



**Ministry of Labour and Social
Insurance
Social Welfare Services**

**2007 UNECE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
AGEING**

Panel 4

*Living longer – working longer: challenges for
education, labour market and social protection*

CYPRUS STATEMENT

Leon, Spain, 6 – 8 November 2007


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FACT

**LIVING
LONGER**

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LIFE EXPECTANCY



Cyprus 2004 - 2005		EU*		World*	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
77 years	81,7 years	75,6 years	81,7 years	63,6 years	68 years

*Population Statistics for 2004, Eurostat edition 2006.

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Living Longer

Healthy Ageing

Working Longer



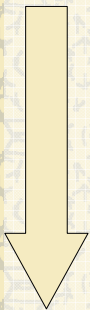
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HEALTHY AGEING

- ✦ Life course perspective – reduction of health risks at all stage of life
- ✦ Preventive programmes
- ✦ Early detection services
- ✦ Plan of Action for Healthcare of Older Persons (2004 – 2014): Emphasis on the integration of services at both primary and secondary health care levels

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Working longer - necessary response to population ageing

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- ↓ Total fertility rate has been falling (1,44 in 2006)
 - ↓ Below replacement level (2,10) since 1996
 - ↓ Proportion of children under 15 has been declining (18% in 2005, 25,4% in 1992)

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**Working Longer must be
perceived as**

ACTIVE AGEING
in a broader sense

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**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR
OLDER PERSONS
(2005 – 2015)**

Includes measures to:

- ✚ Promote the healthy and active participation of older persons in work **AND** society at large
- ✚ Strengthen intergenerational solidarity

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CYPRUS

1. High Growth
3.8% in 2006
2. Low Fiscal Deficit
1,5% in 2006
3. Low Public Debt
65,3% in 2006
4. Relatively stable inflation rates
2,5% in 2006

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CYPRUS

5. High Employment Rate

Men	Women
79,4%	60,3%

Total Employment Rate: 69,6%

6. Low Unemployment

Men	Women
3,9%	5,4%

Total Unemployment Rate: 4,5%

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RISK

Long term sustainability of public finance in view of the budgetary impact of an ageing population.

Pension systems – dependency ratio (65+/15-64)

MORE THAN DOUBLE

2006	2050
17,6%	43,2%

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CHALLENGES

In the area of employment

- ✚ To maintain high rates of increase in labour market
- ✚ To raise participation of inactive groups of people (women, young persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups)

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EMPLOYMENT RATE OF OLDER PERSONS

(Persons aged 55 – 64)

Cyprus	European Employment target by 2010	National target by 2010
53,6%*	50%	53%

* Men: 71,6%, Women: 36,6%

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OLDER WOMEN

✚ Proportion of women leaving employment in the age group 50 – 59 = three times higher than that of men

✚ Substantial differences also in age groups 60 – 63 and 64+

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CHALLENGES

Social Protection and the Labour Market

FIRST:

To contain the projected high increase in age-related expenditure in the period up to 2050 and reduce the risk to long-term sustainability

SECOND:

To review the low age of mandatory retirement in public sector and age of pension entitlement

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CHALLENGES

Social Protection and the Labour Market

THIRD:

To design incentives for older persons to remain in employment for a longer time, including the enhancement of care facilities to attract older women to employment

FOURTH:

To combat age-based discrimination and establish incentives for employers to recruit older workers

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EDUCATION

Tertiary Education

Age Group 25 - 64

Cyprus	EU
30,5%	22,8%

Upper Secondary Education

Age Group 25 - 64

Cyprus	EU
69,5%	70,0%

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CHALLENGES

Education

FIRST:

To promote life-long learning and updating of skills

SECOND:

To promote a life course perspective for the reduction of health risks at all stages of life, particularly high risk behavioural factors

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HIGH RISK BEHAVIOURAL FACTORS

- ✘ Tobacco use
- ✘ Lack of physical activity
- ✘ Inadequate diet

Can be modified through preventive education programmes

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OVERARCHING CHALLENGE

TO INVOLVE ALL RELEVANT SECTORS OF SOCIETY AND REACH CONSENSUS ON ACTIONS

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ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

**ACHIEVE A HOLISTIC
APPROACH TO THE
DEMOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS
ON EDUCATION, THE LABOUR
MARKET AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION**

SYNERGY BETWEEN POLICIES

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