



Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation Outline

Through the MA:IMI project, the European Centre Vienna (EC.V) collaborates with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection (BMSGK). The overall objective is to monitor the implementation of the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the UN-ECE.

1. Background

Regarding the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing (WAA-II) in Madrid in April 2002, there was consensus that the systematic review of its implementation by the Member States would be essential for its success. This mandate was given to the Regional Economic (and Social) Commissions of the United Nations. The first region that took up this mandate was the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)** in Geneva, which adopted a **Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS)** at the Berlin Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MiCA) in September 2002. Ten commitments were laid down in which several issues related to demographic changes and population ageing were addressed.

2. The role of the European Centre

Consequently, to “scientifically and technically assist governments in the monitoring of the RIS”, collaboration between the Austrian Government, the UN-ECE and the ECV was laid down in a "**Memorandum of Understanding**" (MoU), specifying the role of the European Centre and its specially set-up Programme "**Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation**" (MA:IMI). The first priority is to promote an **exchange of experiences** in the field of ageing-related policies. Second, to carry out and foster **data collection, research and analysis**, including in collaboration with other organizations (in particular UN agencies, ISSA, the European Community, OECD), national authorities, other concerned bodies and individuals. Third, to maintain in this context a **network** of organizations, national authorities, and other concerned bodies and individuals, **active in the field of ageing**. As mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding, the European Centre also has to offer support to the follow-up work by developing and monitoring a **set of agreed-upon “indicators of achievement”**.



3. Key partner networks

□ Task Force

Besides the specific mandate given to the European Centre, the MoU also agreed on the establishment by the Austrian Government and the UNECE of a Task Force, whose function is “to offer guidance and advice to the contents and priorities of the follow-up”. The Task Force was constituted in Madrid in April 2004, and held 3 other meetings since then. It involves interested people and actors from various backgrounds: academics, civil servants, representatives of NGOs, UN delegates...

□ National Focal Points on Ageing

The network of National Focal Points on Ageing plays a key role in the follow-up process. The Focal Points are the national contacts in the 55 EC.V / UNECE countries regarding issues on “Mainstreaming Ageing” and on the follow-up to the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the MIPAA. In particular, they are expected to support the MA:IMI project at the European Centre in gathering information about political processes, programmes and actions, and help and advise MA:IMI researchers on collecting and interpreting data for the indicators.

□ NGO Network on Monitoring RIS

This Network is conceived as the NGO counterpart to the Network of National Focal Points on Ageing. Members of the NGO Network on Monitoring RIS are national NGOs that are specifically committed to watch age policies and social policy measures in their respective countries, thus giving a civil-society view of the progress made in the implementation of the MIPAA and its Regional Implementation Strategy. Their representatives act as resource persons vis-à-vis Government representatives and civil society at large in their respective countries.

Members of the NGO Network on Monitoring RIS spread knowledge about the MIPAA and RIS texts among grassroots organisations, engage in an exchange of information with Network members and other actors of the follow-up process in other UNECE Member States, and are a source of information for national governments and international institutions.

4. Main achievements / Outcome until October 2006

□ Monitoring RIS Website

The set-up, launch and maintenance of the Monitoring RIS Website, dedicated to the knowledge and information about the follow-up of the RIS. The website informs the audience about the political process regarding Mainstreaming Ageing and Monitoring RIS. Furthermore, the site aims at giving an overview of instruments, activities, and resources including, among others, country facts and figures. In addition, actors are offered a participant network via closed spaces. Our targets – all interested actors, from governmental to local authorities, as well as NGO partners – should be able to find information catering to their needs. The website is updated every two months at least, with input from the key networks, in particular national Focal Points and NGOs, spontaneous submissions by website visitors and, of course, self-searched information.



□ Indicators

○ Technical Workshops – Development

As mentioned above, a central task of the European Centre in this project is to **develop indicators**. In this regard, **technical workshops** are held with key partners, in order to initiate debates and **indicators related to different RIS Commitments** – or topics. The 1st Workshop was held in April 2004 in Madrid, hosted by the Spanish Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO), and dealt with the topics Demography, Income and Wealth, Labour Market Participation and Social Protection and Financial Sustainability. The latter two are directly linked to Commitments 4 and 5 of the RIS. Based on the workshop's outcome, the project team, together with a network of experts, has developed and finalised a list of "Madrid Indicators", addressing the above-mentioned four topics. The 2nd workshop was the UNECE-INIA Care Provision workshop, held in Malta in May 2005. An expert meeting was organized in June 2006 in Vienna to discuss and further develop these Care indicators. A practical list should be elaborated in the course of 2007.

○ Data Gathering and Analysis

Gathering and analysis of **data** to fill-in the proposed indicators, starting with the Madrid **indicators**, in order to fill-in the website and to edit specific **booklets** possibly covering all ECV-UNECE 55 countries. Besides the gathering of data from international databases, the process of collecting more national data relies crucially on the collaboration with the national Focal Points, and their filling-in of the national templates.

□ Forthcoming publications

- A **book**, elaborating on the contributions prepared for the Madrid Workshop in April 2004, including the **finalized proposed list of indicators** on Demography, Income, Labour Market, and Financial Sustainability. The final scientific editing will be done from November 2006 to February 2007.
- Indicators booklets on specific topics. The first one will analyse and visualize demographic indicators. After Demography, Income and Labour Market Participation would be the next two topics to be addressed in a booklet, right before Social Protection and Financial Sustainability.

For complementary information, please consult <http://www.monitoringris.org/>

