribute to the process?
- What enabling factors are needed to make participation meaningful, what are the barriers?

This discussion is intended to help both national focal points on ageing and CSOs to:

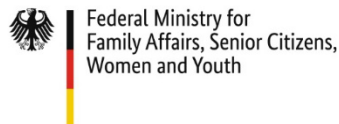
1. Productively working together
2. Promote meaningful contribution as an important tool for the review and appraisal of MIPAA and beyond (e.g. the voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals).

Despite the restrictions during the pandemic, extra efforts are necessary to enable intensive exchange.

### Proposed content

- What are the elements that make participation in policymaking and review processes meaningful?
- Country experiences (representatives of Governments, NGOs and academia)
- Discussion
- Conclusions / Take-away messages.

### Co-organised by



<sup>3</sup> As an intergovernmental body the Standing Working Group on Ageing is made up of national focal points on ageing representing the member States of the UNECE region, along with representatives from international organizations, NGOs and academia.