



## **Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators To Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI) 2010**

*European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research Vienna  
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This document outlines the activities of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research Vienna undertaken within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI) during 2010. The main areas of work are presented in the report and they include our work on indicators, the Monitoring RIS website as well as on the Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter. In addition, some statistics on the Monitoring RIS website are provided in the Annex of this document.



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## 1. Indicators

### 1.1 Analysis on gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators and on long-term care indicators

#### (i) Gender

*The main outcome of our work on gender specific mainstreaming ageing indicators, the book "Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best?" has been published in 2010.<sup>1</sup>*

The book, "Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements" (edited by Bernd Marin and Eszter Zólyomi), was published in January 2010. The book explores the difficulties women face during their working life and in retirement, assesses the gender implications of social and pension policies, and provides analyses of gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators, which are presented in a graphic format in a separate section of the book called "Facts and Figures". The book contains valuable contributions - including single country studies on Austria, Finland, Italy, Poland and Sweden - from international pension and social policy experts.

The main findings of the book were presented for the first time at a workshop on the gender dimension of retirement held on 8 March 2010, in Paris. The workshop, organized jointly by DREES (*Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques*), COR (*Conseil d'orientation des retraites*), the OECD and the European Centre Vienna, was attended by French Ministry officials and by international experts from Europe and the US. It provided a platform for an exchange of views on the topic of gender and retirement with particular relevance to the French situation.

More recently, we were invited to present results of our work on gender-specific indicators at the "Sub-regional workshop on gender statistics" organized by UNECE in cooperation with the National Statistical Office of Georgia and the UNDP and UNIFEM Country Offices.<sup>2</sup>

#### (ii) Long-term care

*During 2010, long-term care has continued to be a key part of the research work carried out under the European Centre's MA:IMI project.*

Using available data from national and international sources as well as building on the qualitative information gathered in the European Centre's recent publication "*Facts and Figures on Long-term Care -- Europe and North America*"<sup>3</sup>, we published two Policy Briefs on the topic of long-term care.

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<sup>1</sup> Marin, B. and Zólyomi, E. (Eds.) (2010) [Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements](#). Ashgate, UK (ISBN 978-1-4094-0698-3)

<sup>2</sup> "Sub-Regional Workshop on Gender Statistics", 27-29 September 2010, Tbilisi, Georgia

<sup>3</sup> Huber, Rodrigues, Hoffmann, Gasior & Marin (2009) [Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care: Europe and North America](#). European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna

- The European Centre's Policy Brief "*Paying for Care*", written by Ricardo Rodrigues and Andrea Schmidt<sup>4</sup>, presents information on the current picture of public and private expenditure on long-term care for older people and discusses the challenges of financing care. On the other hand – given that user payments for long-term care can be quite high as a percentage of an individual's income (especially for institutional care) – this policy brief provides first results on potential redistribution effects of home care benefits (based on SHARE data). By that, the policy brief takes not only a policy-oriented, comparative view on funding arrangements for long-term care but also serves as a starting point for further discussions on the potential inequalities associated with the different ways of financing and providing long-term care.
- Until recently, informal care (provided by relatives and friends) has been overlooked by policy-makers in the context of long-term care for dependent older people. Driven by concerns about the fiscal sustainability of long-term care services and by more self-conscious and demanding carers' movements across countries, informal care has been brought into the limelight. Data on carers is still relatively scarce due in part to the nature of the care itself as it is often provided informally at home. In view of this, what do we know about informal carers and who benefits from them? Which country differences exist? Which policies are set in place to support them? The Policy Brief by Frederique Hoffmann and Ricardo Rodrigues, titled "*Informal Carers: Who Takes Care of Them?*"<sup>5</sup>, tries to shed light on these issues. It seeks to increase knowledge on informal carers and discusses some of the implications surrounding social policies that impact them. The analysis is very much policy-oriented and takes a comparative view, focusing mostly on the wider Europe.

Furthermore, building on our expertise and on our previous research on long-term care, we are currently working on an updated and extended publication of the "*Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care: Europe and North America*" book which we are planning to complete in 2011.

Our work on long-term care indicators in 2008 and 2009 has already highlighted the problem that care indicators are still in its infancy in international data collection and that both the availability as well as the quality of such data should be improved. Moreover, during the international expert meeting on long-term care<sup>6</sup>, co-organized by the European Centre, the lack of data for many Central and Eastern European countries was highlighted. The workshop "Long-term care in Europe - discussing trends and relevant issues"<sup>7</sup> organized by the European Centre jointly with the Hungarian Institute for Social Policy and Labour in Budapest in 2010, aimed to address this issue. The workshop provided a forum for international experts (European Commission, OECD, WHO, UNECE) and national experts and policy makers from Eastern European countries to discuss trends and issues on long-term

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<sup>4</sup> Rodrigues, R. and Schmidt, A. (2010) [Paying for Long-Term Care](#). European Centre Policy Brief Series, September

<sup>5</sup> Hoffmann, F., Rodrigues, R. (2010) [Informal Carers: Who Takes Care of Them?](#) European Centre Policy Brief Series, April

<sup>6</sup> International Expert Meeting on "Monitoring Long-Term Care for the Elderly", 7-9 September 2009, Jerusalem, Israel

<sup>7</sup> Workshop "Long-term care in Europe - discussing trends and relevant issues", 22-23 February 2010, Budapest, Hungary

care relevant for both Western and Eastern European countries, to facilitate an exchange of national experiences, and to establish networks among the participants.

## **1.2 Updating of existing mainstreaming ageing indicators**

During the first half of 2010, statistics on existing mainstreaming ageing indicators of all four domains (demography; income and wealth; labour market and labour market participation; and social protection and financial sustainability) have been updated according to the latest available information. Results of last year's data request, carried out jointly by the European Centre and UNECE with the help of National Focal Points (NFPs) on ageing, have been incorporated into the updates. Work is currently underway to disseminate the updated information on the Monitoring RIS website (see below).

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## 2. Monitoring RIS Website and Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter

### 2.1 Monitoring RIS Website

*Making the website more user-friendly and spreading more research results in a higher frequency to more Monitoring RIS stakeholders remains the overall goal.*

Following last year's (2009) major reorganization of the Monitoring RIS website, and based on the feedback and content suggestions received from members of the Working Group on Ageing, in 2010 we have continued our regular bi-monthly updates. Every two months regular mails are being sent out to national focal points on ageing with calls for content for the website update. (For some statistics on the website, please see the Annex of this document.)

One particular part of the website we are aiming to further develop is the content organized under "Indicators". Updating of the "Country Profiles" based on the updated information on existing mainstreaming ageing indicators is currently underway. In addition, we are proposing to disseminate on the website a set of mainstreaming ageing indicators as well as selected gender-specific and long-term care indicators in the form of interactive charts. Our proposal with some examples will be presented at the meeting.

### 2.2 Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter

*The newsletter is widely disseminated using proven European Centre partner channels and its aim is to provide a short, timely and precise way to disseminate relevant information to UNECE member countries.*

The first issue of the MA:IMI newsletter, titled "Mainstreaming Ageing - Supporting the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing", was published in December 2009. The theme of the first issue was long-term care. The newsletter has since been published every three month with each issue focusing on a different topic (Women work and pensions, Quality of life in old age, International Day of Older Persons). All issues are placed on and can be downloaded from the Monitoring RIS website.<sup>8</sup>

Calls for contents for the newsletter are sent out regularly *via* e-mail to NFPs on ageing. Although we have so far received contents for each newsletter issue, contributions are rare apart from some active NFPs. We, therefore, reach out to other stakeholders (i.e. researchers, NGOs), as well. The following stakeholders are addressed with mailings alerting them that the newsletter was published and is downloadable from the Monitoring RIS website:

- Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter subscribers (115 by end of September 2010)

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.monitoringris.org/index.php?id=30>

- National Focal Points and colleagues (156 by end of September 2010)
- European Centre Newsletter subscribers (489 by end of September 2010)
- European Centre Board and National Liaison Officials
- European Ministerial contacts
- Research community mailing lists
- Ageing related research institutes and initiatives
- Country societies for gerontology
- Demographic research institutes
- Social workers organizations
- Ageing related NGOs.

## Statistical Annex: Monitoring RIS website<sup>9</sup>

**Table 1: Number of visitors and visited pages, 2010 (January-September)**

	Visitors	Visited pages
January	1 311	3 120
February	1 256	3 586
March	1 892	4 815
April	1 481	5 558
May	1 603	4 158
June	1 208	3 124
July	1 651	4 589
August	1 241	3 425
September	1 487	3 595
January-September	1 459	3 997

**Table 2: The ten most visited pages, 2010 (January-September)**

Homepage
Research Papers
Guidelines for Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, UN Programme on Ageing, Annex
Newsletter Archive
Newsletter Spring
Upcoming events
What is new?
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
Mardid Indicators: Methodological Notes and Definitions
Country Specific Sitemap

<sup>9</sup> Source: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research Vienna  
Note: Statistics without access from inside the European Centre

**Table 3: Number of countries visitors came from, 2010 (January-September)**

January	66
February	79
March	82
April	72
May	76
June	72
July	75
August	69
September	73
January-September	74

**Table 4: Access to the website, 2010 average (January-September)**

Direct access or via bookmark	59,1%
From search engines	29,5%
Via link from other websites	6,8%
Access way unknown	4,6%
Total	100,0%