

**Ensuring a society
for all ages:**

**PROMOTING QUALITY
OF LIFE AND ACTIVE AGEING**

UNECE 2012

Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria



Project Title:
**PREVENTING ELDER
ABUSE IN UKRAINE**
(EIDHR programme)

The Project description: The overall objective of this project is to improve the lives of vulnerable older people in Ukraine by raising awareness of their human rights, reducing the abuse of their rights, and mobilising older volunteers to defend their own human rights. This project is supported by the European Union.

The specific objectives are:

- * to achieve a once-for-all change in the national approach to identifying and safeguarding vulnerable adults in Ukraine, by gaining national legislative support for local multi-agency vulnerable adults' protection working groups;
- * to have elder abuse recognised as a human rights abuse by older people themselves, key stakeholders, society and legislation by raising awareness among the public, older people themselves, and key national stakeholders about human rights and elder abuse;
- * to establish vulnerable adults' protection working groups in Ukraine, composed of advocacy volunteers, police, health and social service representatives and other key stakeholders;
- * to protect older people from elder abuse in local areas by forming volunteer advocacy groups;

This is achieved by influencing national policy and changing national practice to introduce Vulnerable Adults' Protection Policies (VAPP). Older people's vulnerabilities should be recognised in law and in practice, and the use of VAPP is disseminated throughout Ukraine. Vulnerable adults' protection working groups are established in 19 local areas of Ukraine. These groups are composed of TLU volunteers, local stakeholders and service providers. They identify cases of abuse of vulnerable adults and establish action plans to protect vulnerable adults. The project also achieves greater awareness of elder abuse, older people's vulnerabilities, their human rights, and their potential contribution to society. It mobilises older volunteers to act as advocates on behalf of themselves and their peers.

Why is it considered a good practice: It is considered a good practice because elder volunteers form Vulnerable Adults' protection groups. They reveal elder abuse victims and/the older people suffering from abuse are referred to these groups by neighbours, friends, etc. The groups work in close contact with police and social services. Older volunteers are involved in the protection of their peers and efforts to combat it. They become strong advocates for meaningful action against elder abuse. This project helps us to raise awareness of elder abuse and stimulate public to actions on wider scale.

Timeline/duration of the project: Dec.2010 – Dec.2013

Lessons learnt: elder people prefer not to report the cases of abuse and only agree to speak about these problems with their peers. The only agency that can provide support to elder abuse victims is police, so the cooperation with police proved to be effective. Governmental social services are quite helpless and useless in these issues. Active involvement of elder people into elder abuse awareness actions may stimulate the government to improve the legislation.

Relevance for the UNECE region: So many elder people throughout the world suffer from ageism. The issues of elder abuse and age discrimination need immediate actions.

Location of the project: Ukraine

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