

Standing Working Group on Ageing

Alfredo Ferrante, SWGA Chair, Italy

UNECE Executive Committee 133rd meeting, Geneva, 25 March 2024

Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA)



Objective:

To adapt to population ageing and other demographic changes and enable the full realization of the individual and societal potential of living longer.

Achieved through:

- Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS)
- International cooperation, exchange of experience & policy dialogue
- Guidance and capacity development for mainstreaming ageing
- Raising awareness on population ageing



SWGA work supports the 2030 Agenda, ICPD, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, and related policy agendas

Main areas of work MIPAA/RIS

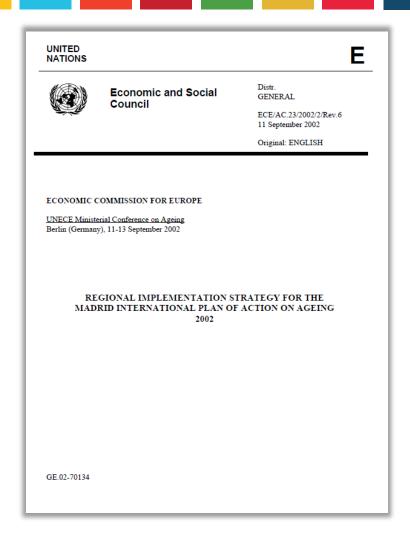


Achievements in 2023

- SWGA programme of work for 2023–2027 for fifth implementation cycle of MIPAA
- Task force to update RIS
 - Terms of reference and modalities of work
 - Preparation for national stakeholder engagement process

Focus in 2024

National stakeholder engagement for update to RIS



Strengthening the evidence base

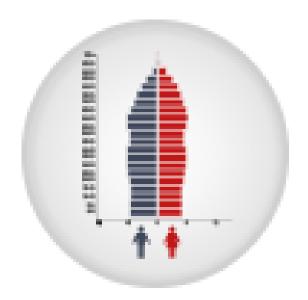


Achievements in 2023

- UNECE Ageing Policies Database
 - Development of taxonomy of policy themes and instruments
 - Coding of hundreds of policies submitted in MIPAA reports
- Generations and Gender Programme

Focus in 2024

- UNECE Ageing Policies Database
 - Technical development
 - Summaries of policies
 - Launch in autumn 2024
- In-depth review of ageing-related statistics with Conference of European Statisticians



Policy discussion & exchange of experience



Achievements in 2023

- Policy Brief No. 28: Older Persons in Vulnerable Situations, June 2023
- RFSD side event: Towards age-friendly sustainable cities and communities, 28 March 2023
- In-depth Policy Discussion: Combatting inequalities in older age, 22 November 2023

Focus in 2024

- Policy brief No. 29: Mental health of older persons
- RFSD side event: Violence against older persons
- Online policy discussion: Coordination of ageing policy across the government
- In-depth policy discussion: Evidence-based policy making





Policy Brief on Ageing

Older Persons in Vulnerable Situations

E - Enhanced data on older persons 14 and inclusion into decision-making III. Recommendations

Suggested strategies

- · Provide affordable, accessible and quality health and long-term care
- participation and reduce loneliness and social exclusion. . Prevent all forms of violence,
- abuse and neglect. · Promote the collection of
- Involve older persons in decision

Policy challenge

At any age, intersecting factors such as poverty, disability, social isolation and exposure to abuse can increase the risk of vulnerability and weaken resilience in the case of adverse events. One in five persons were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the European Union in 2020.1 The COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, natural disasters, and war are examples of adverse events that have disproportionately affected vulnerable persons, including many older persons Often, the capacities and vulnerabilities of older persons remain invisible as their voices are less heard and their needs less known due to a lack of data and research, and their insufficient involvement. in decision-making. A key challenge, therefore, is to inform, design and implement comprehensive policies that protect vulnerable older persons from adverse outcomes, enhance resilience and allow them to fulfil their full potential in later life.

What this brief is about

This policy brief addresses older persons in vulnerable situations. It first discusses the types of vulnerable situations experienced by older persons, their causes and strategies for increasing coping resources and resilience across the life course. It presents policy examples from the UNECE region addressing the situation of vulnerable older persons, with a focus on income and housing, health and long-term care, prevention of violence, abuse and neglect, and social participation. The brief also highlights several ongoing crises putting older persons at increased risk of vulnerability, including the costs-of-living crisis, the war in Ukraine and loneliness and social isolation. Finally, the brief draws attention to the importance of adequate data and research and the involvement of older persons in decision-making

Guidance & capacity development



Achievements in 2023

- Training workshops on age-sensitive analysis in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova
- Online training course on mainstreaming ageing
- Training materials for workshops on mainstreaming ageing
- Roadmap for Mainstreaming Ageing in Uzbekistan (2023-24)

Focus in 2024

- Translation and dissemination of guidelines and online course on mainstreaming ageing
- Data needs assessment on ageing-related data, Georgia





Raising awareness on ageing & partnerships



Achievements in 2023

- Regional review and conference on ICPD at 30 years
- NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva: 2023 International Day of Older Persons event
- Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics
- Dissemination via press releases, news articles, and social media

Focus in 2024

Global Coalition for Social Justice

Ongoing partnerships & cooperation

- UN Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA)
- European Commission, WHO, OHCHR, UNFPA EECARO, research institutes and civil society
- Joint programme on Ageing with UNFPA, OHCHR, WHO, HelpAge International, NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva

Supporting the SWGA work programme



SWGA would like to thank all member States, NGOs and partner organizations for their active involvement, in-kind and financial support:

- All countries, NGOs and partner organizations for their active participation
- Contributions to Ageing Fund in 2023/24: Austria, Estonia, Germany,
 Switzerland, United Kingdom as well as AARP
- In-kind translations of policy briefs and guidelines
- EXCOM for your support

Issues for EXCOM decisions



EXCOM is invited to:

 Approve the programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2024, as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2023/5.

Thank you!

Alfredo Ferrante, SWGA Chair

Geneva, 25 March 2024





