Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing

Armenia

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At the UNECE secretariat, Andres Vikat, Viviane Brunne, Fiona Willis-Núñez, Katerina Joklova and Viola Lucas prepared this report. Amy Edgar edited the report and France Font-Vérot prepared the layout.

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UNECE Information Unit
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Website: http://www.unece.org

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Foreword

The present volume is the first of UNECE’s reports on country-level projects entitled Road Maps on Mainstreaming Ageing, undertaken in UNECE member States at the request of Governments. These projects aim to assist countries in translating the recommendations of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) into concrete actions relevant to the economic, social, cultural and political specificities of the given country, so that they can better implement these internationally-agreed commitments within the framework of their own national circumstances. The central tenet of the Road Maps is ‘mainstreaming’ ageing — that is, ensuring that matters related to population ageing and to the interests of older persons are considered in all policy areas.

The report represents the culmination of a wide-ranging project based on the principle of participatory policy development, involving interviews with a broad range of stakeholders, detailed reviews of existing policies and programmes, and close consultation with Government. In the case of Armenia, the development of the Road Map took place alongside the country’s development of a National Strategy on Ageing. The Road Map therefore fed into this strategy, helping to ensure that it was in compliance with MIPAA/RIS.

Armenia, the first country to work with UNECE in developing a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing, faces a constellation of challenges: the demographic changes associated with longer lives and smaller families; the large-scale emigration of working-age people out of the country; and the continued process of transition to a market economy, especially keenly felt in the context of the economic crisis. Against this background, the Road Map provides recommendations relating to a variety of policy areas, including integration and participation of older persons, social protection, health, housing, lifelong learning and the labour market.

It is expected that this report will be useful in supporting policymakers and representatives of civil society — both within Armenia and in other countries of the region — in their efforts to take on the challenges posed by population ageing, and that it will encourage countries to review and develop their national strategies on ageing in line with the internationally agreed commitments.

Ján KUBIŠ
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
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List of abbreviations

CIS Commonwealth of Independent States
GDP Gross domestic product
IMF International Monetary Fund
MLSI Ministry of Labour and Social Issues
MIPAA Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
NGO Non-governmental organization
RIS Regional Implementation Strategy
UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO World Health Organization

List of experts

Ms. Armine Mkhitaryan National Institute of Labour and Social Issues, Armenia
Ms. Gyulnara Hovhannesyan National Institute of Labour and Social Issues, Armenia
Ms. Mandy Heslop Consultant, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. Christopher Mallmann Consultant, Germany
Mr. Nazaret Nazaretyan Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association, Armenia
Ms. Meri Yeranosyan Consultant, Armenia