

What is mainstreaming ageing?

The concept explained

UNECE Mainstreaming Ageing Toolkit



What is mainstreaming ageing?

Mainstreaming ageing is a strategy, process, and multi-dimensional effort of integrating ageing issues into all policy fields at all levels. It allows to bring the implications of the demographic transition to population ageing for societies, economies, families, and individuals from the **margins of political attention to the centre of policy processes**.

New strategies, laws, regulations, policies and programmes should be designed with the longer-term implications of rising longevity and population ageing in mind: do they contribute to preparing economies and societies for the demographic transition they are undergoing and the aged societies of the future?

This requires sound demographic and ageing-related data and research to understand and forecast changes ahead and monitor changes as they evolve and inform policy responses.

At the same time, it involves systematically considering and analysing the implications of new laws, regulations, policies and programmes for different age groups. This is a precondition for effectively addressing the the needs and rights of different age groups as well as future generations.

An inclusive and participatory policymaking process is at the core of mainstreaming ageing to ensure that the voices and diverse perspectives of multiple stakeholders inform decision-making.

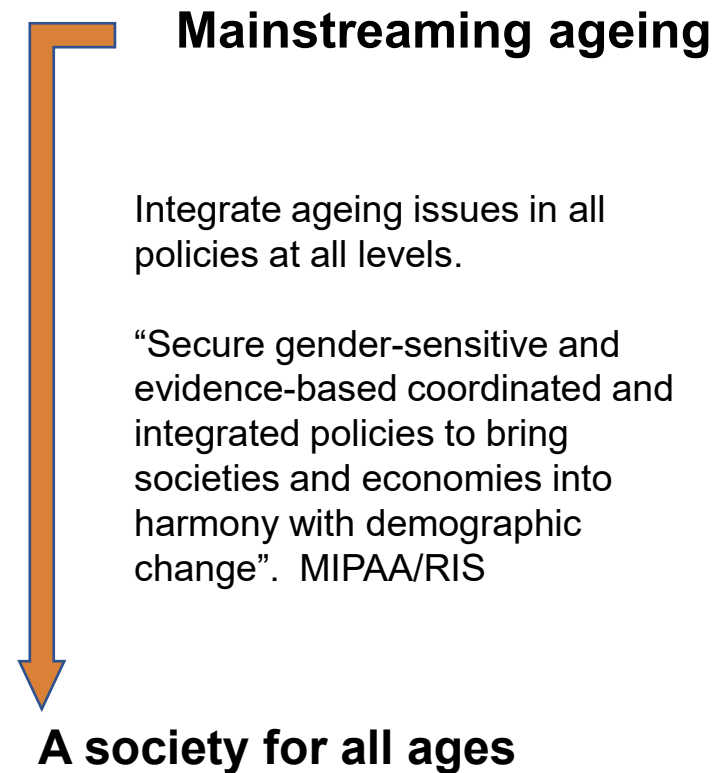
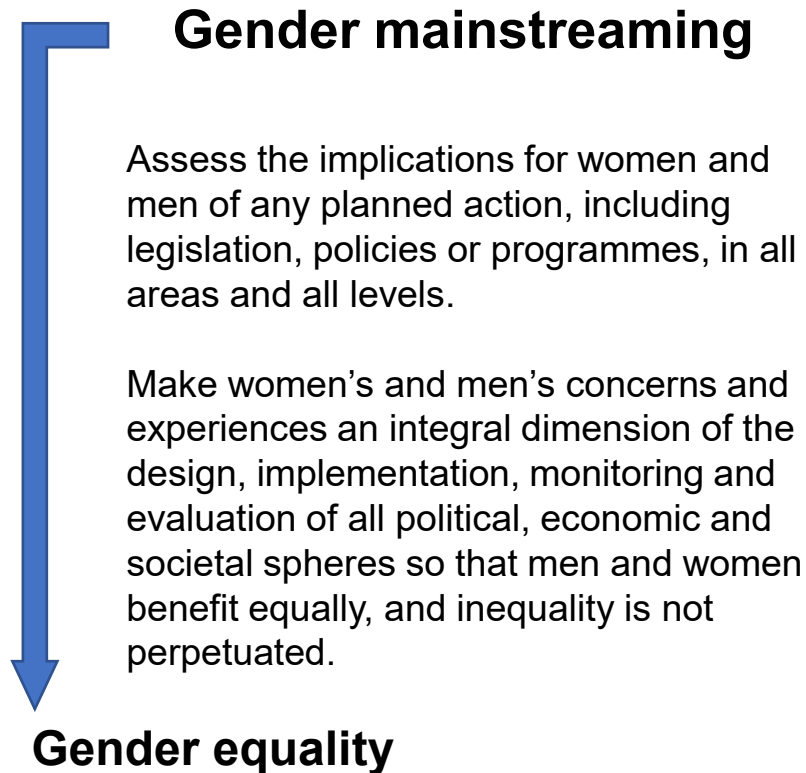
As actions are needed across diverse policy sectors, policy coherence is key to foster mutually supporting effects. This can be ensured by effective coordination.

**Mainstreaming
ageing is about
building institutional
mechanisms for
better and future-
oriented
policymaking**



Origin of the concept

The concept of mainstreaming ageing was introduced in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and further developed in the Regional Implementation Strategy for the UNECE Region in 2002. It is an adaptation of the gender mainstreaming concept that was established as a strategy for international gender equality policy through the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the 1995 Fourth UN Conference on Women in Beijing.



Definition



Mainstreaming ageing is a **strategy**, **process** and **multi-dimensional effort** of integrating ageing issues into all policy fields and all policy levels

UNECE Policy Brief on Ageing #1 - 2009

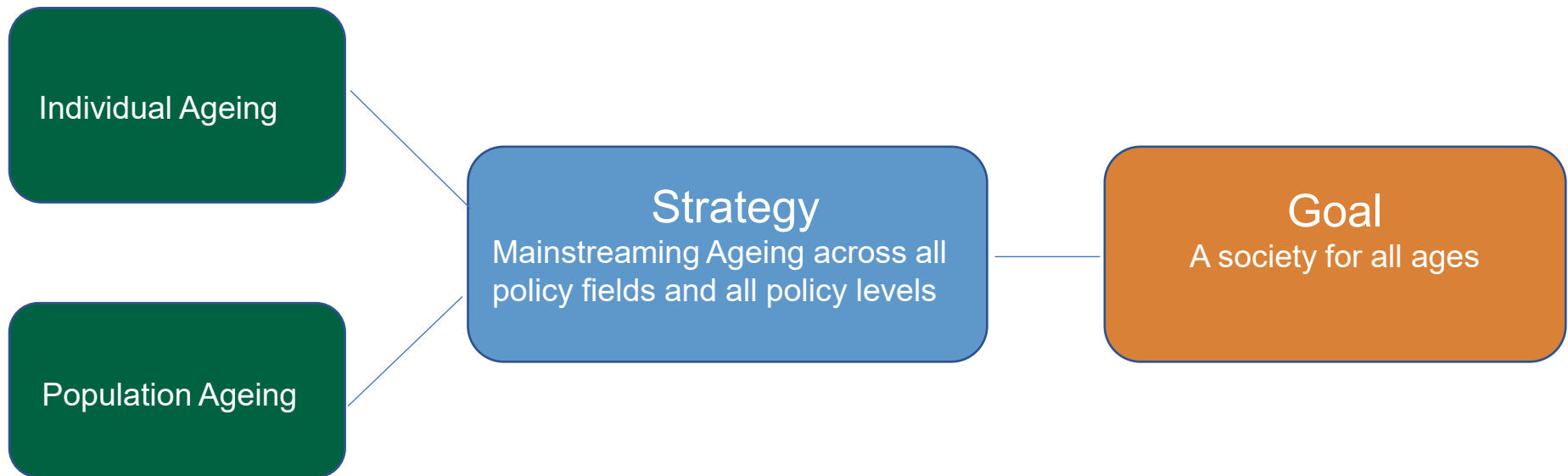


- **Strategy** refers to mainstreaming ageing as a plan of action designed to achieve the long-term and overall aim of achieving a society for all ages.
- This includes a **process** that ensures that ageing is systematically considered and addressed by government policy
- It involves **several dimensions** of policymaking from agenda setting, policy formulation, adoption (decision-making) to implementation and evaluation

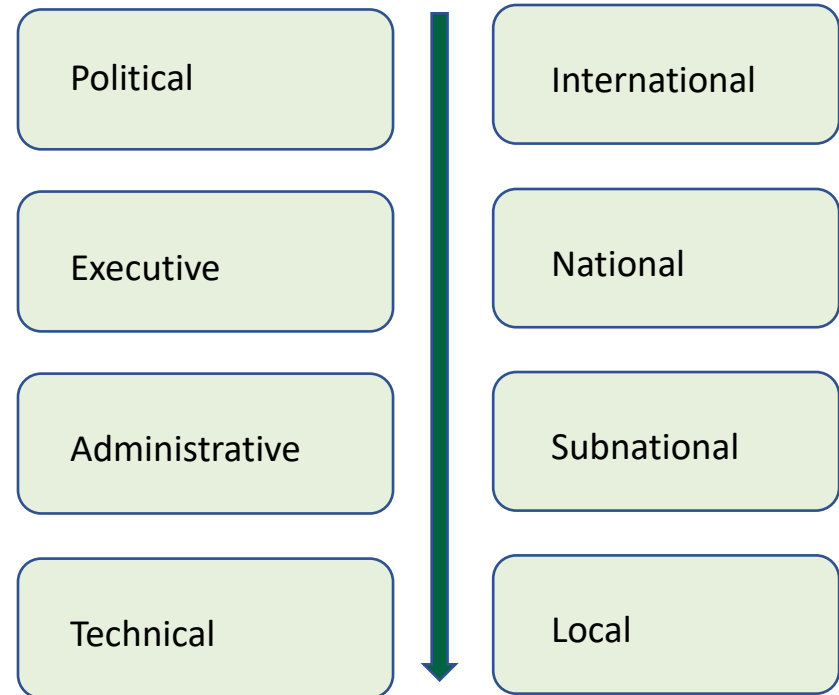
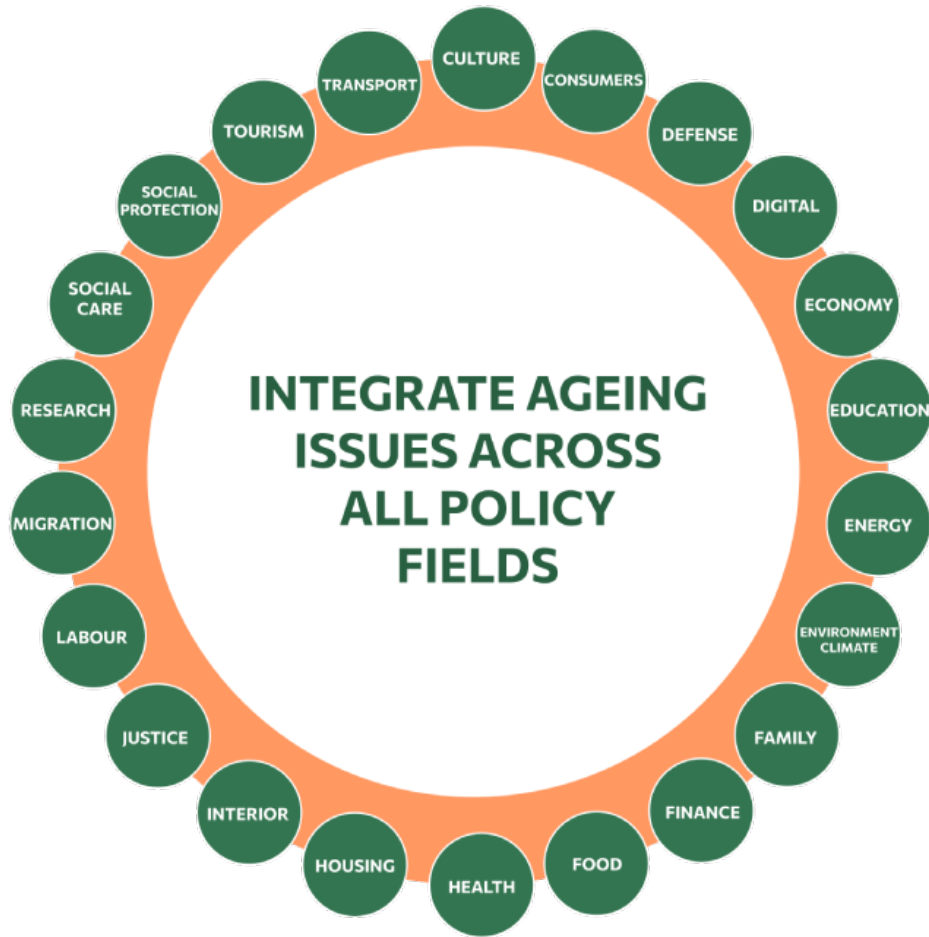
Demographic change – population ageing – has social and economic implications for which societies need to prepare and to which they need to adapt.

The **transformative change** required to adapt societies to the implications of population ageing and to meet the needs and rights of all age groups cannot be achieved without a **coordinated, whole-of-government** and **whole-of-society** effort.

Both individual and population ageing are addressed



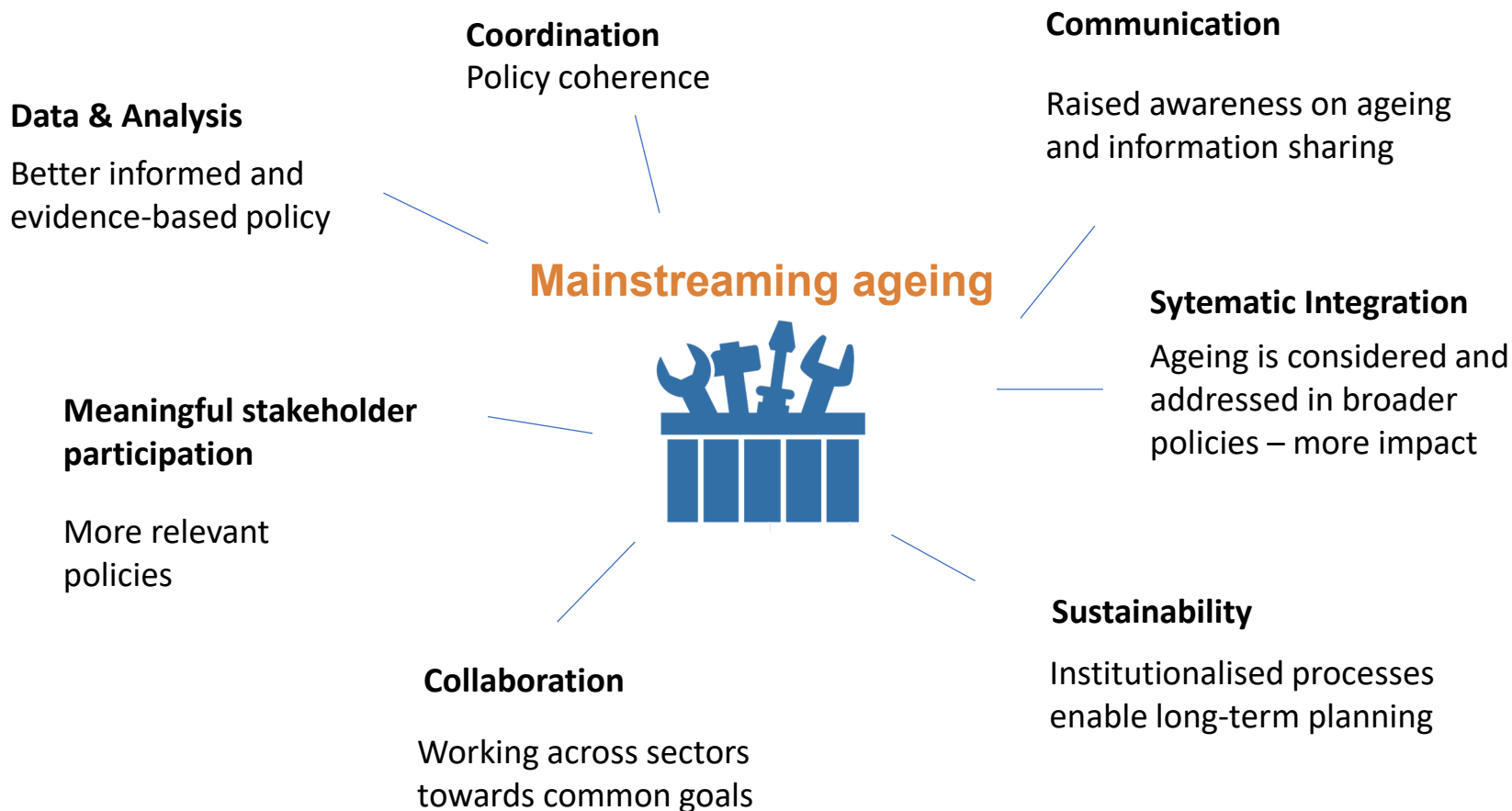
Ageing across all policy fields and all policy levels



A strategic approach to mainstreaming ageing creates the conditions for intergenerational equity and the protection of rights of all age groups

- ✓ brings all age groups to the table
- ✓ introduces systematic age-sensitive analysis and impact assessments
- ✓ strengthens data availability and awareness on ageing and demographic change
- ✓ ensures that new policies are generation and future "proof"
- ✓ develops strong mechanisms for coordination and collaboration across sectors

Better policies through mainstreaming ageing methods and processes



This tool is part of the UNECE Toolkit for Mainstreaming Ageing, developed to support the implementation of the recommendations made in the

[UNECE Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing](https://unece.org/mainstreaming-ageing)

It is a living document that will be updated regularly as new evidence and resources become available.

More tools and resources on Mainstreaming Ageing are available on

unece.org/mainstreaming-ageing

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