BOTTOM UP APPROACH IN BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES – M&E MIPAA/RIS

2002 -2007
Republic of Serbia
Lidija Kozarcianin - Focal point of Ageing
In 2002 year:
Serbian Government has accepted obligations in Madrid (MIPAA) and Berlin (RIS) to adopt relevant ageing policy at the national level, including the Monitoring and Evaluation obligations concerning its implementation.
M&E challenges in Serbia:

- Increasing poverty and social problems, and eroded formal institutions responsible for monitoring process with undeveloped M&E methodology
- Under developed NGO sector working for, and with elderly – few, independent NGOs;
- Slow process of development national ageing policy included M&E activities
Reaffirmation of the NGOs drive the activities

In 2003 year:

- foundation of the National Network “HumanaS” - 15 NGOs, humanitarian and religious organizations from Belgrade and all over the Serbia, working on elderly issues

- 2 local NGOs from Belgrade and Kragujevac ("HumanaS" members) took part in activities inside HAI project “Combat in Age discrimination in Southeast Europe”, cooperating in the Southeast European NGO Network
Developing of National Plan of Action on Ageing

New way organized NGOs activities:

- Main activities were related to development of NSA – through meetings with representatives of local and national government and formal institutions, experts, professionals and working with elderly themselves,
- Emphasizing M&E practice in information’s, experiences and knowledge exchange, and
- Building up cooperation and partnership with international, and UN Donors
Progress we made in 2002 -7:

- Raised awareness among elderly, social policy actors (professionals and others) and policy makers, of increasing needs for integrated and coordinated approach to elderly issues and importance of M&E practice
- Foundation of Social Innovation Fund as a bottom up mechanism - financial and expert supporting local communities in social and health services development
- 2004 - Serbian Government established the Council for Ageing and Old Age Issues (17 members) as National Board responsible for development of NSA, with 7 members - NGOs representatives included “HumanaS”
Progress we made in 2002-7

- Establishing M&E practice in implementation of the projects related to elderly issues;
- Realizing new forms of training for social and health service providers (and professionals) for the elderly, predominantly organized and delivered by NGOs in cooperation with Government and the Donors;
- Innovative approach in researches on the field of elderly issues with new methods of social and health services evaluation
M&E achievements:

In 2006 year, September, 7th Serbian Government adopted National Strategy on Ageing:

- One of 10 Strategy directions is development of Monitoring and Evaluation activities in implementation process,
- developing the scientific research work on elderly issues,
- Relevant and efficient cooperation in the international process for follow up MIPAA/RIS
How we overcome the main obstacles?

- Using international and support targeted cooperation in mobilization of the elderly interested in promotion and improvement of their situation

- In the process of NGO association and local partnerships, using continuously horizontal and vertical transfer of new skills and knowledge
Key lesson we have learned

- Active international cooperation is vital for action implementation with universal significance such as the World Plan of Action on Ageing (linking countries, exchange experience and knowledge)

- Bottom up approach through non profit sector or civil society, have the leading role in follow up world, regional and national implementation, and provide appropriate significance for these documents