

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
OF GREECE**

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Panel 2: Participation and Social Inclusion

Head Of the Greek Delegation

Alexandra Papadia

**General Director in the Ministry Of Health and
Social Solidarity of GREECE**

Kallirroï Nicolis

Expert in Geriatrics

PRESENTER

Excellencies Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen

**The two prerequisites for an effective and successful Mainstreaming in Ageing are
the Participation of Older Persons in any change of our rapidly
evolving society.**

**And their Social Integration will lead
Towards their full and total Social Inclusion.**

This is our common Goal.

**But this focal point has to be approached through specific measures taken by
Governments ,Civil Society and the Ageing Community too.**

**Because the Active Participation of Old persons in all aspects of our social life is
Still for our European as well as and for the Global reality**

A Big <ASKED>

It is needed Specific Positive Measures and Policies for the active participation of old persons in any aspect of our 21st century societies.

These positive measures and policies have to be comparable with the appropriate changes in our Legislations for obtaining the Gender mainstreaming.

*** Till this Day we have adopted and recognised that Older persons play crucial roles in families and communities.**

*** Also that their knowledge and their experience through life are an important asset for social and economic development.**

*** And particularly the role of older Women is very important in unpaid activities and in creating inter-generations solidarity.**

- But they are Absent in all the Decision- Centers.They are missing persons in every Action and Activity. They do not have Voice.

-Consequently They dont Participate.

Before we proceed ,we have to face reality with pragmatic terms.

Old Age is concomitant with lack of strength and serious problems of Health.

So it is needed successful and more completed Policies of Health focused And on Prevention. Because the Society for All Ages with their active participation for their successful Social Inclusion and Integration NEED Healthy Ageing Population.

It is urgent that our Policies of Health and Care have to be orientated in the planning of legislation for good health and sustained long -life towards the Quality of Life of Ageing ,which is a second big ASKED and a Challenge for our countries.

GREECE with its National Plan of Ageing Population has given attention and emphasis <Against Asylums> with the strength of our program <Help and Care in the House>. But we have moved forward and the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity of Greece has developed and implemented a Network of Services and Programs focused on social, financial support of Old persons and covering all their needs in the domains of Hospitalization with all their Pharmaceutical and Medical Welfare covered and supported.

The Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity has established a whole network of Solidarity ,meaning Services which guarantee the coordination of any initiative of all Sectors who work for the effective participation of Old Persons in the planning of our society.

All the Councils are integrated with the equal participation of Ageing people.

The new Law 81551.25.06.2007 facilitates their contribution and their full participatory procedure. This new Law guarantees that no discrimination against them exists in the Domains of Health, Health Prevention and in any Sector of Services. And all these offered Services cover and the Ageing Population without Social Security. Also all their medical examinations and their pharmaceutical treatment are totally covered by the Greek Social Security.So they have the opportunity to stay robust and healthy for participating in any change of the society.

Also we have to bring into your attention that Officials and Members of our Government are persons above 65.

They are a minority like the Women.

In that point we have to admit that Active participation and Social Inclusion of Old persons need more and concrete legislation in our European Societies. It needs to change the stereotypes in our Educational System where the Grand Parents are valuable as Servants and Care Givers but our European Society claims that they are weak, their ideas and opinions are old fashion, in one word they are Retired. This mentality does not promote the Society for All Ages.

We need radical changes facing reality in order all together be able to change and transform it.

Allow me to put into your consideration the following propositions:

1. To invite and oblige the Old persons to assume their responsibilities and make the first step.

2. Governments ,NGOs and all Civil Society have to help them for remaining Active and Healthy as long as possible.

3. To apply Ageing Mainstreaming towards full social integration-Change the legislation if it is necessary for obtaining this goal.

4. Encourage them to speak publically for them on any social issue they like

5. Social Inclusion has to become the first step for their full social integration. It is not the final goal/it is just a major step.

6. We have as European Society to create the icon of our contemporary up-to-date Ageing, which we have to promote it and project it through all the European Media.

(The Old Woman and Man, As Manager/esse, Minister, Professor, Medical Doctor. Not only the Image of a strong ,good-looking young 35-55 years old man or a beautiful woman). Life is beautiful and after 65 .

7. Grand-Mother and Grand-Father are not homogeneous pictures ,the same everywhere in the planet. They are personalities with private and public life.

8. Policies should be designed to promote intergenerational solidarity and to re-arrange the social security and pensions of the whole European system. It is a MUST for the benefit of our children and the support of our grand children.

9. Social Security Dialogue has to start with the Old persons not in their absentia.

10. Add in all the Schools of Medecine of the European Universities

Departments of Geriatrics where Academic Teaching and Scientific Research will promote and elaborate the problems of Ageing and find up-to-date solutions and answers.

Old Age has Human Rights claimed and formed by them not for them.

We, the Greek Delegation with our Government

we work towards the Society for All Ages adding new laws and undertaking measures and initiatives for this valued power of 23.32% of the to-day Greek Population, creating new Challenges for their active and full Participation.

Thank you for your attention