

2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

6-8 November 2007, Leon, Spain

Intergenerational collaboration

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THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

Malta's statement and actions regarding Intergenerational collaboration in accordance with the implementation of the Regional Strategy of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing are mainly five(5):

THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

1. *Adjusting Family Policies to changing Demographic Circumstances*

In Malta, the central role played by the family as the principle provider of care is still maintained and the exchange of obligations are still the basis of family relations.

The family still plays an important role in providing financial, practical, emotional and social support.

THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

2. *Policies and Programmes to Respond to the Needs of Family Members of Different Ages*

Amongst other measures introduced, these include:

- parental leave
- childcare facilities
- career breaks
- flexible working hours
- responsibility breaks for carers of children and older persons
- pro-rata benefits for part-time employees.
- children's allowance

THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

3. Awareness-raising Measures concerning the Contribution of Older Persons to the Family, the Community and Society at Large

Most of our elderly persons continue to be a vital resource for their families, communities and society at large. They are deeply embedded in family support networks of interdependence, giving, and receiving through financial assistance, caring for family members, baby sitting, grand parenting and others.

A recent experience of an Intergenerational collaboration between our elderly and various young generations are the informal meetings being held between our elderly and school children/teenagers/adults at Saint Vincent de Paule Residence for the Elderly. During these meetings the elderly share their experiences thus promoting the understanding of ageing and intergenerational solidarity

As from 2008 onwards, a new government economic measure will allow retired persons including the elderly to work without losing any part of their pension.

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4. Measures to Help Families deal with the Growing Responsibilities of Caring for their Older Members

Besides Community Care Services that is:

- home help
- domiciliary nursing
- telecare service
- handyman service
- incontinence service
- day care centres
- activity centre for the elderly with Dementia
- respite services for family carers and elderly persons
- meals on wheels

the Government has also introduced two (2) Schemes as a result of which family carers of dependent older persons can receive financial benefits namely:

- Carer's Pension
- Social Assistance for persons taking care of a Sick or Elderly Relative.

THE MALTA EXPERIENCE

5. Mechanisms to Strengthen the Role of Communities, Organizations and Associations in Providing Support and Care to Older Persons

The Voluntary Sector (i.e. NGOs) in Malta is large, diverse and very active. In the Elderly sector the local Church plays a major role.

Malta's NGOs operate within organized bodies such as Foundations, Associations, Clubs and Federations.

The Voluntary Sector Act Regulation was enacted in 2007.

During 2008, an "ad hoc" Commissioner is to be appointed and a Council will be set up specifically for the Voluntary Sector.