Mainstreaming ageing in Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia: Challenges and opportunities

Nikolai Botev
UNFPA/CST Bratislava
OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Mainstreaming as a strategy and policy-making approach in the region
- Specific ageing-related challenges in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia
- Risks to avoid when making provisions for mainstreaming ageing in national plans and programmes
“TO MAINSTREAM AGEING IN ALL POLICY FIELDS WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES INTO HARMONY WITH DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE TO ACHIEVE A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES”
Countries reporting that “nothing is planned” to facilitate the implementation of different RIS Commitments
- Relatively new concept;
- Usually associated with gender issues;
- Little understanding among policy makers of what is involved;
  - lack of awareness (ageing not always perceived as priority);
  - lack of capacity/knowledge;
  - high turnover at relevant government and civil service posts;
- Believed to be a priority to donors;
ECOSOC (1997) definition of gender mainstreaming:

“... the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.”
Replicated, generalized definition of mainstreaming:
a strategy/approach aimed at the greater social integration of a particular group through making the “concerns and experiences” of that group “an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres”
Bolivia:
The National Plan for Older Persons (2001) seeks to counteract the age discrimination currently marginalizing older people and calls for mainstreaming a generational perspective into all national policies and programmes.
Mauritius:

Ageing with Dignity (2001), a comprehensive National Policy on the Elderly, covers retirement, health and nutrition, social protection, housing, income security, employment, education, inter-generational relationships, social welfare and leisure as well as institutional care, with gender as a cross-cutting issue.
Good mainstreaming practices

New Zealand:

SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES

Moldova

Median age

(%) 65+

ODR
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES

Azerbaijan

- Median age

- (%) 65+
- ODR

Vienna, February 2007
N. Botev, CST/Bratislava
SPECIFIC AGEING

RELATED CHALLENGES

the "Demographic Window of Opportunity"

TDR: selected countries and regions, 1950-2050

- Eastern Europe
- China
- Kyrgyzstan
- North America
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: the “Demographic Window of Opportunity”

Mechanism behind the "window of opportunity"
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: the “Demographic Window of Opportunity”
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: the “Demographic Window of Opportunity”

Sources of Growth in Ireland

- World Growth
- Age Structure Change
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES:
migration and ageing

SOURCE: Rogers and Castro 1981
### EFFECT OF MIGRATION ON THE POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE, 1950 – 1990

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<th>Country</th>
<th>% by age groups</th>
<th>Mean age</th>
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*Source: Golini and Strozza, 1999*
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: migration and ageing

Countries by contribution of natural increase and net migration to population growth in 2005
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: migration and ageing

Migrants’ Remittances and FDI, 2001-5 (per cent of GDP)

- FDI annual average

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SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: disordered cohort flows/”demographic waves”
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES
disordered cohort flows/"demographic waves"
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES
disordered cohort flows/"demographic waves"

Bucharest, Romania - September 1991
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: disordered cohort flows/”demographic waves”

pre-retirement age population (55-60), 1975-2010
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES: disordered cohort flows/"demographic waves"

pre-working age population (10-15), 1975-2010

- women
- men
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES

disordered cohort flows/”demographic waves”

working age population (15-60), 1975-2010

- women
- men
SPECIFIC AGEING-RELATED CHALLENGES
unbalanced sex ratios

RISKS TO AVOID IN MAINSTREAMING AGEING

- Interpret/use “mainstreaming” to get rid of the focus on ageing, regardless of context;
- Overemphasize either the “micro”, or the “macro” dimension of ageing;
- Mainstreaming = nobody is responsible for getting it done;
  - already identified as a problem in mainstreaming gender; will be even more so in mainstreaming ageing as the institutional infrastructure is much weaker!
The end

Thank you for your attention!