ACTIVE AGEING IN RUSSIA

Maria Varlamova (mvarlamova@hse.ru),

Centre for Comprehensive Social Policy Studies, Institute for Social Policy
National Research University Higher School of Economics (NRU HSE)
Population Ageing in Russia

Median age

65+

UN World Population Prospects (medium scenario)
Gender and age pyramid

**1979**

- **85+**: Men: 2%, Women: 2%
- **80-84**: Men: 4%, Women: 4%
- **75-79**: Men: 6%, Women: 6%
- **70-74**: Men: 8%, Women: 8%
- **65-69**: Men: 10%, Women: 10%
- **60-64**: Men: 12%, Women: 12%
- **55-59**: Men: 14%, Women: 14%
- **50-54**: Men: 16%, Women: 16%
- **45-49**: Men: 18%, Women: 18%
- **40-44**: Men: 20%, Women: 20%
- **35-39**: Men: 22%, Women: 22%
- **30-34**: Men: 24%, Women: 24%
- **25-29**: Men: 26%, Women: 26%
- **20-24**: Men: 28%, Women: 28%
- **15-19**: Men: 30%, Women: 30%
- **10-14**: Men: 32%, Women: 32%
- **5-9**: Men: 34%, Women: 34%
- **0-4**: Men: 36%, Women: 36%

**2030**

- **85+**: Men: 2%, Women: 2%
- **80-84**: Men: 4%, Women: 4%
- **75-79**: Men: 6%, Women: 6%
- **70-74**: Men: 8%, Women: 8%
- **65-69**: Men: 10%, Women: 10%
- **60-64**: Men: 12%, Women: 12%
- **55-59**: Men: 14%, Women: 14%
- **50-54**: Men: 16%, Women: 16%
- **45-49**: Men: 18%, Women: 18%
- **40-44**: Men: 20%, Women: 20%
- **35-39**: Men: 22%, Women: 22%
- **30-34**: Men: 24%, Women: 24%
- **25-29**: Men: 26%, Women: 26%
- **20-24**: Men: 28%, Women: 28%
- **15-19**: Men: 30%, Women: 30%
- **10-14**: Men: 32%, Women: 32%
- **5-9**: Men: 34%, Women: 34%
- **0-4**: Men: 36%, Women: 36%
Persistently high mortality & gender inequality

- Life expectancy at birth (Rosstat, 2016): men – 66.5 years, women – 77.1 years
- Among population 55+ – 50% = 55-64 years old (2016)
Inequality

Urban and rural population

- Urban < 50 thousand: 25%
- Urban 50–99: 8%
- Urban 100–249: 8%
- Urban 250–499: 6%
- Rural 200 and less: 1%
- Rural 201–1000: 14%
- Rural 1001–5000: 11%
- Rural > 5000: 6%
- Urban 1 mln and more: 13%

Life expectancy at birth, 2016

- Tyva Republic
- Saint Petersburg
- Moscow

- Men
- Women
Active Ageing Policies in Russia

- Old age in modern Russian discourse = «above working age» = 55+ years for women and 60+ for men
- Main document - the **Strategy of action for older citizens up to 2025** (60+). It covers a broad range of areas including education and employment, social protection, social and health care, production of particular goods and services, providing accessible environment, development of charity for seniors and volunteer work of elderly people, etc.
  - BUT! The set of indicators approved by the government does not allow to evaluate the implementation of the strategy.
  - NO official definition of “active ageing”
  - Different (unrelated, not coordinated) efforts in different fields: pensions, income protection, social care, employment promotion, vocational training, etc.
- The position of Russia in international indices provokes great interest of policy makers and wide public discussion.
• In 2014 our research team (Sinyavskaya O.V., Varlamova M.A., Ermolina A.A.) in the Center for Studies of Incomes and Living Standards (NRU HSE) made an attempt to calculate AAI-2012 for Russia.
• Now we have 4 versions: AAI for 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016, although no fully comparable
• We highlighted the strong and weak features of active ageing in Russia, compared AAI and Global AgeWatch Index, conducted sensitivity analyses and now analyzing AAI results for different population groups, identifying reasons behind existing inequalities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Participation in society</th>
<th>Independent living arrangements</th>
<th>Capacity and enabling environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strong and Weak Aspects of Ageing in Russia

**Strengths**
- High level of educational attainment
- Relatively high levels of employment (considering low retirement age and poor health)
- Tight family connections
- Relative welfare
- Use of ICT

**Weaknesses**
- High mortality rates and poor health
- Low availability of health and dental care
- Lack of social institutes, providing opportunity for voluntary activities, life-long learning and physical activity to the elderly
- Low external social connectedness and mental well-being
- Environment: opportunities for independent living, physical safety
Data on elderly and active ageing in Russia

- Russian Population Census and Micro Population Census
- Rosstat regular surveys:
  - Comprehensive Monitoring of Living Conditions of the Population
  - Statistical Survey of Income and Participation in Social Programs
  - Selective Observation of the Use of the Daily Fund of Time by the Population
  - Survey on the Quality and Accessibility of Services in Education and Employment, Medical and Social Services
- Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey
- Russian Generations and Gender Survey
- European Social Survey

We tried to:

- Include necessary questions in regular conducted surveys, like RLMS
- Include suitable indicators to Strategy, make them key indicators for the regions on some suitable social programs
A role AAI can play

- Visual structure of active ageing concept for policy makers
- Shift of the discussion from “burden” to “potential”, from one-dimensional to multi-dimensional perspective
- Tool for defining crucial operative directions
  – Gender disaggregation and estimations for different population groups (education level, income, residence area etc.)
  – International comparison for best practices extraction
  – Comparability for different time periods
- Inspire regular monitoring of elderly population, intergenerational relations, active ageing components
- Stimulate the engagement of new actors: business and nongovernmental organizations