The Ministerial Conference will be hosted by the Austrian government under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

It will take place in the “Aula der Wissenschaften” (Hall of Sciences), a historic building dating back to the 17th century, when it was used by the university. During the 18th century it housed the editorial department of “Wiener Zeitung” and the Austrian State Printing. After its renovation and restoration in 2003–2006, the premises retained its historic atmosphere, while adding modern elements such as spacious glass surfaces to create an ambiance of transparency. The Aula der Wissenschaften is an ideal place for the exchange of ideas, information and best practices and for the promotion of dialogue between all actors on national and international level.

Contact:

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Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Population Unit
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Conference website:

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Stubenring 1
1010 Wien / Austria
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Highlights from the Agenda

18 September 2012: Forums

The Civil Society Forum will discuss views, priorities and demands of civil society towards the Ministerial Conference and its outcome document.

The Research Forum will discuss how to strengthen links between policy and research to promote international synergistic collaboration between policy makers, researchers and civil society practitioners.

The forums will each conclude with declarations that will be presented at the Ministerial Conference to feed into the discussions there.

19-20 September 2012: Ministerial Conference

Overview of the ageing situation in the UNECE region and brief report on global progress in MIPAA implementation

Countries have submitted comprehensive national reports on progress and challenges in implementing each of the MIPAA/RIS commitments. The regional report highlighting trends across the UNECE region will be launched at the Ministerial Conference in Vienna.

Promoting longer working life and maintaining work ability

The panel will discuss social, political and cultural implications of increasing life expectancy and the extension of working lives, considering also the gender dimension. It will reflect on how the perception of being ‘old’ changes in the context of work and how to acknowledge the contributions of the older workforce in practice. What is needed to make working longer possible and attractive?

Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons

The panel will discuss ways to effectively promote essential components of the quality of life such as continuous labour market participation, active contribution to domestic tasks, active participation of older persons in political, social and community life and active leisure. The promotion of later-life learning as a facilitator of active ageing will be considered, as well as that of volunteering for realizing the potential of older women and men.

Creating an enabling environment for health, independence and ageing in dignity

The panel will consider policy strategies in support of active ageing and quality of life as people age. What health measures are useful throughout the life-course to prevent disability and to promote well-being in older age? How can older persons be empowered to live independently even if they are facing disability?

Dialogue between Ministers and Civil Society representatives

Stimulating intergenerational dialogue and solidarity between the generations: A shared responsibility

The focus will be on ageing as a life-course process, intergenerational reciprocity and measures to promote solidarity between generations. The panelists will review issues of social rights and obligations of younger and older people and how existing and potential conflicts can be resolved.

Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing - discussion and adoption of Ministerial Declaration

Ministers, executive heads of international organizations, researchers and civil society representatives will synthesize aspects discussed during the Conference as to their relevance for the future policy agenda in the region. This discussion will lead to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, the outcome document of the Conference that will shape activities for the five years to come.