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Ministry of Labour and Social
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United Nations
Population Fund (UNFPA)

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Population Activities Unit**

**Meeting of National Focal Points on Ageing in the UNECE Region
Segovia, Spain, 13-15 November 2006**

Report

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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
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Table of contents

1. Introduction.....	4
1.1 Objectives.....	4
1.2 Participants and Agenda	5
2. Meeting.....	6
2.1 Welcome Session	6
2.2 Session I: Review and Follow-up of MIPAA/RIS	6
2.3 Opening Ceremony	7
2.4 Session II: Roundtable I: Participation of Older Persons and Acknowledgment of their Contributions	8
2.5 Session III: Roundtable II: Employment and Active Life	9
2.6 Session IV: Roundtable III: Social Protection	10
2.7 Session V: Country Presentations	11
2.8 Session VI: Capacity-building Activities	14
3. Conclusions of the Sessions and Follow-up Activities	15
4. Evaluation of the Meeting by the Participants.....	18
Annexes:.....	19
Annex 1: List of Participants	20
Annex 2: Agenda	31
Annex 3: Evaluation of the Meeting by the Participants – Graphs	34

1. Introduction

The Meeting of National Focal Points on Ageing in the UNECE Region was held at the Los Arcos Hotel in Segovia, Spain, from 13 to 15 November 2006. The Government of Spain hosted the meeting. It was organized by the [UNECE Population Activities Unit](#) and the [Institute for Older Persons and Social Services \(IMSERSO\)](#) of Spain, with support from the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#).

This report is based primarily on the discussions at the meeting. In addition, the written submissions of the presenters, as well as some background material prepared by the UNECE, are also incorporated in the report.

1.1 Objectives

The overall goal of the Meeting was to assist UNECE Member States in conducting the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS on the national level, to provide a platform of exchange for national focal points, and to contribute to the preparatory process for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing.

Its specific objectives were:

- to advise the focal points on how to better conduct the national level review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS and to apply the bottom-up participatory approach in particular;
- to show the potential of the two regional level projects designed to support the implementation of MIPAA: (1) [MA:IMI - Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation](#), and (2) [Employment and Fiscal Policy Implications of Ageing](#);
- to exchange experiences and information on good practices in implementing MIPAA/RIS;
- to identify and discuss capacity-building needs;
- to facilitate bilateral and multilateral exchanges among national focal points;
- to collect information on national level activities to feed into the planning of regional level activities;
- to contribute to the preparatory process for the UNECE Regional Conference on Ageing to be held in October 2007.

1.2 Participants and Agenda

The meeting was attended by 26 national focal points on ageing in the UNECE Region, 9 additional representatives of UNECE member States and the European Commission, as well as the Holy See, 6 experts from all world regions and 8 observers from entities of the United Nations system.¹

The agenda of the meeting included the following items:

1. Review and appraisal of RIS/MIPAA
2. Participation of older persons and acknowledgment of their contribution
3. Employment and active life
4. Social protection
5. Presentations by country representatives
6. Capacity-building needs

¹ See Annex I for list of participants.

2. Meeting

2.1 Welcome Session

Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo, General Director of [IMSERSO](#), welcomed all participants and underlined the importance of ageing-related issues and of the MIPPA/RIS for the Spanish government.

Mr Alain Mouchiroud, Director of the [UNFPA Country Support Team in Slovakia](#), emphasized the relevance of longevity and good quality of life, mainstreaming of ageing in national development plans, active ageing, and the cross-cutting dimension of ageing, and thanked the host country for its generous support.

Mr Alexandre Sidorenko, UN Focal Point on Ageing, expressed his gratitude to UNFPA and the government of Spain and stressed the place of ageing in development. He sent his particular thanks to the national focal points who gathered for the first-time for such a meeting.

Mr Andres Vikat, Chief of the [UNECE Population Activities Unit](#), thanked the national focal points, the Government of Spain and UNFPA for their efforts and contributions to this meeting as well as the planned 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing. He underlined the relevance of ageing in the 21st century and in the countries of the UNECE region.

2.2 Session I: Review and Follow-up of MIPAA/RIS

Chair: Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo, General Director of [IMSERSO](#)

Mr Alexandre Sidorenko, UN Focal Point on Ageing, presented [global initiatives on the follow-up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing](#). He provided an overview over the commitments made by the Governments at the [Second World Assembly on Ageing](#) (Madrid, 8-12 April 2002) in the [Political Declaration](#) and the [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing](#). Focusing on social development, the quality of life of older persons, and the sustainability of support systems are seen as crucial to achieve a “society for all ages”. The national implementation of the MIPAA is the main way of fulfilling the commitments taken. International cooperation, and in particular capacity-development and the exchange of experiences and information, are complementary means. Review and appraisal of the MIPAA should be undertaken in a bottom-up participatory approach, flexibly responding to national challenges and priorities. The review should focus on older persons and development, advancing health and well-being into old age, and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. The [calendar for the first cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA](#) was presented, under the global theme of “Addressing the challenges and opportunities for ageing”.

Mr Andres Vikat, Chief of the [UNECE Population Activities Unit](#), emphasized the need for a holistic approach to achieve a society for all ages, in his presentation on [the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the UNECE region](#). He underlined that the main responsibility for the review and appraisal lies with the Member States and the national focal points, that the UNECE assists them in conducting national reviews, convenes regional meetings for exchange of experiences and information dissemination, and contributes to the regional and international reports on the follow-up to the MIPAA. The procedure and modalities for the review and appraisal were explained and it was pointed out that the analysis should focus on the achievements so far and the actual impact on the quality of life and well-being of older persons. A [note](#) has been prepared based on the submissions by Member States to assess the current state of ageing-related activities in the UNECE Region. The calendar and the outline of the preparation modalities leading to the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing in León, Spain were presented to the national focal points.

2.3 Opening Ceremony

Mr Pedro Arahuetes, Mayor of [Segovia](#), welcomed all participants and in particular Ms Amaparo Valcarce, [Secretary of State for Social Services, Families, and Disability](#), and presented an overview over ageing-related issues both in Segovia and the region of Castilla-León.

Mr Alexandre Sidorenko, UN Focal Point on Ageing, expressed his special gratitude to the Government of Spain for hosting this important meeting and reiterated his best wishes for a successful meeting.

Ms Amparo Valcarce, [Secretary of State for Social Services, Families, and Disability](#), officially opened the national focal point meeting. She emphasized the important role of the UNECE and the UN in general in ageing-related issues. She also pointed to the ongoing efforts of the Spanish government in this area, focusing in particular on education, health and pension reform.

Mr Andres Vikat, Chief of the [UNECE Population Activities Unit](#), briefly presented the agenda of the meeting and stressed the importance of the role of the national focal points.

Session I (continued) : Review and Follow-up of MIPAA/RIS

Ms Eveline Hönigsperger, Task Force *Monitoring RIS*, proposed several **priority directions for the regional review**. As a result of the deliberations of the task force, she recommended the overarching theme of “Addressing the challenges and opportunities for ageing: Adjustment of social protection systems to population ageing”. The subsequent discussions

made it possible to clarify the role of the national focal points. They have a coordinating role in the review and appraisal process leading to the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing.

Ms Barbara Lipszyc, Project Director of the [MA:IMI Project “Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation”](#) at the [European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research](#), presented the **MA:IMI Project** to the participants. One key aim of this [project](#) is to develop indicators to help UNECE Member States to monitor the implementation of the [Regional Implementation Strategy \(RIS\) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002](#). She invited all Member States to provide statistical information on ageing to the European Centre and to make use of the tools developed. During the discussions following this presentation, the importance of independent and objective national review mechanisms was emphasized.

Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo, General Director of [IMSERSO](#), presented his **expectations to this meeting with a view to the 2007 UNECE Regional Conference on Ageing**. He stressed the need to make the issue of ageing visible to the general public and the decision-makers, to use the MA:IMI indicators and the review process to constantly improve policies related to ageing, to operationalise the commitments made by the UNECE Member States, and above all to have a global and comprehensive vision of the challenges and opportunities related to ageing. He also presented the current initiatives and reforms undertaken in Spain, focusing on active ageing, intergenerational solidarity, and the establishment of a new right, the right to independence at all ages.

2.4 Session II: Roundtable I: Participation of Older Persons and Acknowledgment of Their Contributions

Chair: Ms Eveline Hönigsperger, Task Force *Monitoring RIS*

Mr Robert Venne, Social Affairs Officer, [UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs](#), presented the [bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of MIIPA](#). He emphasized the need to focus on a few priorities, to be decided by each member state, in the review process and to use both indicators and participatory mechanisms in this process. The subsequent discussions could clarify that a bottom-up participatory approach means the involvement of civil society, older people and organizations representing them, but also of social services and local authorities in addition to national authorities.

Mr Dirk Jarré, Vice-chair of the Task Force *Monitoring RIS*, emphasized the [special role of NGOs in the MIPAA/RIS follow-up](#). Their importance has been recognised by the UN and they have made major contributions to the RIS and the MIIPA. This should also be the case in the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing.

Mr Mariano Sánchez Martínez, Researcher at the [University of Granada](#), presented the [Spanish experience with fostering a bottom-up participatory approach among](#)

[organizations of older persons in Spain](#). He shared his lessons learnt and emphasized the need for a multi-stage process. This should start with a detailed analysis of the social, economic and political context in which civil society operates, an identification of the relevant actors, their roles, size and functions. He pointed out the need to reach out to those older people who might not want to be represented in NGOs and to adopt the language to make it operational. He also recommended complementing the bottom-up approach with a top-down approach by drawing conclusions from official statistics.

2.5 Session III: Roundtable II: Employment and Active Life

Chair: Mr Alexandre Sidorenko, UN Focal Point on Ageing

Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins, [OECD](#), responded to the question on [how simulations on employment and fiscal implications of population ageing can support policy discussion](#).

Based on an overview over ageing trends in the region and links to employment, he stressed that early retirement in the many countries is a challenge to be tackled and that participation rates in the labour market of older people are low, in particular in Europe. In the coming years, the labour force risks to decline and pose serious threat to the competitiveness of Europe. The fiscal impacts of ageing, in particular due to rising health expenditures and pension-related costs, are equally challenging. He therefore suggests to undertake policy measures to increase employment rates of older people, link retirement age to longevity gains, and reform the pension system. The implementation of these measures should be mainly based on incentive systems for both the employers and the employees. He concluded by saying that ageing is not in itself good or bad, it is just a question of how societies deal with it, and that complementary and comprehensive reforms are more likely to offset the impact of ageing than piecemeal reforms.

Mr Jaromir Cekota, Economic Affairs Officer, [UNECE](#), presented the UNECE project on [“Simulating Employment and Fiscal Implications of Population Ageing in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.”](#) He emphasized that population ageing can be a serious threat to long-term sustainability of social security systems in many UNECE Member States. He posed the question whether this holds true for EECCA and SEE countries and if so, how policy makers can cope with it. Based on a model with a few economic and demographic assumptions, Mr Cekota could already present some preliminary partial results of the UNECE project and underlined that the pace of ageing varies significantly across countries and that the total dependency ratios initially decline and then rise in all countries. This has important policy implications, in particular the need for action to make use of the window of opportunity in these countries so as to make social security systems sustainable. Using the Czech Republic as an example, Mr Cekota described some of the necessary steps to be taken.

Mr Robert Anderson, [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#), focused in his presentation on [active ageing and the employment of older workers](#). He pointed to the need for age management in changing European societies. Ageing

has become an important issue on the European agenda – employment, pensions, productivity and equal opportunities are the main issues in the area of ageing. Age management must consist of a comprehensive set of measures, ranging from job recruitment, training and lifelong learning, to new employment exit and transition to retirement strategies. The attention paid to low-skilled workers and gender issues is still too low in the EU states. Mr Anderson emphasised that markets could become the key drivers for age management. New employment strategies for the elderly enable companies to retain valuable experience, avoid labour and skills scarcity, and lead to greater work satisfaction and thus increased productivity. He concluded by stressing that comprehensive and coordinated approaches are necessary and feasible, but that there is an additional need to raise awareness and to improve implementation mechanisms. He also pointed to the particular challenges in the new EU Member States.

2.6 Session IV: Roundtable III: Social Protection

Chair: Joseph Troisi, *INIA/Task Force Monitoring RIS*

Michal Rutkowski, Director, Human Development, [World Bank](#), emphasized the [links between pension systems and economic, social and political reforms in the EU](#). He stressed that pension reforms need to run parallel to those of establishing fully integrated output and factor markets. Currently, pensions reforms in the EU are not yet fully on the agenda, that reform schemes are often fragmented and incomprehensive, and that hard and encompassing decisions have been avoided so far. In spite of a number of binding and non-binding initiatives at the EU level, he presented possible approaches to pension reforms: a) parametric reforms which maintain the PAYG (pay-as-you-go) nature of the system (the working generation pays for the pensions of the retired) and attempt to rationalize it by seeking more revenues and reducing expenditures while expanding voluntary private pension provisions; b) paradigmatic reforms which foresee fundamental changes in pension provisions typically through the introduction of mandatory funded pensions, drastic reforms of the PAYG pillar and expanded voluntary retirement savings. He concluded by emphasizing the need to diversify pension investments so as to reduce risks and to work on cost reduction measures. A growing trend towards multi-pillar schemes can be observed in the EU Member States. Prudent supervision and investments, transparency and accountability, and a rethinking of public guarantees given to citizens are key elements for the success and the sustainability of pension reforms.

Asghar Zaidi, Director Research, [European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research](#), elaborated on the [pension policy in the EU Member States and its possible impacts on elderly poverty](#). Research done in this area at the European Centre focussed on an account of income-based poverty amongst the current population of older people, a review of recent reforms in pension policy and an outlook on the expected evolution of poverty (defined as the deprivation from monetary aspects of well-being) among the future population of older people. Poverty such defined lead to the conclusion that with the exception of Cyprus, all other EU Member States with a high poverty risk for the elderly belong to EU15. Also, the poverty risk is generally higher for women than for men, and for single households compared

to multi-person households. An analysis of the pension systems and reforms undertaken shows that parametric reforms (maintenance of the PAYG nature of the system, coupled with reforms in pension rules), although they appear to be less drastic, their impact on financial sustainability and pensioner incomes could be equally or more impressive than systematic reforms.

Paul Todd, [European Commission](#), presented the [approach of the European Commission towards policy coordination among the EU Member States in the field of pension reforms. The Open Method of Coordination](#) is a useful mechanism to exchange experiences and lessons learnt. The principles for pension systems in the EU should be adequacy, sustainability, and modernisation. He presented several measures to increase effective retirement ages (e.g. through increased flexibility in retirement and financial incentives for working longer). Special focus should also be paid on avoiding poverty among the elderly.

Aurelio Fernandez, [Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Services](#), Social Cohesion, presented [ageing perspectives in an inclusive Europe](#). He emphasized the need to control the impact of ageing on public expenditure, to increase, in particular, employment levels of women and older persons and to re-establish a new balance between flexibility and security. To improve social protection and inclusion, he highlighted three main objectives: promote social protection and equal opportunities through accessible and financially sustainable protection systems; work towards the Lisbon objectives on achieving economic growth and strengthening governance and transparency involving all stakeholders into policy design, implementation and monitoring. He stressed the necessity to implement the MIPAA in the context of strategies designed from a broad social cohesion perspective; social security is still necessary in a globalizing ageing world and the security systems have to extend their coverage, reinforce institutional governance and maintain financial sustainability. He concluded by pointing out the emerging importance of social integration of migrants and the need to pay attention to intergenerational aspects when designing strategies for integrating migrants; cultural diversity is another important issue and an important source of value.

2.7 Session V: Country presentations

Chair: Mr Andres Vikat, Chief of the [UNECE Population Activities Unit](#)

Dr. Elisa Zechner, [Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection](#), presented [good practices on ageing in Austria](#) by illustrating four pilot projects: mainstreaming ageing, labour market adaptation to the changing demography, care, and international exchange of experiences. Austria established a Senior Citizen Council as the official representative of Austrian Senior Citizens and to ensure participation rights for senior citizens. To fight against discrimination, the Austrian Advertising Council has adopted a voluntary anti-discrimination code of conduct. Intergenerational solidarity is also a major issue in Austria, strengthened through the creation of 28 citizen centres for young and older people. Labour market issues were tackled in Austria through pension reforms including the increase of retirement age and several initiatives to promote the integration of elderly into the

labour market (e.g. measures to increase productivity of the elderly, awareness-raising activities, support to ageing-friendly working environments, awards). Care for the elderly is also of particular relevance for the elderly. Quality assurance, care allowances, and training are major components of Austria's initiatives to improve the well-being of the elderly. It also emphasized that Austria is a very committed player in the international field and considers the work of the UNECE and the UN in general as a major element in its efforts to increase the quality of life of the elderly.

Mr Zdenek Kalvach, presented the [Czech experience on age mainstreaming and MIPAA implementation](#). The implementation of MIPAA is taking place in a time of major social changes and the transition from the post-communist era after 1989. Despite the legacy of communist thinking and various ageism stereotypes and errors, progress and improvement have been made. The Czech Republic emphasizes the need to support predominantly the role and responsibility of individual seniors and the responsibility of municipalities. Universities of the 3-rd age (U3A) and municipal (regional) multifunctional centers for seniors (MMCSs) seem to be efficient ways of education of the elderly in gerontological knowledge and in new ways of participation, activities, and services. Achievements have also been made in the area of civil society involvement in ageing issues. The role of IT and other advanced technologies for gerontological education and age mainstreaming is essential. The Czech Republic started an educational project, ["Gerontotechnology"](#), and offers several websites with a lot of information for seniors and their families.

Ms Miriam Bar Giora, Director, Service for the Aged, [Israel Ministry of Social Affairs](#), exposed the different measures undertaken in Israel and options available to increase the [influence and the participation of elderly in decision-making](#) and decision-implementing mechanisms. The Party of Pensioners, the Union of Retired Persons, Round tables established as permanent for a and consultation processes with NGOs to discuss the development, planning and implementation of services for the elderly, the association of residents of sheltered housing, and committees of residents of homes for the elderly, are good examples of specific means available to influence society and politics.

Ms Patrizia Mignozzetti, from the [Italian Ministry of Social Solidarity](#) presented [new measures for older persons](#). She highlighted the fact that Italy is the most aged country in the world and that important measures have to be undertaken. In order to face ageing problems a project concerning the creation of a fund for elderly persons in need of care was developed. She pointed out that one of the main objectives of the project would be to allow older people to receive home care assistance.

With regard to research on the conditions of the elderly, Ms Mignozzetti underlined that the Italian Parliament is discussing the institution of an Enquiry Commission on Conditions of the Elderly; this commission will be useful to understand the concrete needs of the elderly in terms of economic resources.

She concluded by underlining the important role of intergenerational support, and quoted a media campaign funded by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, aiming at raising awareness on ageing problems.

Ms Lidija Kozarcanin, from the [Ministry for Work, Employment and Social Policy of Serbia](#) focused on issues of [sustainability and partnership](#). She pointed out that social protection mechanisms are facing different challenges such as the increase of social problems, an under-developed non-profit and private social protection sector, or the erosion of human and economic resources. With an initiative of the Serbian Ministry of Work and the support of UNDP, the Social Innovation Fund was founded in 2002. The new opportunities made available by this fund are multiple. It increases accessibility of services and provides a new framework for the organization of work. Its economic, social and psychological results have been impressive so far: 180 projects were supported and 40% of them were directly targeted to elderly; different clubs for the elderly and home services have been initiated and more than a half of beneficiaries stated that participation in SIF projects meant less isolation and loneliness for them.

Ms Christina Schneider, project director of [CURAVIVA Switzerland](#), presented the project called "[Age and Migration Bus](#)". CURAVIVA is an alliance, implemented in Switzerland, of homes and care organizations including homes for children and adolescents, handicapped adults, old people's and nursing homes.

The number of foreign old people living in Switzerland is growing: approximately one third of them tend to rest in Switzerland once aged, one third returns to the natal country and the last third goes back and forth. The Migration Bus Project is a service that helps elderly with economical or physical difficulties to keep in touch with their country of origin.

Mr Edwin L. Walker, [Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs](#) of the U.S. Administration on Aging, gave a presentation entitled "[The Age Wave: Challenges & Opportunities of an Aging U.S.](#)" He pointed out how the ageing of baby boomers will change the ageing landscape; the ageing of the latter in less than fifty years will more than double the number of old peoples aged sixty-five and over affected by disabilities. It is important to allow these peoples to continue to contribute to community life: being confined in nursing facilities often prevents it.

Citing different projects and centers involved in long-term care, he stressed the importance of choosing independency for the elderly. The reforms undertaken lead among others to a gradual decrease in the U.S. of the number of older people in institutional care.

2.8 Session VI: Capacity-building Activities

Chair: Mr Alain Mouchiroud, Director of the [UNFPA Country Support Team in Slovakia](#)

Mr Joseph Troisi, Deputy Director of the [International Institute on Ageing](#), presented [capacity building needs in the field of ageing](#). He emphasized the progress made to increase life expectancy and the ever increasing challenges to provide the necessary services to the citizens. Currently, in many countries, there is a lack of services and training programs, especially in the areas of health, housing and social welfare. The changing demographic situation is often coupled with significant changes in the family structure: various economic, social and psychological changes are affecting the traditional role of family in the care and support of older people. Mr Troisi considered the lack of trained caregivers as the most serious deficiency faced by most countries. Training and education should be seen in a comprehensive way. They should not only be made available at university levels, but at all levels and for people in different functions. Success of education in the field of ageing can be achieved if it covers all levels: medical and non-medical personnel, those who directly work with older persons, and the older persons themselves. He concluded by stressing the need to explore innovative ways of providing education in particular in rural and remote areas.

The subsequent discussion on capacity-development needs, with examples provided by several national focal points, showed the clear demand for capacity-development support in several countries and for the exchange of experiences and information among all UNECE Member States. The need for capacity-development was most clearly expressed in the field of training and education for care-givers, both professional care-givers and non-professional (e.g. family members) care-givers. It was also emphasized that home care provided by foreign nationals is an area of particular training needs in many UNECE Member States, as well as training provided to service providers at the local level.

3. Conclusions of the Sessions and Follow-up Activities

The following steps are the next steps and activities to be undertaken:

a) For the UNECE Population Activities Unit:

November 2006

- a. make available all presentations and information documents, in particular via the Internet;
- b. provide a report of the meeting;
- c. set up and facilitate the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing;

December 2006

- d. prepare guidelines for the country reports on the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS;
- e. set up and facilitate the work of the Expert Group for the 2006 UNECE Conference on Ageing;

February 2007

- f. organize meeting of the Expert Group and the Preparatory Committee

March 2007

- g. organize capacity-development workshop on ageing (Moldova), in cooperation with UNFPA.

June 2007

- h. analyze country reports and prepare regional summary support;

October 2007

- i. organize meeting of the Preparatory Committee
- j. organize the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing; Mr Alain Mouchiroud reported the agreement of Ms Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary-General, to attend the Conference during the meeting.

Ongoing

- k. continue strengthening the network of national focal points;

- l. respond to individual information requests by UNECE Member States and provide any other support services requested;
- m. develop indicators and tools to monitor implementation of MIPAA/RIS².
- n. coordinate NGO involvement in the preparatory process leading to the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing;

b) for the **national focal points**:

November - April 2007

- a. coordinate the national review and appraisal of the MIPAA/RIS; collect, analyze and present information to the UNECE in a country report;

February 2007

- b. ensure preparation, if desired, of the statements of Member States³ at the 2007 meeting of the Committee of Social Development (**February 2007**).

“As a first step, Member States will indicate their priorities for review and appraisal and undertake an “instrumental” assessment, including identifying laws and implementing regulations, institutions, policies and programmes introduced or altered since 2002 in response to the Madrid Plan of Action. Countries will also recall national priorities and review the national ageing situation. As a result, each country will have identified for itself specific areas for in-depth participatory inquiries using the bottom-up approach. They would present this information to the Commission for Social Development in 2007.”
 “Member States will inform the Commission about the actions they have taken since the Second World Assembly to implement the Madrid Plan of Action (for example, new laws, policies and programmes, the establishment of coordinating mechanisms and information campaigns) and exchange information on which area each country will determine for itself to evaluate using a bottom-up participatory approach.”⁴

Ongoing

- c. serve as liaison between the UNECE Population Activities Unit and national authorities;
- d. serve as members of the Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing, if so requested by their respective member state.
- e. accompany the preparation of the 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing and coordinate national activities for the implementation of the MIPAA/RIS.

² See [MA:IMI project](#) and the [project on employment and fiscal policy implications of ageing](#).

³ Maximum duration of the statements: seven minutes. Member States may wish to consider to provide additional information on their activities to other Member States and the UN Secretariat in the form of publications, written statements or similar.

⁴ Quoted from “Calendar for the first cycle of the review and appraisal”,
http://unece.org/pau/age/focalpointmeeting/calendar_for_firstcycle_of_review_and_appraisalof_MIPAA.pdf.

Networking events

The meeting provided great opportunities, outside the official working sessions, for the participants to exchange experiences and information. The important number of networking possibilities deserves to be emphasized. It can be expected that there will be follow-up activities on ageing projects undertaken on a bilateral basis in addition to the activities organised by the UNECE.

4. Evaluation of the Meeting by the Participants

The overall evaluation made by respondents on the quality of the meeting was very positive. Almost all of the participants agreed on the overall quality of the meeting and its contents. They highly appreciated in particular the country presentations, considered to be a powerful and useful way to share knowledge and approaches and to provide examples on good practices. The quality of the documentation and general organization of the meeting were appreciated.

The session on the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS was found very useful; some respondents underlined a slightly generic character of the session. Positive comments were given to the three roundtables: both the first (on the participation of older persons) and the second (on employment and active life) were considered very well structured and very useful in terms of new information and sharing of different practices and experiences. The third roundtable (on social protection) was sometimes considered too technical and detailed. Participants expressed the wish for more time to further explore the issues presented. The session on country presentations, one of the crucial elements of the meeting, was highly appreciated, with a near 100% of positive evaluations; participants indicated the possibilities to learn from each other and to define good practices. The wish was expressed to use upcoming meetings to continue this information exchange and experience.⁵

The UNECE secretariat is grateful to the participants for their comments and is looking forward to further improving its services provided to the UNECE Member States.

⁵ A detailed analysis of the responses provided can be found in Annex 3.

Annexes:

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Evaluation of the Meeting by the Participants – Graphs

Annex 4: Financial Overview

Annex 1: List of Participants

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Annex 2: Agenda

First day Monday, 13 November 2006

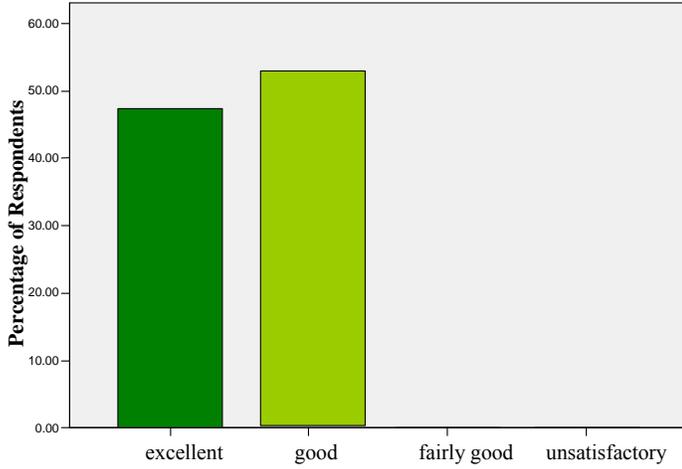
	Welcome session	Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo , General Director of IMSERSO; Mr Alain Mouchiroud , Director of the UNFPA Country Support Team in Slovakia; Mr Alexandre Sidorenko , UN Focal Point on Ageing; Mr Andres Vikat , Chief of the UNECE Population Activities Unit
9:30	Session on the review and appraisal of RIS/MIPAA <i>Chair and Moderator:</i> Global follow-up to MIPAA Follow-up to MIPAA in the UNECE region Discussion of the first two presentations	Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo , General Director of IMSERSO Alexandre Sidorenko , UNDESA Andres Vikat , UNECE Mr Pedro Arahuetes , Mayor of Segovia; Mr. Alain Mouchiroud , UNFPA Ms Amparo Valcarce , Secretary of State for Social Services, Families, and Disability;
11:00	Opening Ceremony	
11:30	Coffee	
12:00	Proposal for priority directions of regional review MA:IMI project: a tool for monitoring the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy of MIPAA Discussion Expectations to this meeting with a view to the UNECE Regional Conference on Ageing	Eveline Hönigsperger , Task Force <i>Monitoring RIS</i> Barbara Lipszyc , European Centre Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo , General Director of IMSERSO
14:00	Lunch	

	FIRST ROUND TABLE:	
15:30	Participation of older persons and acknowledgment of their contribution	
	<i>Chair and Moderator:</i>	Ms Eveline Hönigsperger, Task Force <i>Monitoring RIS</i>
	Conceptual presentation on the bottom-up approach to MIPAA review and appraisal	Mr Robert Venne, UNDESA
	Special role of NGOs in MIPAA/RIS follow-up	Mr Dirk Jarré, Task Force <i>Monitoring RIS</i>
	Discussion	
16:45	Coffee	
	Fostering bottom-up participatory approach among organizations of older persons in Spain	Mr Mariano Sánchez Martínez, University of Granada
	Discussion	
18:00	Time to be shared in the exhibition hall	
18:30	Dinner	
Second day	Tuesday, 14 November 2006	
9:30	SECOND ROUND TABLE: Employment and active life	
	<i>Chair and Moderator:</i>	Mr Alexandre Sidorenko, UNDESA
	How can simulations on employment and fiscal implications of population ageing support policy discussion?	Mr Joaquim Oliveira Martins, OECD
	Simulating employment and fiscal implications of population ageing in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Mr Jaromir Cekota, UNECE
	The European perspective on older persons' employment	Mr Robert Anderson, Dublin Foundation
	Discussion	
11:40	Coffee	
12:00	THIRD ROUND TABLE: Social protection	
	<i>Chair and Moderator:</i>	Mr Joseph Troisi, INIA/ Task Force <i>Monitoring RIS</i>
	Pension systems and reforms in Europe	Mr Michal Rutkowski, World Bank
	Pension policy in EU25 and its possible impact on elderly poverty	Mr Ashgar Zaidi, European Centre
	Pension Systems – Open Method of coordination	Mr Paul Todd, European Commission

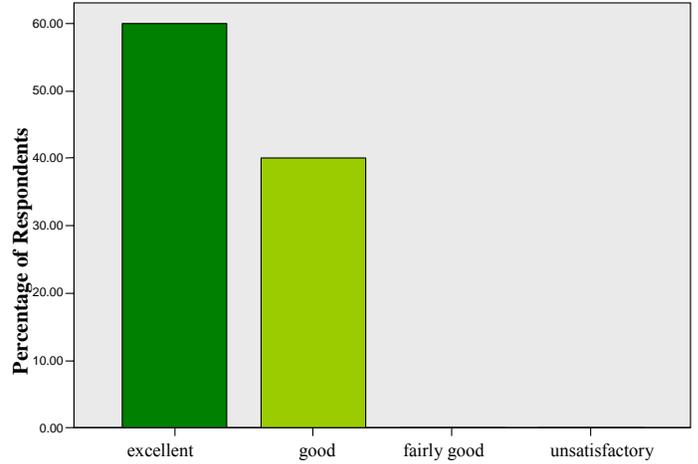
	Social Cohesion: Ageing perspectives in an inclusive Europe	Mr Aurelio Fernandez, Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Services
	Discussion	
14:15	Lunch	
15:30	Visit to a centre or entity that represents a good practice	
Third day	Wednesday, 15 November 2006	
	<i>Chair and Moderator:</i>	Mr Andres Vikat, Chief of the UNECE Population Activities Unit
9:30	Presentations by country representatives. Discussion	
11:30	Coffee	
	<i>Chair and Moderator:</i>	Mr Alain Mouchiroud, UNFPA
12:00	Presentation about potential capacity-building activities. Discussion	Mr Joseph Troisi, INIA/ Task Force <i>Monitoring RIS</i>
		Mr Andres Vikat, UNECE
		Alexandre Sidorenko, UNDESA
12:45	Summary, conclusions, next steps. Concluding statements	Mr Angel Rodríguez Castedo, General Director of IMSERSO
13:30	End of meeting	

Annex 3: Evaluation of the Meeting by the Participants – Graphs

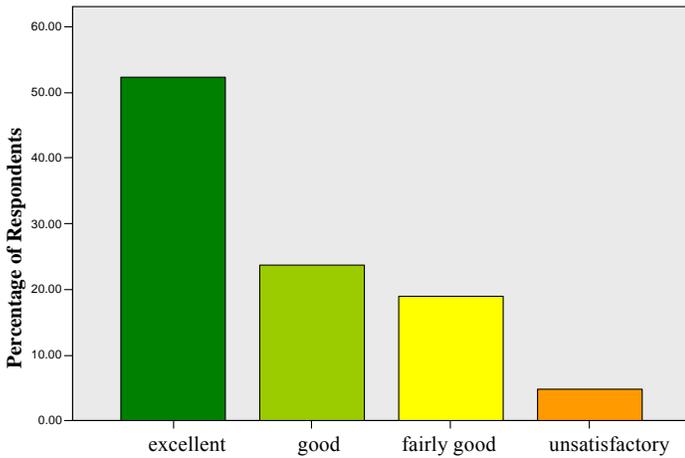
Overall rating of Meeting



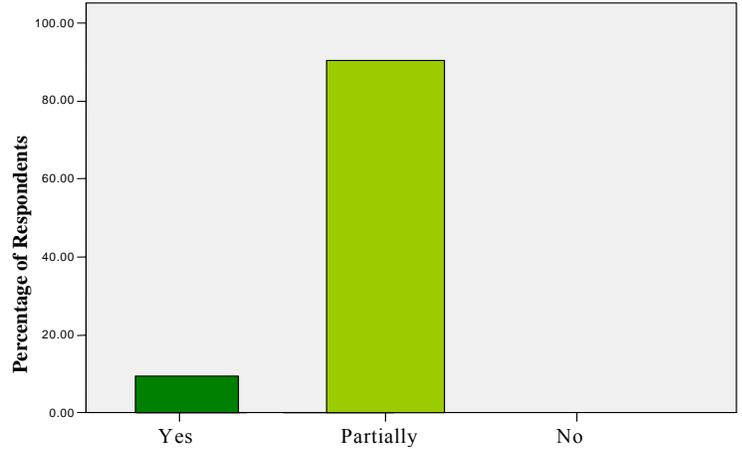
Evaluation of Content



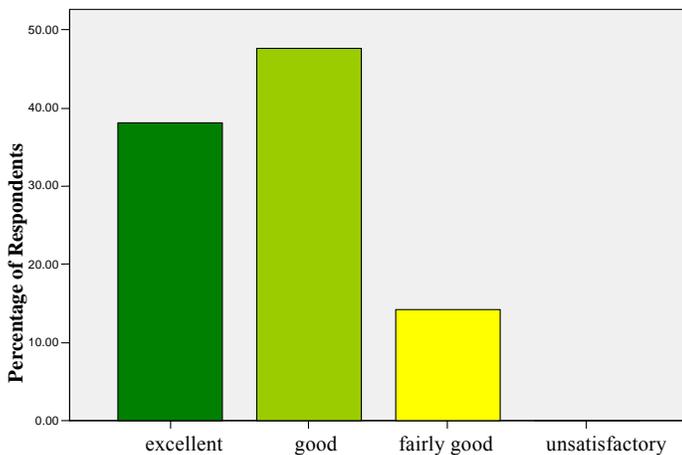
Evaluation of Organization



Do you feel that your participation has increased your access to info/knowledge?



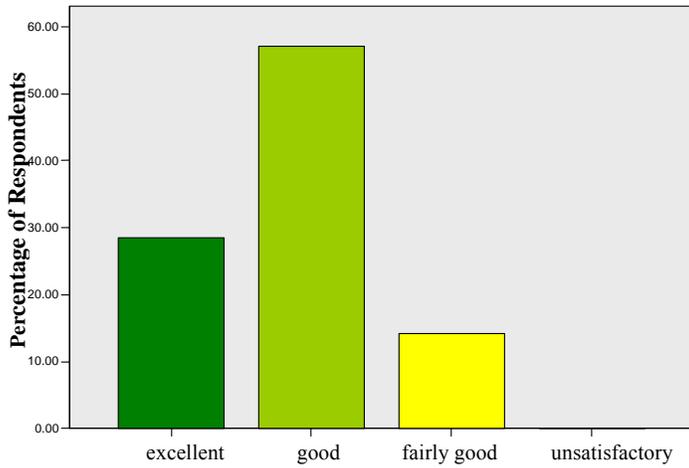
Session I: Usefulness for Personal Work



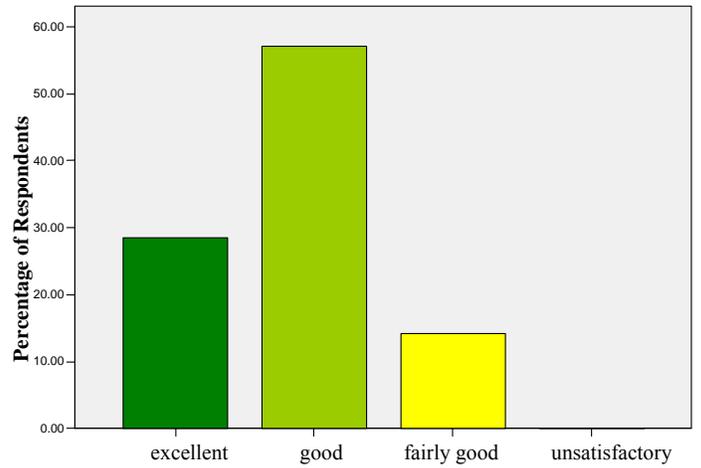
Session I: Usefulness for Work on MIPAA/RIS



Roundtable I: Usefulness for Work on MIPAA/RIS



Roundtable II: Usefulness for Work



Roundtable II: Usefulness for Work



Roundtable III: Usefulness for Work



Session V: Usefulness for Work



Session V: Usefulness for Work on MIPAA/RIS

