

## **Basis for NM2's presentation at the "UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing"**

**Expert Panel III: Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages (June 16, 2022, 16:15-17:30)**

### **1) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002**

- The evolving process of global ageing into a wider development process was also essential. Policies on ageing need to be carefully examined from the perspective of the development of the wider course of life and from a society-wide perspective.
- Changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all sectors were required in order to fulfil the potential of ageing in the 21st century.
- The aim was to ensure that people everywhere have the conditions to age in safety and dignity and that they can continue to participate in all activities in their society as full citizens.

### **2) Green Paper on ageing**

- Promoting solidarity and responsibility between generations 27.1.2021 Brussels.
- The purpose is to launch a wide-ranging policy debate on ageing to discuss ways to anticipate and respond to the challenges and opportunities that ageing brings. Particular account is taken of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Initiative under the Decade of Healthy Ageing. The powers to address the consequences of an ageing population are largely in the hands of the Member States, and the EU is well placed to identify key challenges and trends and support action on population ageing at national, regional and local level.
- As a prevention of poverty in old age, it is necessary to promote healthy and active ageing, the inclusion of childcare periods/a close person in pension insurance, the construction of affordable housing for the elderly, especially in large cities, and at the same time to inform and educate younger generations about the possibilities of preparation for old age.

### **3) Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy in the Czech Republic 2018–2022**

- In the Czech Republic, significant shifts in the area of ageing occurred in the period 2018 – 2022:
  - a) implementation of the project Implementation of ageing policy at the regional level,
  - b) development of ageing policy in the regions of the Czech Republic and establishment of this topic in wider sections of the public,
  - c) the establishment of the Fair Pensions Commission in 2019;
  - d) the growth of old-age pensions and the adjustment of the indexation rules for pensions,
  - e) organization of an international conference on the Day of Seniors (1.10.) in 2017 – 2019,
  - f) establishment of the Working Group on the Protection of the Rights of the Elderly at the Government Council for Human Rights in 2020.
- MiPAA/RIS commitments were fulfilled during the years 2018 to 2022 mainly through the project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs **Implementation of Ageing Policy at the Regional Level (2017-2022)**, financed from the European Social Fund (ESF).
- As part of the project, a so-called "Südütz" site was established in every region of the Czech Republic. regional coordinator with the aim of institutional anchoring of the policy of preparation for ageing in the regions of the Czech Republic. Regional coordinators provide basic advice to the target group of older people and seniors.
- Another activity of the project is focused on interdisciplinary cooperation, which takes place on so-called regional platforms, where information is transferred from the national level to the level of

self-government and vice versa. As part of the awareness-raising activities, so-called round tables for the public are organized on topics related to the policy of ageing and the elderly.

- The output of the project is the Strategic Framework for Preparation for Ageing of Society 2021-2025; Methodology for the development of regional ageing policy strategies; Regional action plans to support preparation for ageing; International Conference (2017-2019); Senior envelope and MINI Senior envelopes; Proceedings of Good Practice Examples; Regional Round Tables and Central Round Tables; Meetings of regional platforms; Website, Facebook Seniors in Regions and Youtube channel Seniors in Regions; Competition Employment Company 55+; Pension reform poll; Newsletter and Encouragement Magazine; Projects: Children paint for seniors, Jerusalem challenge, Seniors 2020 - life story; Analyses and studies (e.g. socio-economic-demographic characteristics of regions).

#### **4) Strategic Framework for Preparing for an Ageing Society 2021-2025 (STRAPS)**

- The ageing of society and demographic change affect all areas of human life. Preparation for the ageing of society must therefore ensure not only a dignified life for today's seniors, but also the adaptation of society as a whole to demographic changes that will affect its life in the coming decades.
- The aging of society is a phenomenon that requires a change in the understanding of who the senior is. The ideas we have about aging and people from a certain age are often outdated and do not respect the fact that today's seniors represent a very heterogeneous group of almost two million people, and its diversity will be even stronger in the future.
- It was approved by the Government by Resolution No. 786/21; September 13, 2021
- In STRAPS formulated the **Ten Commandments of Preparation for the Ageing of Society** (the follow-up Action Plan to STRAPS sets out specific indicators of fulfilment, the deadline for submission to the government in September 2022):
  - a) Fair pensions
    - prepare a proposal for early retirement for employees working in physically demanding professions (*submitted to the government for approval*),
    - gradual indexation of pensions (2021 increase in pensions by 5.8%, for the first time since 2017).
  - b) More accessible and high-quality social and health services
    - support of quality and accessible services with an emphasis on staying in the home environment,
    - the creation of an accessible and financially sustainable system of interlinked health. and soc. services.
  - c) More affordable and barrier-free housing for seniors
    - an increase in the MMR subsidy title for barrier-free housing,
    - support for housing for the elderly in the countryside (community homes).
  - d) Supporting the sandwich generation and informal family caregivers
    - informal caregivers as a target group of soc. services in the draft amendment to Act No. 108/006 Coll., on Social Services (not approved),
    - promoting the reconciliation of personal and professional life.
  - e) Preparing the State for the Ageing of Society
    - to map the impact of the ageing of society on state administration and self-government.
  - f) Family support and interpersonal relationships
    - support of counselling activities and primary prevention services for 50+ people and carers,

- inclusion in the Concept for the Development of Volunteering, support for the family, intergenerational dialogue and positive ageing.
- g) Safe life for the elderly, fight against discrimination, violence and so-called scumbags, increasing consumer protection
  - support for crime prevention services,
  - raise awareness among older people of their human and consumer rights.
- h) Lifelong learning, the labour market and active ageing
  - support and development of lifelong learning, active ageing and flexible forms of work,
  - motivation of employers for employing 50+ people,
- i) Barrier-free public space
  - barrier-free public transport,
  - increase of the title barrier-free municipalities from 20 million to 30 mil. CZK.
- j) Education and media coverage of the topic of aging
  - elimination of prejudices towards the elderly and old age, preparation for old age,
  - promoting solidarity and cooperation between generations.

### **5) Government Council for the Elderly and Population Ageing**

- It is a permanent advisory body to the government on issues related to the elderly and the ageing population.
- Meetings shall be held as necessary, at least three times a year.
- The President of the Council is the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs.
- It strives to create conditions for healthy, active and dignified ageing and old age in the Czech Republic and the active involvement of older people in the economic and social development of society in the context of demographic development. It strives for the equal status of seniors in all areas of life, the protection of their human rights and the development of intergenerational relationships in the family and in society.
- It meets three times a year.
- At the last 45th meeting, for example, the discussion of some measures of the Ten Commandments of Preparing Society for Ageing (Support for the sandwich generation and informal family carers; Support for the family and interpersonal relationships and Lifelong learning, labour market and active ageing). Furthermore, the elpida representative asked for support for their proposed establishment of an international Senior Helpline - European Harmonized Number.

### **6) Prevention and remediation of negative phenomena of homelessness in cities and municipalities and social exclusion**

- Comprehensive approach – synergy of health, social and housing policy.
- Due to the expiry of the document "Concept of Prevention and Solution of homelessness until 2020", on the basis of the Plan of Non-Legislative Tasks of the Government for 2021, it was decided (and on 13 December 2021 No. 1169) to approve the extension of topics from the field of homelessness to the "Strategy for Social Inclusion 2021-2030".
- The issue of homelessness is also addressed within the indicators in the Action Plan 2021-2023 Of the Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2030; in terms of access to housing, the Concept of Social Housing of the Czech Republic 2015-2025.
- Through individual measures, a broader, processual view of the issue of homelessness and the need for its comprehensive and coordinated solution.
- Better access to low-threshold residential and outpatient services for people in extreme social exclusion, better health accessibility for homeless people, support for social work in social housing, support for services that help solve debt.

**7) Grant title of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs - Support of publicly useful activities of senior and pro-senior organizations with nationwide scope and support and self-government, non-profit organizations and other entities**

- Support for projects of the non-profit sector focused mainly on the operation of a volunteer network and volunteering of seniors or volunteering aimed at seniors, ensuring sports activities of seniors or activities aimed at improving lifestyle and preventing social or health complications, activities aimed at mentalizing the health of seniors, ensuring educational activities of seniors, supporting advocacy and defending the rights of informal carers with an emphasis on caring for the elderly, activities aimed at promoting intergenerational cooperation, awareness-raising activities aimed at the elderly, counselling and advocacy assistance to the elderly, activities aimed at supporting informal care.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has various grant titles to support local authorities, non-profit organizations and other entities. An overview of the grant titles for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is available on the unified link Subsidies and Public Procurement (mpsv.cz).
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs consults the given setting of subsidy titles with SMO and other partners.
- In connection with duplicates, currently in the area of pro-family and preventive activities, the Department of Family Policy and Protection of Children's Rights has prepared a working document for researching the list of subsidy titles in the given area. From the overview, it can be concluded that it is desirable to carry out a complete review of various subsidy titles.
- Here it is also possible to propose systemic cooperation with regional representatives, who also announce their own grant support so that there can be a central overview and system according to the areas of support for various applicants.

**8) The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will initiate the establishment of coordination points /positions in the relevant ministries and an inter-ministerial working group for the senior question**

- Changing the age structure of society is a challenge for the whole of society and for its values. It also means the need for a comprehensive approach to the system of public policies and their setting so that this society can prosper and maintain cohesion even in the face of drastic demographic changes.
- MPSV is currently the coordinator of the policy preparation for ageing in the Czech Republic. Its main activities in this area include:
  - a) creation of strategic documents for ageing policy,
  - b) regular meetings of the Government Council for the Elderly and Population Ageing,
  - c) "Ageing policy in the regions" – a project from the European Social Fund,
  - d) on the world (organization of a professional international conference; a series of expert roundtables of various orientations "National Convention on Population Ageing"),,
  - e) regular awarding of the Government Council Award for seniors and population ageing to prominent personalities,
  - f) international cooperation on preparing for ageing.
- In the next period, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will initiate from the management of contact points / job positions for senior issues at the relevant ministries.

- At the first meeting of the Government Council for Seniors and Population Ageing (46th), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will prepare for approval the establishment of a permanent interdepartmental working group on senior issues.

#### **9) Data from the CZSO (Socio-economic and Demographic Development)**

- For men, life expectancy in 2002 in the Czech Republic was 72.1 years (in 2019 + 4.2 years). The life expectancy at birth of Czech women in 2002 was 78.7 years (in 2019 + 3.4 years).
- In 2050, almost three out of ten inhabitants of the Czech Republic will be in the age category 65+ and every eleventh inhabitant of the Czech Republic in the age category 80+.
- In 2019, the average amount of old-age pension for men was CZK 13,683 and for women czk 11,281 (in 2020, a year-on-year increase of CZK 1,085 or CZK 926).
- In the age category of 75 years and over, 19.3% (85,000 people) were at risk of poverty among women and only 3.9% (11,000 people) were at risk of poverty for men.
- The median, i.e. the median share of housing costs in household costs overall for people over 65, was above the EU-28 average (16.8 % vs 23.1 %).
- Czech men spend 13.4 years with some health indisposition; women who generally live longer, 18.1 years.
- Women predominate among informal carers, making up 62% of carers.
- At the beginning of 2019, approximately 77,000 people over the age of 50 were registered among job seekers (share of total unemployment 35.4%) and at the end of 2020 it was only about 34%.
- If seniors want to leave their apartment, 84% of them have to climb at least a few stairs. For medically incapacitated seniors, this leads to social isolation.
- For older people, discrimination is associated with many stereotypes and negative perceptions.