Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

Working Group on Ageing

Twelfth meeting
Geneva, 18 and 19 November 2019
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
**The WGA work programme for the
fourth implementation cycle of the
MIPAA/RIS in 2018-2022**

Proposed topics for future Policy Briefs on Ageing

Note by the Secretariat

I. Policy Briefs on Ageing 2009-2019

1.   The ECE series of Policy Briefs on Ageing provides information on policies and promotes exchange of good practice examples among member States addressing different areas of MIPAA/RIS. The Policy Briefs integrate a wealth of contributions and experiences from member States. Over the last ten years, ECE has published 22 issues in the Policy Briefs on Ageing series, with a further two briefs currently in preparation. The Policy Briefs have been translated into different national languages by member States (indicated in brackets):

1. Mainstreaming Ageing (EN, DE, RU, RS, ES, PT)
2. Gender Equality, work and old age (EN, DE, RU, RS, ES, PT)
3. Older persons as consumers (EN, DE, RU, RS, ES, PT)
4. Integration and participation of older persons in society (EN, DE, RU, RS, ES, PT)
5. Lifelong learning (EN, DE, RS, ES, PT)
6. Health Promotion and disease prevention (EN, DE, RS, ES, PT)
7. Towards community long-term care (EN, DE, RS, ES, PT)
8. Advancing intergenerational solidarity (EN, DE, ES, PT)
9. Age-friendly employment: policies and practices (EN, DE, ES, PT)
10. Tapping the potential of volunteering (EN, DE, ES, PT)
11. Cooperation on Ageing Policies in the UNECE region (EN, DE, ES, PT)
12. Images of older persons (EN, FR, DE, ES, PT)
13. Active ageing (EN, FR, DE, RU, ES, PT)
14. Abuse of older persons (EN, FR, DE, RU, ES, PT)
15. Innovative and empowering strategies of care (EN, DE, PT)

16. Dignity and non-discrimination for persons with dementia (EN, DE, ES, PT)
17. Migration and older age (EN, DE, PT)
18. Older persons in rural and remote areas (EN, DE, ES, PT)
19. Realizing the potential of living longer (EN, DE, PT)
20. Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age (EN, DE, PT)
21. Combating ageism in the world of work (EN, PT)
22. The challenging roles of informal carers (EN, DE, PT)
23. Gender equality in ageing societies (currently in preparation EN)
24. Ageing in smart and sustainable cities (currently in preparation EN)

II. Proposed topics for future Policy Briefs on Ageing

2. Taking into account the initial brainstorming on policy topics at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in November 2018, the following topics are proposed for future policy briefs in 2020/2021.

a. Policy Brief No. 25 - Older Persons in Emergency Situations (2020)

3. The topic of older persons in emergency situations was ranked first among a number of proposed topics during working group meeting in 2018. It is therefore proposed to develop the next policy brief in line in 2020 on this topic. A first outline will be discussed during the group discussions on Monday 18 November 2019.

b. Policy Brief No. 26: Ageing in the Digital Era (2020/2021)

4. During the discussions at the Working Group Meeting in 2018, age-friendly technologies, digitalization and e-government were considered important topics. We would like to propose to consider them together in a policy brief on the topic of ageing in the digital era.

5. New technology and digital services affect key areas of every-day lives such as healthcare, social life, leisure, administrative issues and autonomy. As an increasing number of services is digitalized, older persons, who may not be familiar with new technologies, can be excluded. Overreliance on technology may create new forms of segregation and neglect, as assistive technology cannot fully substitute for human care. On the other hand, individual care can be enhanced and supported through the use of assistive technologies and interaction with older persons with cognitive impairments can be facilitated. Technology in general may improve access to information and allow to take part in leisure activities. A major challenge is the so-called digital divide within a population that exists due to differing degrees of knowledge in technology. Particularly older persons are more often unfamiliar with new technologies and/or may not have access to computers and the Internet and may therefore not be able to access services that are completely digitalized. Therefore, solutions need to be discussed to ensure that older persons are protected against the risks and can enjoy the benefits of new technologies in a digitalized world.

c. Policy Brief No. 27: Mainstreaming Ageing in the UNECE region (2021)

6. Building on the stocktaking of the state of age mainstreaming in the UNECE region and the development of guidelines on mainstreaming ageing by the UNECE Working Group on Ageing in 2020, a policy brief on the topic could be developed in 2021 summarizing the main challenges and sharing examples of key policy strategies developed in the region. This brief would update the very first policy brief on this topic published in 2009 and provide a valuable input to the 4th review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the UNECE region.