

2022 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING

MIPAA + 20

A Sustainable World for All Ages:

“Joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life”

Rome, 15-17 June 2022

“Towards age-responsive crisis management: what we have learned from the COVID pandemic”.

Side event

16 June, 1.15 – 2.15 pm

Background and Objective

Over the past two years, older persons have been put into the public spotlight due to their higher risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19. Most countries across the world introduced containment strategies that affected all groups of society but especially older persons who were often stigmatized as a highly vulnerable risk group. Indeed the COVID-19 crisis management had a severe impact for instance on the quality of life, social participation and self-determination of older persons.

In order to ensure an age-responsive perspective in future crisis management, it is necessary to improve the understanding about those impacts in all their dimensions and analyse and understand the situation of older persons and their experiences in the context of the COVID-19 restrictions and containment strategies.

Against this background the side event aims at

- looking into the broad range of impacts on older persons such as ageism, impacts on their physical and mental health, well-being, social participation, loneliness, anxiety, isolation, personal relationships, physical activity, solidarity among generations etc. and
- offering space for discussion on recommendations and lessons learned towards age-responsive crisis management in different UNECE Member States and from research perspective.

Target audience

This side event will be of interest to ministers and delegations, national focal points on ageing, policymakers, civil society organizations, researchers and other stakeholders.

Format and focus of discussion

The side-event will present findings of recent studies on the impact of COVID-19 measures on older persons from Canada, Austria as well as from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The panelists will share their study results and/or country perspectives and lessons learned before starting a discussion on recommendations towards age responsive crisis management, in which all participants are invited to participate.

This side event will be held in English.

Speakers

Welcome address

Johannes Rauch, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Austria)

Moderator

Juliet Relihan, UNECE National Focal Point on Ageing, Ireland

Panelists

- Annette Gibbons, Associate Deputy Minister at Employment and Social Development Canada
- Dr. Hans Dubois, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- Prof. Dr. Sabine Pleschberger, The Austrian Public Health Institute, Austria