

**2020 evaluation of the Population component of the Housing, Land
Management and Population subprogramme of UNECE**

**Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the
2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments**

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

**Prepared by Tatjana Shikoska
Consultant**

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAI: Active Ageing Index

GA: General Assembly

GGP: Generations and Gender Programme

CSOs: Civil Society organizations

EC: European Commission

ECOSOC- Economic and Social Council

ECV: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna

EU: European Union

ILCGA: International Federation of Social Workers, International Longevity Centre, Global Alliance

ILO: International Labour Organization

INPEA: International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

LFM: Logical Framework Matrix

MIPAA: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

NFPA: National Focal Points on Ageing

NGOs: Non-governmental organizations

OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation in Europe

OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights

RBM: Results based management

RIS: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SWGAs: Standing Working Group on Ageing

ToRs: Terms of Reference

UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNDESA: United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

XB: Extra-budgetary

WGA: Working Group on Ageing

WG: Working Group

WHO: World Health Organization

UN: United Nations

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I want to thank them all for their collaboration, support in gathering information, and provision of especially useful comments and recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose, scope, and evaluation methodology:

Over May to September 2020 period, an evaluation of the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of UNECE work in advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS, 2002) was conducted. The evaluation explored the activities of the Population subprogramme during the period from September 2016 to September 2020. A summative, mixed evaluation method was used, assessing the extent to which the programme objectives and deliverables are relevant, coherent, and effective in achieving the desired impact, and if they were accomplished in an efficient way. The methodology used was gender-responsive, seeking evidence on the extent to which gender issues were integrated in the work programmes and in their implementation.

The evaluation draws on a broad range of information sources and is based on numerous empirical analyses and extensive stakeholder feedback. Three main evaluation methods were employed: desk review of relevant documents, semi-structured interviews with key informants, and an online Survey. A total of 24 programme and other related documents were reviewed, and 34 semi-structured interviews were conducted. An anonymous, online survey administered through Survey Monkey was completed by 44 relevant stakeholders. For the primary sources of information, subjective sampling of interviewees was done, based on their involvement in the work of the Population Unit and the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA).¹ Quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the desk review, interviews and the Survey was examined using content analysis. Evidence gathered was reviewed and coded in accordance with the questions contained in the Evaluation Matrix. To ensure the quality of the analysis, triangulation and validation of findings were undertaken from all sources including the documents, interviews, and the Survey.

Main evaluation findings and recommendations:

1. Overall, the work performed by the Standing Working Group on Ageing and the Population Unit is highly relevant, effective, needed and in line with the demographic priorities in the region. The evaluation found significant evidence that national governments find relevant the opportunity to meet in the framework of the SWGA, exchange information and good practices and learn from experiences of other countries, and to receive a direct technical and capacity enhancement support from the SWGA and the Population Unit.

Three main deliverables of the Population Unit were signaled out as highly relevant and effective – Policy Briefs, Active Ageing Index, and the Roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing in national policies. However, the evaluation revealed that the current modality of MIPAA/RIS periodic review process may not provide sufficient leverage to strengthen accountability of governments for the implementation of the international commitments on ageing. Therefore, member States through the SWGA, are encouraged to address the issue in line with the

¹ The Report uses the short acronym WGA but refers to the now renamed Standing Working Group on Ageing

governing rules and regulations of the UN. It also showed that the Population Unit should consider ways to make its mayor products - the Active Ageing Index and the Policy Briefs – better aligned to the needs of policy makers.

2. The evaluation documented a few areas where the work of the Population Unit and the SWGA has had important impact in advancing national efforts to address the ageing issues, resulting in an increase in the number of member States that have adopted and/or adjusted their policies to align them with the MIPAA/RIS. To date, 39 countries have mainstreamed ageing in their policies, thus meeting the targets of the subprogramme’s objective. This attests to the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the support provided by the subprogramme to the intergovernmental efforts to mainstream ageing in relevant policy fields. Enhancing further the effectiveness of the work performed by the Population Unit and the SWGA is however recommended, as contained in the specific recommendations below.

3. Gender issues addressed by the SWGA and the Population Unit are considered relevant and their effects on national policymaking effective. Yet, despite the inherent gender aspects in the issue of ageing, programme documents do not spell out clearly gender results and indicators, signaling the need to further improve gender mainstreaming efforts in the programme documents of the Population Unit. Likewise, issues related to vulnerable groups are sufficiently addressed by the SWGA and the Population Unit, but further clarification regarding the concept of “vulnerable groups” is needed.

4. The coherence of the work of the SWGA and the Population Unit with the 2030 Agenda, the UN agencies, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as among member States on ageing issues, was validated. UNECE’s role to mobilize the intergovernmental process, reach out to member States, and provide a platform for regional cooperation, has been an enabling factor for partner agencies to build upon it and carry their ageing-related work at national level. Certain limitations to an effective coordination and emerging requirements for practical tools to enable better linkages of the MIPAA/RIS commitments with the SDG’s monitoring and reporting framework were identified and should be consequently addressed.

5. The evaluation confirmed that the expected specific outputs and activities of the Unit were implemented as planned, with small variations resulting from factors outside of control of the Unit, but closely related to the prevailing modality of implementation of their work - use of external expertise through consultants due to staff shortage. Moreover, it showed that programme activities were implemented in an efficient way. However, the evaluation confirmed that the current staffing and financial situation of the Population Unit is of concern, as it limits their capacity to expand their programme to meet the demands posed by the growing relevance of the issue of ageing. Moreover, it confirmed that in the long run, such situation is unsustainable, and should be carefully addressed by the UNECE.

Recommendations for action:

1. **Enhance the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of the SWGA** by strengthening the political will among member States to support the UNECE work on ageing through active

engagement with the Permanent Missions in Geneva and by seeking ways to actively engage more NFPA in the activities of the Working Group.

2. Strengthen the relevance of the MIPAA/RIS review process to become a stronger accountability mechanism for governments, including by engaging in further discussion on the subject at the SWGA and make a concerted decision on the future modality of the periodic review process, based on the needs and realities of member States, with due respect to the guiding rules and regulations of the United Nations.

3. Make effort to include gender and vulnerability issues in the programming cycle in a more systematic manner, including through mainstreaming of these issues in the situation analysis and integration of specific gender-sensitive results and performance measures, as well as clarify what the concept of “vulnerable groups” includes and reflect this in the future programme documents.

4. Ensure greater coherence on ageing issues at national and regional levels by strengthening the linkages between 2030 Agenda and the SDG ‘s reporting frameworks with MIPAA/RIS commitments, including through promotion of the use of age-specific indicators in the SDGs monitoring and reporting frameworks, and provision of practical tools and advice on doing so. In pursuing greater coherence with the 2030 Agenda, the Population Unit should seek stronger collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator’s offices at national level as well as with the Geneva-based Interagency Working Group on Ageing.

5. Further improve the relevance and effectiveness of some of its major deliverables, such as the AAI and the Policy Briefs to mitigate the identified shortcomings and ensure that they support policy-making processes at national level.

6. Mitigate the negative staffing and budget situation of the Population Unit, including by:
a) being more assertive in the approach with donors, to ensure funding of extra-budgetary projects that include financial allocations for additional staff; and b) fill in the staffing gap by either ensuring that the current P-2 post is upgraded to P-3 and/or facilitate additional staff from other UNECE Units to support the Population Unit for a suitable period of time to help the Unit fundraise and develop new XB projects.

I. PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

The mandate of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on population and ageing issues stems from a number of the General Assembly resolutions and internationally endorsed policy frameworks, notably the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)², the Regional Implementation Strategy For The Madrid International Plan of Action On Ageing 2002 (RIS)³ and number of other relevant Ministerial Declarations.⁴

The UNECE is mandated to facilitate the periodic MIPAA review and appraisal exercises at the regional level. It does so through the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGGA)⁵ established in 2008 following the 2007 León Ministerial Conference on Ageing. As of 24 July 2020, its Terms of Reference (ToRs) have been revised and the name changed to a Standing Working Group on Ageing (ECOSOC resolution 2020/19).⁶ The WGA is an intergovernmental body acting as a regional platform for international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion, meeting annually to follow up on progress in the implementation of the relevant policy commitments. As stipulated in its initial Terms of Reference for the WGA (ToRs) (para.5), the aims of the Working Group are (a) to contribute to the effective implementation of commitments taken by member States at international meetings on ageing, particularly the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing ; (b) to provide direction and guidance to the UNECE work in the field of ageing; (c) to promote international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries; (d) to promote awareness of ageing and its implications throughout the UNECE region; (e) to create synergies within and outside UNECE.

The WGA cooperates and determines its activities in close contact with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing, to avoid duplication, and to focus on challenges of specific interest to UNECE member States (para. 7).

To facilitate the work of the WGA, the UNECE, through its Population Unit consisting of two professional posts and one general service post, acts as its Secretariat, coordinates, and supports relevant intergovernmental efforts, including monitoring of MIPAA/RIS. Since 2015, the work related to the implementation of the MIPAA/RIS commitments is closely linked to the

² United Nations, Political Declaration and Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, 2002 available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/MIPAA/political-declaration-en.pdf>

³ United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, Regional Implementation Strategy For The Madrid International Plan Of Action On Ageing 2002, 2002, available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/unece-ris.pdf>

⁴ Annex 1 of this Report contains relevant documents from which the legislative mandate of the population subprogramme emanates.

⁵ The WGA was established by the Executive Committee of the UNECE in 2008 and its mandate valid for the evaluation period is contained in ECE/EX2018/L.1. In 2019, the revised Terms of Reference of the WGA (ECE/EX/2019/L.1) were approved by the 68th session of the Economic Commission for Europe and endorsed in July 2020 by ECOSOC resolution 2020/19.

⁶ The Report uses the short acronym – WGA- as at the time of its drafting the ECOSOC Resolution 2020/19 was not adopted. However, it refers to the now renamed Standing Working Group on Ageing

implementation of relevant commitments as contained in the 2030 Agenda⁷ and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16.

As the Population Unit services the WGA, its primary responsibility rests in enhancing national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations. As such, the Unit supports countries in adjusting to demographic changes to enable full realization of the potential of living longer. It does so by undertaking activities aimed at achieving the objectives contained in the relevant international documents on ageing and as stipulated in the medium-term and annual priorities established by the WGA. Hence, the work programmes and plans of the Population Unit are adopted by the WGA and approved by the General Assembly (GA) through the biennial (until 2018-2019) and annual programme budgets.

The main activities of the Population Unit aim to provide a platform for and to facilitate intergovernmental policy debate and development of policy documents on matters relating to ageing and demographic change. In addition, the Unit organizes policy seminars and discussions, engages in production of policy briefs and roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing, capacity building and awareness raising, and facilitating of the appraisal and monitoring of MIPAA/RIS and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)⁸.

During the evaluation period (September 2016 – September 2020), the Population Unit has planned its activities in line with the WGA work plans, following the priorities of the MIPAA/RIS implementation cycle. They are contained in two biennial programmes of work 2016-2017 and 2018 - 2019, and the annual work plan for 2020. The focus during the evaluation period has been to meet the objectives of the MIPAA/RIS and the goals contained in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration.⁹

To achieve its objectives and outputs contained in the programme planning documents in a coherent manner, the Population Unit is expected to cooperate and coordinate its activities with other United Nations agencies, international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing and demographic change in general.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

2.1. Purpose of the Evaluation

According to the Terms of Reference (ToRs), (see Annex 1), “the purpose of this evaluation is to review the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of

⁷ United Nations, General Assembly, A/RES/70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015, available at: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁸ UNFPA, Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, available at: https://unfpa.org/sites/default/files/event-pdf/PoA_en.pdf

⁹ UNECE, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”, 2017, available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Documents/2017_Lisbon_Ministerial_Declaration.pdf

UNECE work in advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration on ‘Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer’ and the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS, 2002)”. Specifically, the evaluation explored the activities of the Population Unit during the period from September 2016 to September 2020 that support the programme of the UNECE WGA aimed at implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments.

In line with the United Nations Evaluation Group’s revised gender-related norms and standards for evaluation, the evaluation integrated the principles of human rights and gender equality, thus exploring the extent to which gender and human rights were included in the programme planning, design and implementation.

2.2. Scope of the evaluation and evaluation questions

According to the ToRs,¹⁰ the evaluation was guided by the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact.

Table 1. below, summarizes the main evaluation criteria and key evaluation questions guiding this evaluation.

Table 1. Key evaluation criteria and questions as per the ToRs

Criteria	Main questions
Relevance	<p>1. Is the work of the UNECE Population subprogramme relevant for advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments? Is the Programme of Work relevant to attaining the 2030 Agenda?</p> <p>2. How relevant are the activities with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?</p> <p>3. Does the Population subprogramme incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups in its work? Is disability inclusion mainstreamed in the activities of the subprogramme?</p>
Coherence	<p>4. How coherent is the collaboration with other entities (United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia, etc.) in delivering on expected accomplishment and mandated outputs?</p> <p>5. How coherent are the methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS?</p> <p>6. What outcomes have been achieved through the collaboration with partners (expected/unexpected, positive/negative), in the activities of the sub-programme? Could this engagement with partners and various stakeholder groups be improved?</p> <p>7. To which extent a human-rights based approach and gender mainstreaming were incorporated in the undertaken activities?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>8. Does the subprogramme contribute to member States’ attainment of their commitments under the MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration?</p> <p>9. To what extent did the undertaken activities contribute to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments?</p> <p>10. To what extent did the work on the Active Ageing Index and support for the Generations and Gender Programme contribute to evidence building for policymaking in the area of ageing?</p> <p>11. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the objectives and expected accomplishments set forth?</p>
Efficiency	<p>12. Were there sufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes, including in a timely manner?</p> <p>13. Have the available resources been used efficiently to deliver expected outputs?</p>
Sustainability	<p>14. What is the likelihood that the benefits of the Population subprogramme’s activities will persist over time?</p>

¹⁰ See Annex 1 of this Report

	15. To what extent do member States and broader stakeholder groups engage with the population subprogramme’s work in an enduring way?
Impact	16. Has the Population subprogramme work led to an increased number of member States adopting comprehensive policies on ageing and/or adjusting existing programmes to align with the MIPAA/RIS, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, and 2030 Agenda? 17. Has the national capacity for monitoring and assessment of such policy measures improved as a result? 18. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to enhancement of gender equality and empowerment of (older) women and men in all dimensions of development? 19. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups?

3. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1. Evaluation Strategy and methods

In line with the specific purpose, scope and expected results contained in the ToRs, this evaluation was conducted using summative, mixed evaluation methodology, based on a strategy focusing on the outcomes/accomplishments of the work undertaken during 2016-2020 and on the delivery of the specific programme outputs.

The evaluation assessed the extent to which specific objectives/outcomes were accomplished in efficient and effective way. These objectives are contained in the approved work programmes of the WGA and the Population Unit. The evaluation also looked at the extent to which the achieved accomplishments are relevant, coherent, and effective in achieving the desired impact as contained in the MIPAA, RIS and other relevant Ministerial Declarations. Likewise, the evaluation ensured that the methodology used was gender-responsive, seeking evidence on the extent to which gender issues were integrated in the work programmes and their implementation.

In line with the above evaluation strategy, and as a first step of the process, the intervention logic of the Population Unit’s programmes was reconstructed, based on the review of the key programming documents. The main objectives, accomplishments, outputs, and activities, together with the indicators and performance measures were identified. Consequently, the extent to which the planned deliverables and outputs were achieved was determined based on material evidence as contained in the programme implementation Reports, triangulated by additional information obtained through targeted interviews with relevant stakeholders and a Survey, as elaborated below.

a. Desk-review of relevant documents

- a) a systematic in-depth desk study of relevant planning and programming documents for the period of September 2016-September 2020.
- b) a systematic in-depth desk study of relevant Reports on the implementation of the annual and bi-annual work programmes of the Population subprogramme and of the Working Group on Ageing for the same period.

c) Review of all relevant international frameworks and documents including the MIPAA, RIS and relevant Ministerial Declarations, General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Executive Committee of the UNECE Resolutions and Decisions.

d) Review of relevant independent and self-evaluations of the Population subprogramme activities falling within this evaluation period.

During this evaluation, a total of 24 programme documents were reviewed. The List of documents reviewed is contained in **Annex 2** of this Report.

b. Semi-structured Interviews with relevant stakeholders

During the period of July 13th to August 25th, a total of 34 semi-structured interviews were conducted (see **Annex 3 of this Report – List of Interviewed Persons**) as follows:

a) Semi-structured interviews with 4 staff members of the UNECE, to obtain information on the programme planning, implementation, and monitoring and on the challenges faced during the implementation period.

b) Semi-structured interviews with 16 current and former members of the Bureau of the WGA were conducted, to obtain more information on the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the work performed by the Population Unit on the achievement of the Work Plans of the Working Group;

c) Semi-structured interviews with 14 key partners from other UN organizations and agencies, and representatives of academia and non-governmental organizations working closely with the Population Unit were conducted, to obtain more information on the level of collaboration, synergies and effectiveness of the work of the Population Unit and how coherent that is with the objectives of achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDG's.

c. Survey of key stakeholders

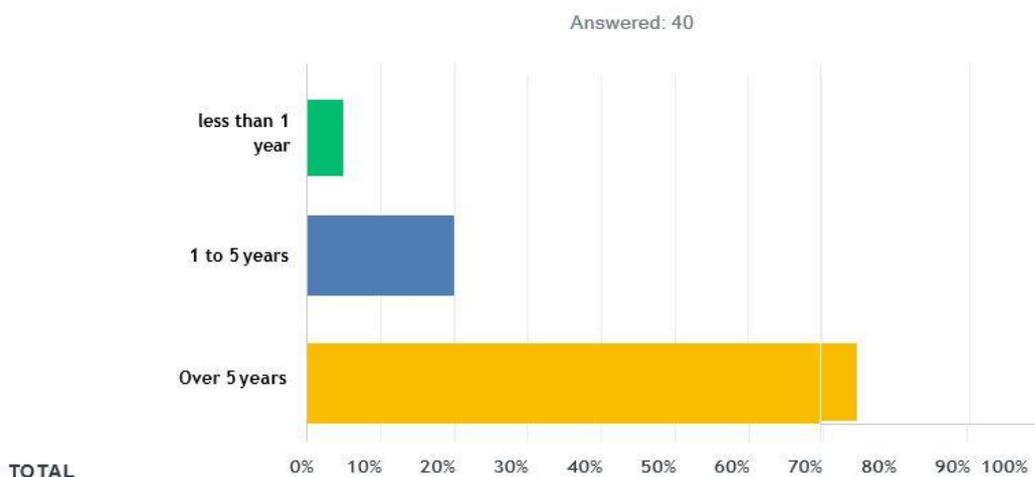
An anonymous, online survey administered through Survey Monkey was conducted during the period of July 6 to July 30, 2020. A tailored questionnaire of open and closed-ended questions aimed at assessing the views of stakeholders on relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the work on ageing of the Population Unit was conducted in order to triangulate the findings of the desk review and the interviews. The responses to the Survey are contained in **Annex 4 of this Report**.

A total of 44 relevant stakeholders took the Survey. Of those, 22 respondents are/were National Focal Points on Ageing, 7 are staff members of UN agencies, 3 are members of International Non-governmental organizations, 6 are members of National Non-governmental organizations, 4 are members of the research/academia, and 2 respondents are former employees of the above organizations or members of the Bureau of the WGA.

Of those respondents, the majority (75%) have worked on ageing issues over five years, while only 5% have been involved in the issue for less than a year (see **Figure 1** below).

Figure 1. Years of engagement on ageing issues

Q2 How many years have you worked on ageing issues in your organization/institution?



Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

Of those National Focal Points on Ageing that took the Survey, 64% have been engaged in the activities of the WGA between 1-5 years, while 27% of them have been so over 5 years.

d) Sampling and data analysis

As indicated above, secondary data was obtained from the desk review of documents, using purposive sampling, to identify the main programme deliverables planned and achieved during the evaluation period.

Primary data was collected through the semi-structured interviews and the Survey. For the primary sources of information, subjective sampling of interviewees was done, based on discussions with the staff of the UNECE Population Unit. The criteria for sampling was based on a) interviewees' involvement in the work of the population Unit, notably the members of the Bureau of the WGA and representatives of the WGA, and b) the extent of involvement of different institutions/organizations in contributing to the delivery of the population Unit, notably select UN Agencies (UNFPA, ILO, OHCHR, UNDESA and WHO), EC, academia and NGO's.

Quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the desk review, interviews and the Survey was analyzed using content analysis, and is structured around the main evaluation criteria and questions contained in the ToRs. Evidence from documents, key informant interviews and the Survey was reviewed and coded in accordance with the questions contained in the Evaluation Matrix.

To ensure the quality of the analysis, triangulation and validation of findings were undertaken from all sources including the documents, interviews, and the Survey.

e) Evaluation limitations

Since the evaluation was carried out during the summer months, lower response rate to the online Survey was expected. To mitigate the potential negative effect of this, the Survey was open during extended period, namely from July 6, 2020 to July 31, 2020. Number of follow-up e-mails were sent to targeted responders to ensure higher response rate. As a result, out of the targeted 87 respondents, just over 50% of them took the Survey (44 total responses). Likewise, the interview period with relevant stakeholders was extended until August 25th, to adjust to the demands of respondents that were unavailable for interview during the month of July 2020, as initially planned.

3.2. Evaluation timeframe

Following the contract signature, a kick-off meeting was organized through Skype on 20 May 2020. The kick-off meeting was held with the two staff members working in the Population Unit. The work plan for the achievement of the results and the strategy to do so was discussed and the timetable for the evaluation was agreed. However, as noted above, to ensure maximum response rate and relevant data, the evaluation schedule was adjusted as follows:

27 May 2020 - Desk review of all documents provided by UNECE to the evaluator

12 June 2020 - Delivery of draft Inception report, including design of the data collection instruments

19 June 2020 - Feedback on the Inception report by the Programme manager

6-31 July 2020 - Online Survey

13 July-20 August 2020 - Conducting interviews

3 -28 August 2020 - Analysis of data and Report drafting

28 August 2020 - Draft Report sent to Programme Manager

4 September 2020 - Comments to evaluator after review by PM and PMU

18 September 2020 - Final Report submission

3.4. Evaluation Matrix

Based on the evaluation criteria and the specific question for each criterion provided in the ToRs for this evaluation, an Evaluation Matrix was constructed containing the key evaluation questions, the proposed methods for data collection and expected evaluation challenges. The Evaluation Matrix is contained in **Annex 5** of this Report.

The analysis of data and the main findings of the evaluation with corresponding recommendations are presented for each evaluation criteria, and as per the key evaluation issue addressed by the evaluation questions, as contained in **Table 2** below.

Table 2. Presentation of the evaluation findings

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Issue
Relevance	R.1. Advancing intergovernmental efforts to attain the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration/MIPAA/RIS and the 2030 Agenda commitments
	R.2. Advancing gender equality/empowerment of women
	R.3. Advancing the issues of vulnerable groups and persons with disability
Coherence	C.1. Collaboration with other entities (United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia, etc.) in delivering on expected accomplishment and mandated outputs. C.1.1. specific outcome achieved C.1.2. human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming integrated
	C.2. Coherence of the methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS
Effectiveness	E.1. Contributing to Member States' attainment of MIPAA/RIS/ Lisbon Ministerial Declaration commitments E.2. Contributing to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments E.3. Contribution of the AAI and the support for the GGP to evidence building for policymaking in the area of ageing
Efficiency of	Ef.1. Use of available resources to deliver expected outputs
Sustainability	S.1. Persistence over time of the benefits of the Population subprogramme's activities
	S.2. Engagement with member States and broader stakeholder groups
Impact	I.1. Increasing the number of member States adopting/adjusting policies to align with the MIPAA/RIS, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, and 2030 Agenda
	I.2. Increasing national capacity for monitoring and assessment of ageing related policies
	I.3. Enhancing gender equality and empowerment of (older) women and men
	I.4. Enhancing a change in the situation of the most vulnerable groups

II. Evaluation Findings

4. The Intervention Logic of the Population Subprogramme 2016-2020

The main purpose of the desk review during the inception period was to reconstruct the intervention logic of the programme - objectives, accomplishments, outputs, activities and inputs for the period under evaluation and to preliminary assess the extent to which the evaluation criteria are being met. By laying down and describing the theoretical links between the international/regional commitments on ageing and the practical results planned and accomplished by the Population subprogramme, the intervention logic described below, served as the basis upon which the evaluation sought to answer the evaluation questions and provide qualitative and quantitative evidence to support the assessment.

4.1. The mandate of the Population subprogramme

The mandate of the Population subprogramme is based on the international normative framework related to the issue of ageing.

a) The **2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)**¹¹, sets s the international commitments on the ageing issue and “is intended to be a practical tool to assist policy makers to focus on the key priorities associated with individual and population ageing” (para.10).¹² The MIPAA recommends number of actions, organized in three priority directions, priority issues and specific objectives. These are contained in the **Table 3, Annex 4** of this Report. For each objective, there are recommended actions to be taken by governments to address the identified issues and achieve the agreed objectives.

Global and regional review of the progress in the implementation of the MIPAA is conducted every five years, with the third one taking place in 2017, while the fourth is under preparations.

According to MIPAA, the international community should address issues affecting older persons in three priority directions:

1. Older persons and development: a) work and the ageing labour force; b) rural development, migration and urbanization; c) access to knowledge, education and training; d) intergenerational solidarity; d) eradication of poverty; e) income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention; and f) emergency situations

¹¹ A/Conf.197/9, Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing Madrid, 8-12 April 2002, available at:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/mica2002/documents/Madrid2002Report.pdf>

¹² Number of central priorities and issues constitute the basis of the MIPAA, including “(a) The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons; (b) The achievement of secure ageing, which involves reaffirming the goal of eradicating poverty in old age and building on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons; (c) Empowerment of older persons to fully and effectively participate in the economic, political and social lives of their societies, including through income generating and voluntary work; (d) Provision of opportunities for individual development, self-fulfillment and well-being throughout life as well as in late life, through, for example, access to lifelong learning and participation in the community while recognizing that older persons are not one homogenous group; (e) Ensuring the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights of persons and the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against older persons;(f) Commitment to gender equality among older persons through, inter alia, elimination of gender-based discrimination; (g) Recognition of the crucial importance of families, intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development; (h) Provision of health care, support and social protection for older persons, including preventive and rehabilitative health care; (i) Facilitating partnership between all levels of government, civil society, the private sector and older persons themselves in translating the International Plan of Action into practical action; (j) Harnessing of scientific research and expertise and realizing the potential of technology to focus on, inter alia, the individual, social and health implications of ageing, in particular in developing countries; (k) Recognition of the situation of ageing indigenous persons, their unique circumstances and the need to seek means to give them an effective voice in decisions directly affecting them.”

2. Advancing health and well-being into old age: a) health promotion and well-being throughout life; b) universal and equal access to health-care services; c) older persons and HIV/AIDS; d) training of care providers and health professionals; e) mental health needs of older persons; e) older persons and disabilities.

3. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments: a) housing and the living environment; b) care and support for caregivers; c) neglect, abuse, and violence; and d) images of ageing.

These three commitments are in fact the longer-term goals that should be achieved at global level, while the priority issues are the specific objectives through which the goals should be achieved.

b) The **Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**¹³ of 2002 is the key normative framework guiding the work of the UNECE and the Population subprogramme in the area of ageing, as it identifies the issues and sets the objectives to meet the specific challenges of ageing in the UNECE region.

The RIS notes the importance of mainstreaming ageing across all policy fields (paragraph 2. of the first commitment), as *“a prerequisite to securing gender-sensitive and evidence-based coordinated and integrated policies to bring societies and economies into harmony with demographic change”*. Furthermore, the RIS, (paragraph 4) states that a strategy of mainstreaming ageing in all policies *“will facilitate the development of appropriate policy tools to cope with present and future ageing challenges by collecting and disseminating the best knowledge and evidence-based practices available in the region about adequate policy responses to ageing. The strategy must reflect the variety of social, political, economic and demographic situations within the UNECE region”*.

The RIS spells out specifically the role and tasks of the UNECE Secretariat, and hence the Population subprogramme. While in paragraph 95 it states that the *“UNECE member States have the primary responsibility for the implementation and follow up of the RIS”*, in paragraph 96, it notes that *“the UNECE secretariat will provide government delegations with information on relevant implementation activities, and could suggest to member States specific priority issues to be analyzed, and when appropriate, issue guidelines for reporting requirements in the follow-up process”*.

c) The **2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration 2017 “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer”**,¹⁴ represents the main framework for programme planning for the period 2018-2022. The Declaration reaffirmed the commitments of the UNECE member States as contained in the Berlin Ministerial Declaration (2002), the León (2007) and Vienna (2012) Ministerial Declarations, which in turn provide a blueprint for the

¹³ Economic and social Council, /AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6 11 September 2002, Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing Berlin (Germany), 11-13 September 2002

¹⁴ UNECE, 2017, 2017 LISBON MINISTERIAL DECLARATION “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” 22 September 2017, Accessed at: http://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Documents/2017_Lisbon_Ministerial_Declaration.pdf

achievement of the objectives set in the RIS and the MIPAA. It contains three overarching goals:

- 1. Recognizing the potential of older persons.**
- 2. Encouraging longer working life and ability to work.**
- 3. Ensuring ageing with dignity.**

The Declaration, while noting important progress in advancing the rights of the older persons in many member States in the region, in its paragraphs 6 and 7, notes that that *“some UNECE member States have still to develop more comprehensive policy responses to the individual and societal needs of ageing populations, while other member States need to secure or enhance the existing access of older persons to adequate social protection and well-functioning systems of health and long-term care including access to advanced treatments offered by medical progress. [Member States...] are also cognizant that policies on health and welfare of older persons need to be complemented with measures aimed at empowering older persons, particularly older women, safeguarding their dignity and preventing all forms of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect”*.

The Lisbon Declaration, in its paragraph 10, states that *“to foster the implementation of UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the fourth cycle from 2017 to 2021, we stress the importance of further mainstreaming ageing into relevant policy areas and combating ageism in its many forms. We stand together in reaffirming the commitment to designing and implementing integrated policies for active and healthy ageing, where older persons are continuously recognized as an asset for a sustainable and inclusive society for all ages”*

Of importance for the programming process of the Population subprogramme for the period 2018-2022 are the final remarks of the Lisbon Declaration, which stipulate that the development and implementation of the policies on ageing should be a shared responsibility of governments, policy makers, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations (para.33), and that there is a need for research and improved data for monitoring and evaluating ageing-related policies (para.34). Furthermore, the document states that to ensure policy coherence, the relationship between the issue of ageing and the 2030 Agenda should be acknowledged (para. 35), while also acknowledging the adoption of the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health is adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2016, which calls for developing age-friendly environments and health systems that meet the needs of older populations (para.37).

The work of the UNECE WGA is acknowledged, as well as is *“the need to explore the possibility of a resource-neutral transformation of the Working Group on Ageing to a standing sectoral committee without prejudice to the work of the UNECE in other areas of its mandate”* (para.38). Likewise, in paragraph 39, the Declaration expresses appreciation for the *“role of the UNECE secretariat and other stakeholders in assisting member States in implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA and the goals of the Ministerial Declaration 2017 through, inter alia, the support provided for developing national capacities on ageing.”*

In summary, the above documents provide the general framework for the development of the work programmes of the WGA and consequently the Population Unit of the UNECE. To understand better the policy priorities for the UNECE region for the period under evaluation, the linkages and interconnectedness of the commitments, policy objectives and policy goals as contained in the RIS and the Lisbon Declaration have been assessed during this inception phase. **Table 5, in Annex 6** provides a summary of these policy objectives and commitments.

These policy commitments, policy goals and objectives represent the starting point for this evaluation. Hence the desk review was guided by the hypothesis that the objective and accomplishments of the Population Unit, as contained in its work programmes, are conducive to the achievement of the RIS/Lisbon goals and objectives and contribute to their achievement.

4.2. Population subprogramme strategic framework, key objectives, and results 2016-2020

4.2.1. The WGA work plans

WGA's work programmes are planned annually in addition to their mid-term plans as per MIPAA/RIS implementation cycle. For the current evaluation exercise, two mid-term programmes of work are reviewed: 2014 - 2017 and 2018 - 2020, corresponding to the third and fourth implementation cycles of MIPAA/RIS.

2014-2017

The WGA work programme for the third cycle of MIPAA/RIS (2014-2017) is contained in the document ECE/WG.1/2013/2.¹⁵ It identifies four major goals that require reinforced action during this implementation cycle:

1. Encourage longer working life and maintain ability to work
2. Promote participation, non-discrimination, and social inclusion of older persons
3. Promote and safeguard dignity, health, and independence in older age
4. Maintain and enhance intergenerational solidarity.

These goals are also in line with the policy goals set in the Vienna Ministerial Declaration and contribute to the achievement of the MIPAA/RIS objectives.

The work programme identifies the main deliverables and activities for the period, including:

- ✓ policy briefs on specific topic emanating from the Vienna Conference,
- ✓ road maps for mainstreaming ageing,
- ✓ capacity-building workshops, with priority given to the national and sub-regional workshops that focus on specific challenges in the implementation of the goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration,
- ✓ monitoring activities of MIPAA/RIS implementation,

¹⁵ ECE/WG.1/2013/2, Economic Commission for Europe, Working Group, Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its Sixth Meeting on Ageing Geneva, 25 and 26 November 2013
Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its Sixth Meeting

- ✓ continuation of the Active Ageing Index, and
- ✓ continuation of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), this being an important source of evidence for policymaking and monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration.

2018-2022

The programme of work of the WGA on the fourth implementation cycle are contained in document /WG.1/2018/RD2 (annex to ECE/WG.1/2018/2).¹⁶ It responds to the main goals set in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and aims to align itself with the priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as relevant. Similarly, to the work previous mid-term programme, the core activities of the WGA (policy briefs, road maps for mainstreaming ageing, capacity-building workshops and monitoring of MIPAA/RIS implementation) will continue to be implemented throughout the fourth implementation cycle, and supplemented by new programme elements, such as policy seminars and in depth discussions on issues emanating from the three main goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration. Inter-agency coordination and inclusion of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the activities will be continued to regular communication and exchange on activities at the international level.

As in the previous work programme, the achievement of the above three goals will be done through specific accomplishments and outputs. In this mid-term plan, however, it is clearly stated that policy seminars and in-depths discussions to be organized back-to-back with the annual meetings of the WGA, based on expert papers that should draw on the survey-based research such as the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) and the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and that at least one policy brief per year prepared by the UNECE secretariat should include a gender perspective and sex and age-disaggregated data. Likewise, it clearly articulates the need to align the roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing with the national objectives for the achievement of the SDGs and to develop Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing in the relevant policy areas, integrating the objectives of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The plan includes the preparations for the fourth cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation, including preparation of draft Reporting guidelines for Member States (2019) to be disseminated by the Bureau after its meeting in spring 2020.

It is important to note that both strategic documents note that the activities stipulated in the work programme of the WGA as well as servicing of their meetings and the meetings of the Bureau are to be carried out by the Population Unit in the Statistics Division of the UNECE Secretariat (ECE/EX/2008/L.11).¹⁷ Yet, to support the programme activities related to capacity

¹⁶ ECE/WG.1/2018/1 “The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing”¹⁶ adopted at the 11th meeting of the WGA held in Geneva in 2018.

¹⁷ ECE/EX/2008/L.11, Economic Commission for Europe, 2008, decision on matters relating to UNECE work on population, Establishment of the working group on ageing, Note by the Secretariat

development for ageing-related policymaking and a more effective implementation of MIPAA/RIS, Member States agreed to establish an Ageing Fund for voluntary contributions.

As per the approved regular budget for the UNECE Secretariat, only two professional posts in the unit are funded from it, limiting the capacity to successfully implement a range of activities contained in the in the proposed programme of work. Hence, the document highlights the need for seeking extrabudgetary resources “*to hire consultants and finance travel for experts and meeting participants from low-income countries,*” and calls upon members of the Working Group to pledge financial resources and offer in-kind contributions in support of the programmes of work for 2014–2017 and 2018-2022.

The annual work priorities for the WGA are contained in the WGA meeting reports. Their review shows that they are aligned with the approved programme of work of the Population subprogrammes for 2016-2017 and 2018–2019¹⁸ as presented below.

4.2.2. The Population subprogramme work plans 2016-2020

The principle policy directive for programme planning of the UNECE is contained in the Strategic Framework set by the intergovernmental bodies. The Strategic Framework covers a period of two consecutive calendar years and serves as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. However, following the GA's decision to change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis starting from 2020 (resolution 72/266),¹⁹ the preparation of the Strategic Framework as a separated document has been discontinued.

During the evaluation period, the UNECE Population Subprogramme, has developed two biennial programme plans, one for 2016-2017 and one for the period 2018-2019. Since 2020, the population sub-programme is operating in a framework of annual programming.

Strategic Framework 2016-2017

A/69/6 (Prog. 17)²⁰ states that the aim of the programme is to “*promote sustainable development and regional cooperation and integration through (a) policy dialogue; (b) normative work; and (c) technical cooperation (para.3), giving due consideration to the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UNECE subprogrammes*” (para 5). It calls for system-wide coherence in its programme delivery to avoid overlap, reduce duplication, multiply effect,²¹ (para.6), and for cooperation with other regional commissions.²²

The main objective, accomplishments, and indicators of the Population subprogramme for 2016-2017 are presented in **Table 6.** below.

¹⁸ ECE/WG.1/2017/5

¹⁹ A/RES/72/266, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2017, Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations

²⁰ General Assembly, Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 17, Economic development in Europe.

²¹ Should be done by providing leadership to the Regional Coordination Mechanism and by supporting the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and One United Nations programmes in the region

²² To be pursued through joint events and initiatives, joint projects and programmes and information sharing and knowledge management.

Table 6. 2016-2017 Logical Framework

Objective	Expected accomplishment for the population subprogramme	Indicator(s) for the population subprogramme
To promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region.	Enhanced national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing, intergenerational and gender relations.	Increased number of countries that have adjusted their national policies or introduced new measures for implementing the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The biennial work plan sets the strategy for the implementation of the population component (paragraphs 51 and 52), based on a) provision of a platform for intergovernmental policy and facilitation of communication with a wider network of experts and non-governmental organizations; b) evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the implementation of the MIPAA through coordination of data collection and policy-oriented research on ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, and c) support the development of national capacities for policy formulation by provision of policy advice on national action plans on ageing as well as capacity-building.

Programme Budget 2016-2017

Similarly, document A/70/6 (Sect. 20),²³ contains the same objective, accomplishment, and indicator for the Population subprogramme and specifies the approved specific outputs and performance measures for the population component of the subprogramme.

Section 20.92 of the programme budget states that during the biennium 2016-2017, extrabudgetary resources would complement regular budget resources to: (e) to prepare for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MIPAA+15) and the road map on mainstreaming ageing project.

Document ECE/WG.1/2015/5²⁴ confirms the objective, accomplishments, outputs/activities, and indicators approved in A/70/6 (Sect. 20), emphasizing that the programme of work applies a results-based management (RBM) approach (para 2).

In paragraph 11, it notes that the achievement of the above objective and expected accomplishments is based on number of assumptions: (a) there are adequate national statistical data and information available on population issues; (b) there is political will to support activities that improve the knowledge base and capacity for designing and implementing

²³ A/70/6 (Sect. 20), General Assembly, 2015, Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017*

Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe
(Programme 17 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017)**

²⁴ ECE/WG.1/2015/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eighth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2015 Item 9 of the provisional agenda Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning , Draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2016-2017, Note by the Secretariat

population related policies and programmes; and (c) there are extrabudgetary resources available for population-related activities.

Table 7 below is a summary of the Logical Framework for the biennium 2016-2017 for the Population subprogramme based on the three programme documents analyzed above.

Table 7. Logical Framework 2016-2017

Objective	Expected accomplishment	Indicator of achievement	Target
To promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region	Enhanced national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing, intergenerational and gender relations	1. Increased number of countries that have adjusted their national policies or introduced new measures for implementing the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2016-33 2017-36
Outputs	Activities	Performance measures 2016-2017	
1.Substantive servicing of meetings provided	1.1. Servicing the WGA 1.2. Servicing the Bureau of the WGA; 1.3. Servicing the Ministerial Conference on Ageing	1.1.1. 8 meetings 1.2.1. 6 meetings 1.3.1. 4 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing	
2. Parliamentary documentation provided	2.1. reports of the annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing; 2.2. Progress reports on activities on ageing 2.3. Reports on specific topics related to population 2.4. Outcome document of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (ministerial declaration or the Chair's summary)	2.1.1. 2 Reports 2.2.1 2 Reports. 2.3.1. 5 Reports; 2.4.1. 1 Document.	
3.Other substantive activities undertaken	3.1. road map on mainstreaming ageing 3.2. policy briefs on ageing 3.3. proceedings of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (Istanbul, 2017) and the Synthesis Report on the third cycle of the RIS for MIPAA	3.1.1. 1 Roadmap; 3.2.1. 2 Policy Briefs; 3.3.1. 1 Proceedings/Synthesis Report);	
4. Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits produced	4.1. booklet of the Working Group on Ageing	4.1.1. 1 Booklet	
5. Press releases, press conferences implemented	5.1. annual sets of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications related to population activities	5.1.1. 2 annual sets.	
6. Technical material produced	6.1. Maintenance of the website providing access to information	6.1.1. - 2	

	and documents related to population activities		
7. Technical cooperation provided (regular budget and extrabudgetary) implemented	7.1. fact finding and advisory missions for developing national capacities on designing and implementing ageing-related policies and programmes 7.2. Training courses, seminars and workshops on ageing 7.3. Field projects: generations and gender survey in several countries	7.1.1. 1 Fact-finding/advisory mission; 7.2.1. 1 workshop 7.3.1. 1 survey	

Strategic Framework 2018-2019

The biennial work programme 2018-2019 is contained in three documents: A/71/6 (Prog.17)*,²⁵ A/72/6 (Sect. 20)*,²⁶ and ECE/WG.1/2017/5.²⁷

Similarly to the biennial work plan for 2016-2017, the work plan for 2018-2019 aims to ensure that gender issues and women's empowerment are adequately mainstreamed in the programme (17.4) and that a system-wide coherence in the programme delivery should be ensured to avoid overlap, reduce duplication, multiply effect, increase impact and ensure the sustainability of its work in the region (17.5).²⁸

The main objective, accomplishments, indicators, and outputs for the 2018-2019 biennium remain unchanged in the three programming documents, except the change in the activities, specific targets and performance measures. A summary of the approved work programme is contained in **Table 8** below in a format of the Logical Framework.

Table 8. Logical framework for 2018-2019

Objective	Expected accomplishment	Indicator of achievement	Target
To promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region	Enhanced national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing, intergenerational and gender relations	1. Increased number of countries that have adjusted their national policies or introduced new measures for implementing the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2018-2019 - 39
Outputs	Activities	Performance measures 2016-2017	

²⁵ A/71/6 (Prog.17)* Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 17 Economic development in Europe

²⁶ A/72/6 (Sect. 20)*, General Assembly, 2017, Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019*

Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe, (Programme 17 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019)

²⁷ ECE/WG.1/2017/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23-24 November 2017 Item 8 of the provisional agenda Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning, Draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018-2019, Note by the Secretariat

²⁸ A/71/6 (Prog.17)*

1.Substantive servicing of meetings provided	1.1. Servicing the WGA 1.2. Servicing the Bureau of the WGA; 1.3. Servicing the regional conference on ICPD	1.1.1. 8 meetings 1.2.1. 6 meetings 1.3.1. 1 Regional conference on ICPD	
2. Parliamentary documentation provided	2.1. Produce reports of the annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing. 2.2 Pre-session document WGA 2.3. Reports on the regional ICPD conference 2.4. Outcome document of the regional ICPD conference	2.1.1. 2 Reports 2.2.1 7 documents. 2.3.1. 1 Reports; 2.4.1. 1 Document.	
3.Other substantive activities undertaken	3.1. road map on mainstreaming ageing 3.2. policy briefs on ageing 3.3. Active ageing Index report	3.1.1. 1 Roadmap; 3.2.1. 2 Policy Briefs; 3.3.1. 1 Analytical Report	
4. Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits produced	4.1. booklet of the Working Group on Ageing	4.1.1. 1 Booklet	
5. Press releases, press conferences implemented	5.1. annual sets of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications related to population activities	5.1.1. 2 annual sets.	
6. Technical material produced	6.1. Update and maintenance of the website on population activities	6.1.1. – 2	
7. Technical cooperation provided (regular budget and extrabudgetary) implemented	7.1. fact finding and advisory missions 7.2. Workshop on population ageing for government officials and practitioners 7.3. International seminar on Active Ageing Index 7.4. Field projects: generations and gender survey in several countries	7.1.1 1 mission 7.2.1. 1 workshop 7.3.1. 1 seminar 7.4.1.1 1 project	

As contained in A/71/6 (Prog.17)*, sections 17.45 and 17.46, similarly to the previous biennium, the UNECE and the population subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments through a) provision of a platform for intergovernmental policy debate on matters relating to ageing; b) facilitation of communication with a network of experts and non-governmental organizations; c) supporting evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the implementation of the MIPAA through coordinating data collection and policy-oriented research on ageing; d) supporting the development of national capacities for policy formulation through provision of policy advice on national action plans on ageing and capacity-building.

A/72/6 (Sect.20) notes that the achievement of the programme objectives and accomplishments is based on the assumption that: (a) adequate national statistical data and information is available on housing, urban development, land management and population issues; (b) there is political will to support activities that improve the knowledge base and capacity for designing and implementing population-related policies and programmes; and (c) donor support for the preparation of studies and guidelines and undertaking of country and city profile studies, and for population-related activities is adequate.

Programme plan and a programme budget for 2020

As stated earlier, since 2020, the UNECE is planning its programme of work through annual programme budgets. The programme budget for 2020 is contained in the document A/74/6 (Sect. 20)²⁹ and ECE/WG.1/2019/5.³⁰

Document A/74/6 (Sect. 20), notes that the objective of the Population subprogramme is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), and Goal 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) (Para. 20.92) .

Within this framework, the Unit will implement specific sectoral deliverables and develop cross-sectoral activities with other UNECE subprogrammes where there is complementarity between the respective Sustainable Development Goals and targets in line with the nexus areas (paragraph 20.10).

The specific work objectives, accomplishments, and outputs for the population subprogramme are contained in document ECE/WG.1/2019/5. Paragraph 3. States that “the objective, the most significant planned result and the deliverables in the draft programme of work correspond to those contained in the ECE proposed programme budget for 2020. The objective of the Population component of the subprogramme is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In attaining its objective, the subprogramme builds on cross-sectoral collaboration with other subprogrammes in relevant ECE nexus areas where multiple SDGs converge”.

Paragraph 5. identifies the objective to which the subprogramme contributes, as “*to advance decent, adequate, affordable, energy-efficient and healthy housing for all in livable cities and human settlements, sustainable land management and evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.*”

A summary of the objectives and specific deliverables for the population subprogramme for 2020 is contained in **Table 9** below.

²⁹ A/74/6 (Sect. 20) , General Assembly, 2019. Proposed programme budget for 2020, Part V Regional cooperation for development ,Section 20 Economic development in Europe

³⁰ ECE/WG.1/2019/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Twelfth meeting Geneva, 18 and 19 November 2019 Item 7 of the provisional agenda Programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020 , Draft programme of work of the Population Component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2020, Note by the Secretariat

Table 9. Programme Plan for the Population subprogramme for 2020³¹

Objective	Activities	Targets/Performance measures
To advance decent , adequate, affordable, energy-efficient, and healthy housing for all in livable cities and human settlements, sustainable land management and evidence-based population and social cohesion policies.		No target identified ³²
Main deliverables for the Population subprogramme		
1. Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing – to achieve a society for all ages Developed	1.1. Develop the Guidelines	1.1.1 1 Guidelines
2. The intergovernmental process and expert bodies facilitated	2.1. Preparation of documents for the WGA . 2.2.Provision of substantive servicing of the meetings of the WGA	2.1.1. 5 documents 2.2.1. 7 meetings
3. Knowledge generated and transferred	3.1 Conduct Workshop on population ageing for Government experts and practitioners in countries of the UNECE region. 3.2. Produce population related publications (roadmap on mainstreaming ageing, 2 policy briefs on ageing)	3.1.1. 1 workshop 3.2.1. 4 publications
4. Substantive technical advice provided	4.1. Undertake fact finding, monitoring and investigation missions 4.2. Provide advice and advocacy on the GGP and to government officials and other stakeholders; 4.3. Update and maintain the AA indicators dataset.	<i>Could not identify specific performance measures</i>
5. Communication materials delivered	5.1. Prepare a Booklet of the WGA 5.2. Provide annual set of press releases 5.3. Update and maintain website as appropriate. 5.4. Active Ageing Index wiki.	5.1.1. 1 booklet

³¹ Key deliverables have been reworded in line with the RBM practices for better clarity.

³² Pursuant to resolution 72/266, the programme budget became annual and some formulations have changed, such as non-inclusion of performance measures and indicators of achievement.

5. MAIN FINDINGS

As indicated in section 3.1. above, data collected through desk review, interviews with key informants and the online Survey was tabulated according to the main evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. Content analysis was performed, using the main functions of the WGA and the Population Unit as the main independent variables for assessment. For this evaluation exercise, the core functions of the Population subprogramme have been identified as follows:

- a) acts as a Secretariat to the WGA, supporting the intergovernmental efforts to advance policy response by governments on the issue of ageing.
- b) supports the periodic MIPAA/RIS regional review process and produces evidence-based knowledge and information on ageing.
- c) works to enhance capacities for ageing-related policy making, including through provision of direct support to member States to design and implement ageing related policies and production of data and knowledge on the issue.

Data analysis and assessment of the correlation between the extent and quality of the implementation of the above core functions and the main evaluation criteria is presented below, followed by key conclusions and recommendations for improvement where applicable.

5.1. Relevance of the Population subprogramme work

R.1. Advancing intergovernmental efforts to attain the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration/ MIPAA/RIS and the 2030 Agenda commitments

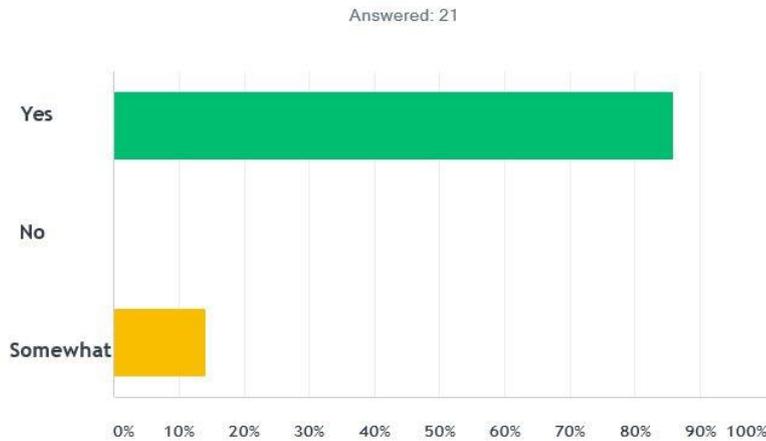
The relevance of the work of the WGA and the Population Unit was assessed based on its core functions as contained in the work programmes presented above.

Overall, the evaluation revealed that the work for the attainment of the international commitments on ageing undertaken by the WGA and the Population Unit is considered relevant by all stakeholders and is in line with the international normative framework on ageing. Furthermore, the work performed by the WGA and the Population Unit during the evaluation period is in line with the demographic priorities in the region and is, hence, necessary.

All interviewed stakeholders highlighted the importance of advancing ageing policies in the region, affirming the unique role played by the UNECE in addressing demographic challenges. This view was also confirmed by the NFPA that responded to the online Survey. Out of 22 NFPA who took the Survey, 85% believe that the work is relevant whereas only 15% believe it is somewhat relevant (See **Figure 2** below).

Figure 2. Relevance of the work to attain the international commitments on ageing – opinion of the NFPA

Do you think that the work of the Working Group on Ageing is relevant for the advancement of the intergovernmental efforts to mainstream ageing in your national policies?

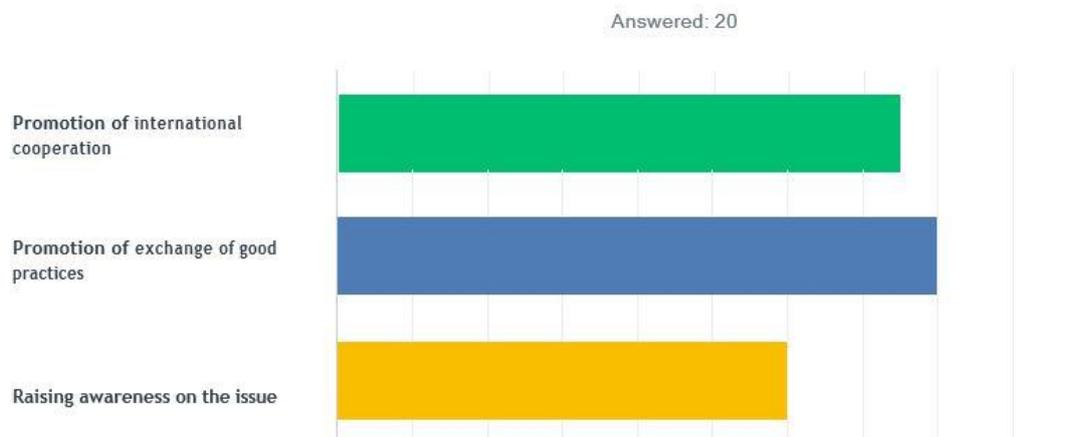


Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

The NFPA considered the most relevant work performed by the WGA to be the promotion of exchange of information and good practices (80%), followed by promotion of international cooperation (75%) and raising awareness on the issue of ageing (60%) (see **Figure 3** below).

Figure 3: Relevance of Specific aspects of the work of the WGA and Population Unit- opinions of the NFPA

If you think that their work is relevant or somewhat relevant, please tell us which specific aspects of their work you find relevant? (Select only those that apply)



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

Many member States of the UNECE play very active role in the work of the WGA, either being members of its Bureau or contributing during deliberations of the WGA's annual meetings and events, attesting to the fact that they find the work relevant. However, few interviewed members of the Bureau expressed concern over a lack of political will among member States to further engage in the framework of the WGA, which results in insufficient active participation of some of them in the activities of the WGA and the Population Unit. As stated by one interviewed respondent, unfortunately, *“it is few countries that are regularly active, while other countries do not show much interest in the work of the WGA and the Population Unit.”*³³

Additionally, not all NFPA have been able to facilitate cross-sectoral activities at national level and mainstream the issue of ageing in different sectoral policies. This is noted in the Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group, highlighting that, *“whereas the UNECE WGA has an important niche, many National Focal Points have rather passive role in terms of cross-sectoral reach out within the governmental structures.”*³⁴

All members of the Bureau interviewed considered the issue of uneven engagement among member states in the framework of the WGA to be significant, especially in light of the recent COVID-19 developments and the continued demographic pressure facing the UNECE region. It is hence important for the WGA to seek ways to engage further its member States in pursuing their ageing commitments. The WGA should seize the opportunity of being elevated to a Standing Working Group and finds ways to actively engage more team members in its work. The WGA should recognize the diversity of contexts in which its members operate and ensure that these differences are taken care of in its deliberations.

The relevance of the work was also assessed based on the specific tasks and work performed by the WGA and the Population Unit, as follows:

a) Support to governments to develop ageing policies

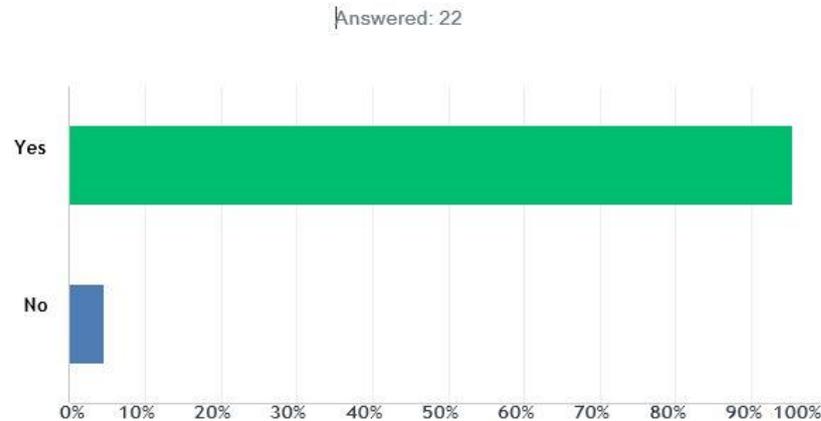
The development of ageing policies by member States is a cumulative result of their engagement in the framework of the WGA and the technical support and expertise provided by the Population Unit. Hence, there is a direct correlation between the relevance of the work performed by the Population Unit and the WGA with the extent to which UNECE member States have addressed the ageing issue in their countries. Survey respondents representing national governments were thus asked if their country has developed specific ageing policy or not to support MIPAA/RIS implementation. According to the Survey responses, (see **Figure 4** below), 21, out of 22 NFPA respondents, indicated that their country has done so, confirming the importance of the intergovernmental process on ageing led by the WGA and supported by the Population Unit.

³³ Some members of the Bureau of the WGA argued that support, both financial and with expertise to the activities of the WGA is provided by few countries, such as Austria, Germany, Spain, while other countries do not show political support as many of them do not send high-level representatives to the ageing-related events of the UNECE, such as Ministerial Conferences.

³⁴ ECE/WG.1/2020/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Thirteenth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2020 Work of the Bureau, Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Bureau_wga/ECE-WG-1-2020-3-AC.pdf

Figure 4. Mainstreaming ageing in national policies – opinion of the NFPA

Has your country developed and/or mainstreamed ageing in specific policies since 2016 to align them with MIPAA/RIS and recent Ministerial Declarations (2012 Vienna, 2017 Lisbon)?

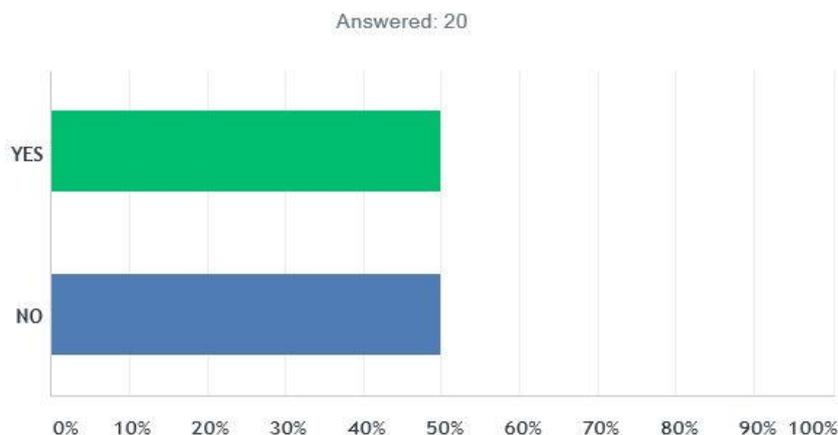


Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

However, survey respondents that indicated that they have developed an ageing policy were asked whether they have collaborated with the WGA and the Population Unit in the process, and only half of them have indicated that they have done so (see **Figure 5** below). This may attest to the fact that the Population Unit, due to its staffing and financial constraints, may not be able to meet the demand on the ground.

Figure 5: Collaboration with the WGA and Population Unit in mainstreaming ageing

Did you collaborate with the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit in this process?



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

The relevance of the support provided by the WGA and the Population Unit in mainstreaming ageing in national policies was verified through the interviews and was confirmed by all interviewed stakeholders. The Roadmaps were singled out as the most comprehensive instrument supporting mainstreaming of ageing in national policies, particularly by the

interviewed national partners and representatives of the UNFPA Country Offices, where the Roadmaps have been implemented.³⁵

Despite the recognition of the important role of the WGA and the Population Unit in supporting governments to mainstream ageing in their policies, some of the interviewed respondents expressed concern “*over the growing need to address specific aspects of ageing transition in Europe and the unmatched financial and human resources of the UNECE Population Unit which is expected to lead the ageing mainstreaming process in the region.*”³⁶ The issue of the discrepancy between the actual capacity of the Population Unit and the needs and expectations regarding demographic transition in the region is discussed in more detail under the section on efficiency.

However, UNECE should take note of this fact and seek ways to strengthen its internal capacities to address the growing demand for a more robust and systematic way of dealing with the issue of ageing at regional level.

b) Provision of a platform for intergovernmental dialogue and negotiation on ageing issues

The UNECE, through its Population Unit is acting as Secretariat to the WGA. This is an ongoing work throughout the year involving preparation, support during and follow up to the two annual meetings – one of the WGA and the other of its Bureau. Ad-hoc meetings as well as different consultation processes of the WGA related to coordination of regional inputs for different UNECE and UN-wide reports, events and policy documents are serviced as needed.

Annual Reports of the WGA and its Bureau confirm that this role of the UNECE has been critical and appreciated. Interviews with members of the Bureau of the WGA confirmed that the UNECE and its Population Unit play a key role in the process and that this work is relevant. Likewise, the Survey findings indicate that out of 18 NFPA that responded to the question on whether they are familiar and find relevant the work of the Population Unit in servicing the WGA, 11 (61%) responded positively.

In terms of the role of the WGA to provide a platform for intergovernmental dialogue and negotiation, the NFPA, when asked “Do you find useful the opportunities for international cooperation, policy discussions and exchange of experience provided through the WGA and the Secretariat to further ageing concerns in your national policy making”, out of 20 respondents, 17 (85%) indicated that they do find it very relevant and useful, while only 3 (15%) find that somewhat relevant.

This finding again attests to the high relevance placed by the NFPA on the opportunity to meet in the framework of the WGA, exchange information and good practices and learn from experiences of other countries.

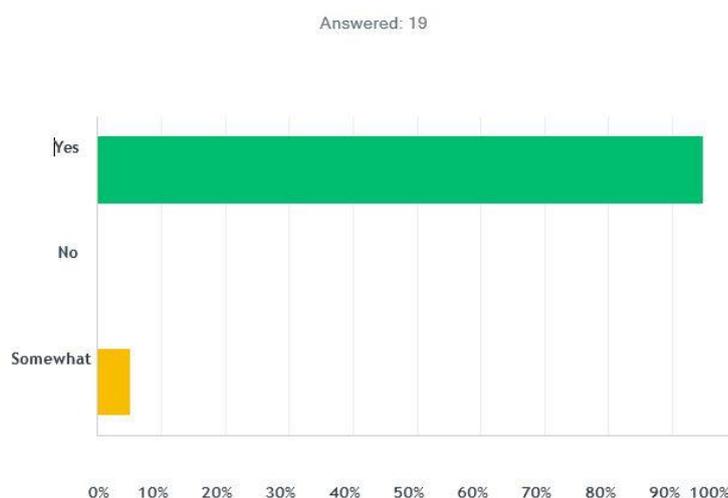
³⁵ Notably Belarus, Moldova and Georgia

³⁶ Interview Director UNFPA EECARO, 23 July 2020.

Additionally, almost all NFPA respondents to the Survey (95%), believe that intergovernmental cooperation provided through the WGA and the Population Unit should continue in the future (see **Figure 6** below).

Figure 6. Relevance of continued work on ageing -opinions of the NFPA

If you find useful the opportunities for international cooperation with the WGA and UNECE Population Unit, tell us your opinion on whether they should continue delivering their guidance and support as currently provided?



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

c) Reporting on MIPAA/RIS implementation through the periodic review process

During the evaluation period, the third periodic MIPAA/RIS review has taken place and the Lisbon Ministerial Conference has been organized (ECE/WG.1/2016/4³⁷ and ECE/WG.1/2017/3³⁸), while the fourth periodic review is underway. The Population Unit has played a vital role in supporting these intergovernmental processes, including through data gathering, processing and data analysis, resulting in Synthesis Reports of the third periodic review.³⁹

Likewise, it has had a critical role in the process of drafting and negotiation of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration - a process that has required intensive coordination and provision of subject matter expertise. As contained in ECE/WG.1/2020/3,⁴⁰ additionally, the work on

³⁷ ECE/WG.1/2016/4 , Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Ninth meeting Geneva, 21-22 November 2016 Item 5 of the provisional agenda Implementation of the WGA work programme in 2016 ,

Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2016, Note by the Secretariat

³⁸ ECE/WG.1/2017/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2017 Work of the Bureau , Report on the ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

³⁹ Economic Commission for Europe, Working Group on Ageing, Ministerial Conference on Ageing. Lisbon, 21 and 22 September 2017, Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region between 2012 and 2017, available at:

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Ministerial_Conference_Lisbon/Practical_infos/Synthesis_report_MIPAA15_Room_Document_with_Annex.pdf

⁴⁰ ECE/WG.1/2020/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Thirteenth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2020 Work of the Bureau , Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing,

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Bureau_wga/ECE-WG-1-2020-3-AC.pdf

finalizing the of the national reporting guidelines on MIPAA/RIS for the fourth review and appraisal cycle is ongoing.

All interviewed members and ex-members of the Bureau of the WGA confirmed the desk review findings about the importance of this role of the Population Unit, and appraised very positively the professional approach of the staff of the Population Unit in supporting the periodic MIPAA/RIS review.

Survey findings moreover indicate that out of 18 respondents acting as NFPA, 14 (78%) are familiar with this role, and consider it to be highly relevant.

Key informants were also asked to appraise the relevance of the MIPAA/RIS periodic review process as currently undertaken. Opinions of the interviewed respondents on the periodicity of the process seem to differ significantly. Whereas some believe that the MIPAA/RIS periodic review and reporting is relevant as currently undertaken - *“although the reporting cycle is quite long, we at the Ministries have other periodic reporting tasks as well, so if the MIPAA/RIS reporting is shortened, it will create more work and burden on us,”*⁴¹ others believe that the reporting period should be shortened as well as the format of reporting.⁴² According to these informants, *“it may be useful to consider bi-annual reporting based on priority issues, rather than reporting on all MIPAA/RIS commitments.”* As such, they believe that *“the reporting process may become more useful as member States can focus on fewer issues when collecting and analyzing data.”*⁴³ Other interview respondents believed that *“due to the length of the Report, the national review process may become “automatic” and not necessarily conducted through wide consultation and data collection.”*⁴⁴ Additionally, as stated by one respondent, *“MIPAA/RIS need to be updated to reflect the changing realities and become a powerful tool for advancing the demographic transition in Europe, including through their stronger alignment with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.”*⁴⁵

Interviewed informants believe that to “revive” the importance of the commitments contained in the MIPAA/RIS documents, additional efforts should be made to strengthen accountability of governments for their implementation. *“MIPAA/RIS have qualitative narratives, but we should push harder to have more specific targets and indicators to measure progress made by the countries.”*⁴⁶ For that, *“maybe an adjustment of RIS can be made at the next Ministerial Conference on Ageing, for the regional strategy to not only reflect the emerging realities in Europe, but strengthen the monitoring framework through use of more specific indicators, and hence enhance the accountability of governments.”*⁴⁷

The issue of whether MIPAA/RIS reporting needs to change seems to be an important one, and therefore, it is recommended that the WGA, and the member States in general, engage in further discussion on the issue. A common stand on how they want to see the process evolving in the future, in order to make it more relevant and strengthen its potential to become a real

⁴¹ Interview member of the WGA, Czech Republic, 17 July 2017

⁴² Interviews members of the Bureau from Ireland, Italy, EC, amongst others

⁴³ Interviews members of the Bureau from Ireland, Italy, EC, amongst others

⁴⁴ Interview member of Bureau from Norway, Slovenia

⁴⁵ Interview former member of the Bureau of the WGA, EC, 15 July 2020.

⁴⁶ Interview representative WHO, 4 August 2020

⁴⁷ Interview former staff member UNDESA, 21 July 2020

accountability mechanism for member States committed to implement the MIPAA/RIS objectives should be taken, and pursued further as appropriate.

d) Producing evidence and support policy making and progress in achieving the MIPAA/RIS and the Lisbon ministerial Declaration

The Population Unit has a relevant role supporting the efforts to produce data and evidence for policy making on ageing issues. The main deliverables of the Unit, aimed at supporting evidence-based policy making are: a) development of Roadmaps for and mainstreaming ageing in policies; b) development of Policy Briefs on ageing issues as mandated by the WGA; c) management and support to the process of data gathering and processing for the AAI and production of its Reports, and d) management of the GGP.

According to the Annual Reports of the WGA, government representatives acknowledge the relevance of the Policy Briefs in providing knowledge on specific ageing issues and in raising the awareness at regional and national level on specific aspects of the ageing, as well as promoting a sharing of good practices.

Interviews with members of the Bureau of the WGA as well as partner organizations confirmed specifically the relevance of the Policy Briefs, the Roadmaps on Ageing, and the AAI. The Survey confirmed that majority of respondents consider the AAI (83%) and the Policy Briefs (89%) to be the most relevant deliverables of the Unit.

Interviews with the key informants confirmed the relevance of the AAI particularly for the EU countries. The AAI has been acknowledged as an essential tool to monitor progress in meeting the Lisbon Declaration goals for the EU member states, attesting to its relevance for policymaking on ageing. The findings of the 2019 AAI evaluation⁴⁸ confirm its relevance to UNECE governments' needs and priorities, although some countries, particularly those with concerns about the sustainability of their pension systems, took on the measurement of active ageing more than others (e.g. Italy, Republic of Moldova, Spain). Because the AAI disaggregates by sex, it identifies gender gaps, but such gaps require more analysis, as occurred in studies from Germany, Italy, and Poland.

The 2018 Active Ageing Index Analytical report jointly launched by UNECE and the European Commission shows that since 2008 most countries in the European Union have improved their overall AAI scores. The examples of the AAI application at the national and subnational levels illustrated in the latest AAI Report, show that this tool can help to monitor whether and to which extent active ageing is experienced and progressing in different contexts.⁴⁹ Prompted by the initial AAI results at EU level, initiatives to apply the AAI at subnational and/ or local level have been developed, notably Italy, Poland, and Germany.

Some non-EU countries also consider this to be a relevant deliverable, as indicated during the interviews with both members of the Bureau of the WGA and partner organizations. However,

⁴⁸ Una Murray, 2019. Evaluation Report Final Evaluation: Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE

⁴⁹ECE/WG.1/33, 2018 Active Ageing Index Analytical Report, October 2019

several interviewed informants raised concern over its relevance due to unavailability of data for some indicators, as well as over the extent of use of this data for policy making.

c) Enhancing capacities and providing direct support to members States to advance ageing policies has been another important task of the Population Unit. In addition to number of capacity-building workshops and seminars organized back-to-back with the annual meetings of the WGA and through cooperation with NGO's and academia, the benchmark activity of the Unit in the past has been to develop Roadmaps and support their implementation. The relevance of this specific deliverable of the Unit has been acknowledged by the countries that have benefited from such support (Belarus, Moldova and Georgia).⁵⁰ The road maps provide a guide to mainstream ageing into all relevant policy areas and aids countries in upholding the commitments of the MIPAA/RIS, by identifying concrete actions relevant to the economic, social, cultural, and political specificities of the country. A new one for Kazakhstan has been initiated in 2020.⁵¹ This initiative is co-funded by extrabudgetary sources.⁵²

While the reviewed documents and the interviews with key informants provide evidence that this specific policy instrument is highly relevant for advancing national policy-making efforts on ageing, the Survey findings show that only 67% of the Survey respondents were familiar with it and considered it relevant. However, key partners (UNFPA notably) and representatives of the WGA from the countries where the Roadmaps have been implemented, appraise the relevance of this instrument very highly, as noted above.

The Policy Seminars were also considered relevant, with 89% of the NFPA confirming so. This opinion was shared unanimously by all interviewed members of the Bureau.

d) And finally, the evaluation also looked at how relevant the collaboration of the subprogramme with other organizations is. According to the reviewed documents, collaboration with UNFPA, European Commission (EC) and WHO has been extremely relevant, particularly in providing evidence-base for policies (EC through the AAI and WHO through Health survey) and in linking ageing issues with population and development and the 2030 Agenda and providing Roadmaps to mainstream ageing (UNFPA)⁵³. The latter is especially important as it supported concerted efforts in the ECE region to mainstream ageing in the ICPD+25 deliberations.⁵⁴

Further evidence on the relevance of the collaborative efforts was explored through the interviews with relevant partners and the Survey. According to interviewed representatives of UNFPA, WHO, ILO and OHCHR, the collaboration on ageing with the UNECE Population Unit is extremely relevant. As stated by one key informant, "*UNECE has the advantage to mobilize the intergovernmental process, reach out to member States and provide a platform*

⁵⁰ All interviewed representatives from these countries , both members of the WGA and UNFPA country offices.

⁵¹ ECE/WG.1/2020/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Thirteenth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2020 Work of the Bureau , Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Bureau_wga/ECE-WG-1-2020-3-AC.pdf

⁵² As stated in ECE/WG.1/2020/3, it is co-funded from the 'Ageing – phase 3' project fund in support of the WGA work programme in 2020-2022. The contributions were received in December 2019- January 2020 from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Norway Portugal and Switzerland and amounted to USD 270,000. The regular budget staff leads the desk reviews and field missions and drafts the document with consultants providing a few chapters.

⁵³ Interviews with UNFPA representatives in Belarus, Georgia and UNFPA Regional Office in Istanbul.

⁵⁴ For more, see the Regional report "Fulfilling the Potential of Present and Future Generations"

*for regional cooperation and normative work, which enables partner agencies to build upon it and carry their ageing-related work at national level.*⁵⁵

R.2. Advancing gender equality/empowerment of women

The evaluation assessed the extent to which the work of the Unit is relevant to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. Based on the desk review, it could be concluded that two important contributions to this are the AAI and GGP, both providing evidence on the different status of older women and men in the region to inform policy decisions. While current desk review cannot show a concrete example on how evidence contained in the AAI and the GGP has been relevant to countries in improving efforts to adjust and/or develop policy to address existing gender gaps among older women and men, some evidence gathered through the interviews with key informants suggests that the survey data is used widely by the research community, which in turn, provides advice to policy makers.⁵⁶

Additionally, during the evaluation period a "Gender equality in ageing societies" Policy Brief on Ageing No. 23, has been issued in March 2020, in contribution to the Beijing review. Moreover, in the framework of the ICPD review in 2018, a UNECE Monitoring Framework for ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 was developed – and gender equality and empowerment of women is addressed in chapter 3.1 (13 indicators included, data available for 10), and a Regional Report "Fulfilling the Potential of Present and Future Generations" chapter 3.1. "Gender equality and women's empowerment" was prepared.⁵⁷

Interviews with key informants confirmed that the gender aspects addressed by the WGA and the Population Unit are relevant and that they expressed satisfaction with it. None of the interviewed informants considered that gender is insufficiently addressed. The Survey findings, additionally, indicate that amongst the NFPA, there is a widespread opinion that the situation of older women and men and gender considerations are sufficiently addressed by the deliberations of the WGA with, out of 18 respondents, 80% believing so, compared to 20% who think that they are somehow addressed (see **Figure 7** below).

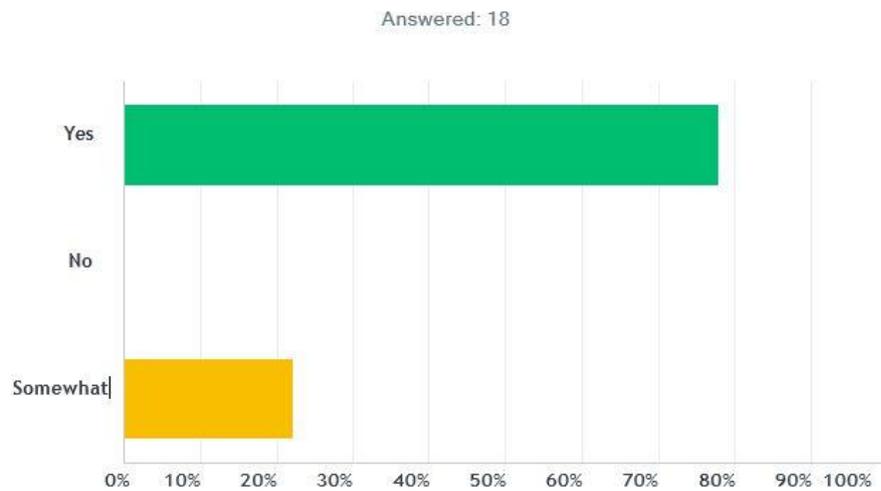
⁵⁵ Interview Director, UNFPA, EECARO, 23 July 2020

⁵⁶ Interview with Lamura Giovani, National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy, held on 18 August 2020 and Pietro Checucci, held on July 22, 2020.

⁵⁷ Both publications can be accessed on <https://www.unece.org/pau/icpd.html>

Figure 7. Extent of integrating gender in the work on ageing-opinion of NFPA

Do you think that gender aspects of ageing are sufficiently addressed in the WGA discussions and deliberations?

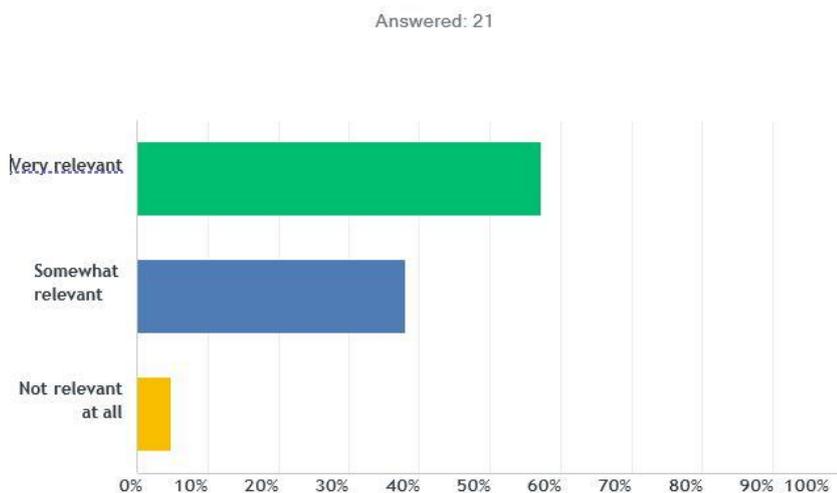


Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

Representatives from partner organizations share similar opinion, with 12 respondents out of 21 believing that the activities they have collaborated with the Population Unit are relevant for gender issues, 8 consider them somewhat relevant, and only 1 respondent believing they are not relevant. (See **Figure 8** below).

Figure 8. Relevance of activities for gender equality -opinion of partner organizations

How relevant are the activities you have collaborated with the UNECE Population Unit with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?



Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

Interviewed respondents highlighted number of specific activities relevant to gender equality among older persons, such as the UNECE ministerial conferences and seminars; the Roadmaps

on mainstreaming ageing; ICPD regional review framework; human rights of older persons, including accumulated poverty over life course among female older persons; the contribution to different Reports of the Secretary General, working group on data; provision of data through AAI and GGP supporting measurement of gender equality and gender gaps among older persons; contributions to the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, amongst others.⁵⁸

Overall, the nature of the programme of work of the Population Unit that focuses on ageing and older persons means that gender considerations are per se at the centre of the policy challenges addressed by the Unit. While this approach has resulted in many gender specific products, the review of the work programmes and plans of the Unit shows that they do not explicitly single out specific gender deliverables and performance measures. Likewise, the programme performance reports follow the same logic.

It is thus recommended that the Population Unit, in collaboration with the Gender Advisor of the UNECE, explore further how gender can be more systematically mainstreamed in the future, including through use of gender analysis of the issues and integration of specific gender results and performance indicators in the work programmes. This recommendation is in line with the recommendation emanating from the Gender mainstreaming evaluation of UNECE, and its Management response released in 2019.⁵⁹

R.3. Advancing the issues of vulnerable groups and persons with disability

During the evaluation period, the subprogramme has produced the regional ICPD+25 Report and monitoring framework and few relevant Policy Briefs that address the ageing issue of gender, human rights and the situation of vulnerable groups - Older persons in rural and remote areas (Policy Brief No. 18, 2017), Migration and older age, (Policy Brief No. 17, 2016), Policy Brief No. 20 “Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age” issued in 2018, and Policy Brief No. 24” Ageing in sustainable and smart cities”. It has also organized a policy seminar on informal care for persons with dementia.

In order to obtain a better understanding of the extent to which the issues of vulnerable groups are integrated in the work of the Population Unit and the WGA and their relevance, key informants were asked about their opinions, both through the interviews and the Survey. Interviewed respondents considered that these issues are sufficiently addressed in the work delivered by the Population Unit. However, the Survey indicates that out of the 19 respondents acting as NFPA, only 10 (53%) consider so, whereas 27% believe they are somewhat addressed, while 21% believe they are not sufficiently addressed (see **Figure 9** below). This finding is of a concern and should be further explored.

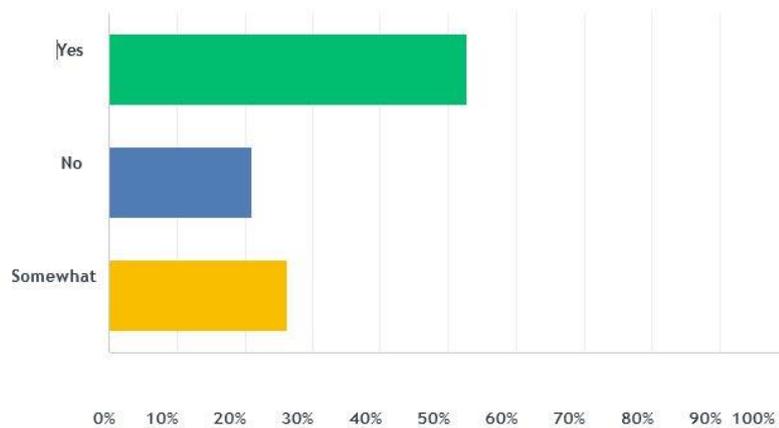
⁵⁸ All interviewed respondents believe that gender aspects of ageing are sufficiently taken on board in the activities of the Population Unit.

⁵⁹ The evaluation Report states that in recommendation 4 that “gender-disaggregated data, indicators, and gender analysis at project design, implementation, and monitoring stages through results-based management tools” should be integrated. The Management response states that “through the ‘Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming in UNECE Projects’, Divisions will continue to include gender analysis at project design, implementation, and monitoring stages of a project. 2019, MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Evaluation Title: Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE. Available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/OPEN_UNECE/03_Evaluation_and_Audit/Evaluation_Reports-with_SPs/Programme-wide_docs/Management_Response_to_Gender_Evaluation_2019_-_Final_clean.pdf

Figure 9. Inclusion of issues of vulnerable groups and people with disabilities- opinions of NFPA

Do you think that the issues of inclusion of vulnerable groups and older persons with disability are sufficiently addressed in the WGA discussions and deliberations?

Answered: 19



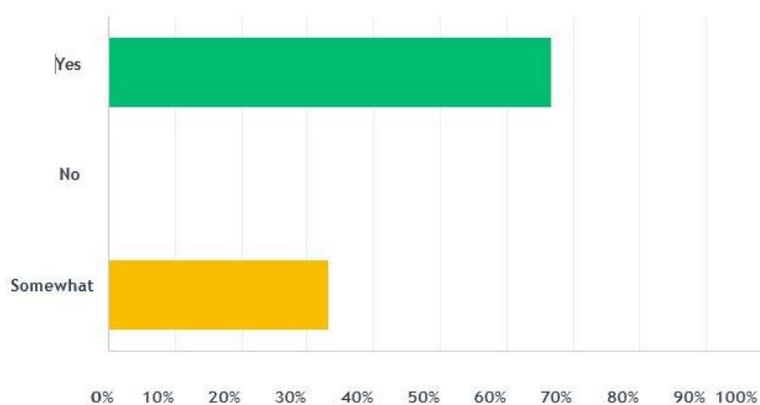
Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

Respondent from partner organizations were also asked if in their collaboration with the UNECE Population Unit those issues were addressed, and the Survey findings indicate that out of 21 respondents, 67% believe so, while 33% believe that those issues are somewhat addressed. (see **Figure 10** below), reinforcing somehow the concern related to the responses of the NFPA presented above.

Figure 10. Integration of issues of vulnerable groups in the work on ageing

Did the specific activity/collaboration with the Population Unit incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups? Was the issue of disability included in the activity/collaboration with the Population Unit?

Answered: 21



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

Interviews with key informants show general agreement that the issues of vulnerable groups addressed by the Population Unit and the WGA are relevant and sufficiently integrated in their work. As stated by one survey respondent, “*disability progressively emerged as an important topic, in the framework of the debate about human rights of older people. which took place in the WGA. The debate was also stimulated by the reference to the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disability,*”⁶⁰ attesting to the fact that indeed the WGA in its deliberations integrates issues of disability and vulnerable groups as important aspects of ageing in the UNECE region

The WGA has clearly advocated for a differentiated approach to vulnerability highlighting that not all older persons are per se vulnerable and in need of protection. This has been reflected in the specific work products of the Population Unit. However, to make a viable conclusion on whether the issue of vulnerable groups has been addressed in the work of the Population Unit, there must be a clear definition of what “vulnerable groups” mean. As the ToRs do not provide a clear definition on this, it is difficult to appraise this aspect with more meticulousness and accuracy. Despite the overall positive opinion expressed in the Survey, the interviews and the identification of specific deliverables highlighted in the performance Reports of the WGA, the evaluator considers that the concept of “vulnerable groups” should be further clarified within the UNECE for future programming and assessment purposes.

5.2. Coherence of the Population subprogramme work

The ToR for this evaluation⁶¹ conceptualizes coherence as a) collaboration with other organizations; and b) use of coherent methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS.

For the purposes of this evaluation, coherence was assessed in accordance with the ToR - presence of synergies in the collaboration with other organizations and in the use of different working methods and processes in the WGA.

C.1. Collaboration with other entities (United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia, etc.) in delivering on expected accomplishment and mandated outputs.

The UNECE Strategic Framework 2018-2019 (adopted in Resolution 71/6 of 2016) integrated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as its overarching objective: “*To ensure an integrated approach to sustainable development and the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the programme will enhance existing synergies and linkages between its eight sub-programmes*” (para. 17.2).⁶² Likewise, given the fact the ageing

⁶⁰ Survey Respondent, see Annex 4

⁶¹ See Annex 1 of this Report

⁶² UNECE Strategic Framework 2018-2019, Programme 17 of [A/71/6/Rev.1](#)

is a cross-cutting issue, ensuring collaboration and coherence with the work of other UN agencies and organizations is a precondition for avoiding duplication of efforts and resources.

The desk review showed that collaboration with other organizations is undertaken through the activities/meetings of the WGA and during the implementation of the planned activities of the Population Unit.

Reports of the Population Unit attest to the significant collaboration with UNFPA, due to the closeness of their mandates on population issues. The desk review, as stated below, documents number of initiatives and activities undertaken jointly. Similarly, collaboration with the EC has been ongoing, particularly on the AAI project. In delivering its work outputs, the Unit has collaborated with several research and non-governmental organizations and has used their technical knowledge and expertise to produce its results.

To appraise the extent to which partner organizations have collaborated with the UNECE Population Unit and the WGA, Survey respondents from partner organizations were asked if they have collaborated with the Population Unit on ageing issues. Out of 24 Survey respondents from partner organizations, 23 confirmed their collaboration (96%) and only one respondent stated they have not done so. Respondents from partner organizations indicated that they have collaborated on the Policy Briefs (71%), Policy Seminars on Ageing (62%), AAI (57%) and different conferences and workshops (86%). More than half of the respondents from partner organizations (57%) have been involved in the periodic MIPAA/RIS review and appraisal, while 33% are familiar with the development of the Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing.

These findings show that a significant percent of respondents from partner organizations are not only familiar with the work of the Population Unit but have collaborated with them on specific deliverables.

Interviews with key informants also confirmed the coherence of the collaboration of the Unit with other agencies and UN institutions. It should be highlighted that key informants from partner organizations praised the coordination efforts of the UNECE Population Unit and provision of timely and relevant information on their activities and major developments related to their work, either through the Geneva-based Interagency Working Group on Ageing, or through regular information dissemination channels of the UNECE.

Information sharing and exchange among UN and other partner organizations is critical to achieve coherence and meet the SDG's goals and targets. The Population Unit coordinates the Geneva-based Interagency Working Group on Ageing, serving as a tool to share information among different agencies. Interviewed representatives from different UN agencies considered this to be an important tool to achieve coherence. As stated by one interviewed respondent, *“the way they organize and manage the Inter-agency Working Group on Ageing, is very admirable, however, I do not really see a joint result out of it, as there seems to be a sense of competition among agencies, and I never felt ownership of the work of the group.”*⁶³

⁶³ Interviewed representative of ILO, 28 July 2020.

However, some informants considered that the work of the interagency Working Group could be improved by “making it more frequent”⁶⁴ and “ensuring that it is not only a forum for information sharing but for joint planning and closer collaboration.”⁶⁵ Others noted that “there is a need of a more formal structure for interagency collaboration on ageing, that will initiate a process of mapping who does what and develop a joint UN Strategy on Older persons.”⁶⁶

While there is obviously a significant value placed on the need to strengthen the Geneva-based Interagency Group on Ageing, this would require more time and effort from the Population Unit. Given its current staffing and financial base, it may not be possible to engage in developing a “more formal” structure that will work on joint projects and activities, unless the members of the group agree to share time and resources. The Population Unit should further explore this issue with the other members of the Group and agree on how to make this a more effective instrument in the spirit of “one UN.”

In addition, the Population Unit has been praised for their practice of collaboration with civil society organizations, and as stated by one Survey respondent, “The Unit truly includes NGOs, more than other units of UN agencies. There is constant communication and consultation and our perspectives are heard by the unit. The unit also convenes an informal interagency group on ageing that also includes civil society. And Civil Society has a seat at the Bureau.”⁶⁷ As stated by one Survey respondent, the collaboration with the WGA and the Population Unit work on ageing contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs by: “1) review progress towards international agreements; 2) foster exchange of experience between stakeholders, share good practices; 3) capacity building - technical knowledge on ageing and SDGs; advocacy and policy dialogue 4) the normative role of UNECE/PU and secretariat role - critical for enhancing dialogue among MSs and CSOs.”⁶⁸

Interviews with key informants from partner organizations attest to the fact that the work conducted by the Unit is coherent with the 2030 Agenda and the work done by other international and national organizations on ageing. It is important to note that all of interviewed representatives from partner organizations consider that the work of the WGA and UNECE Population Unit to be well in line with the Agenda 2030 and that ongoing work by other UN and non-UN organizations does not duplicate the efforts of the Population Unit.

However, as stated during the interview with one key informant, “the 2030 Agenda, was an opportunity to raise the issue of ageing on the international agenda again and ensure that enough guidance is provided on linking the SDGs and ageing commitments. However, there seems to be lack of understanding on how to link both issues at national level. Hence, the UNECE Population Unit should ensure that this challenge is overcome. Moreover, as the UNECE Population Unit and the WGA have leadership role on ageing issues, they should seize

⁶⁴ Interview representative of the OHCHR, 20 July 2020

⁶⁵ Representatives of UN agencies based in Geneva

⁶⁶ interviewed representative of UN DESA, 3 August 2020

⁶⁷ Survey Respondent, See Annex 4

⁶⁸ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

*the opportunity to better inform and guide others, both other Regional Commission and UN agencies working at national level.*⁶⁹

Such concern was reiterated by a few key informants during the interviews especially as related to the need to link ageing commitments to those emanating from the SDG's and ensure comprehensive national reporting. As stated by one interviewed respondent from partner agencies, *“often, it is a challenge to integrate ageing in the 2030 Agenda, and even more to make member States integrate ageing in their national SDGs reports, with a focus on rights of older persons.”*⁷⁰

Another responded noted that *“at national level, it has been difficult for us to link SDGs and ageing. Although the UNECE organized a Policy Seminar on it and provided Guidance, this was not sufficient. There should be more discussion and practical guidance on how to link them.”*⁷¹

However, data collected through the interviews shows a general agreement that addressing the issue of ageing in the context of the SDGs is only possible through joint inter-agency efforts. This was confirmed by the Survey responses. As stated by one respondent to the Survey *“The joint inter-agency effort on ageing helps to raise the point that ageing is an important issue regarding the possibility to reach the SDGs. One agency alone would not be able to make this point. The sum of knowledge and research contributes to fact-based policy making, again a precondition to reach the SDGs.”*⁷²

Survey respondents from partner organizations also confirmed this finding. When asked: *“Was the cooperation with the UNECE Population Unit relevant to attaining the 2030 Agenda?”*, out of 21 respondents, 17 (81%) believe so, 3 (14%) responded with somewhat, while only one respondent (5%) did not think so.

As it can be concluded from the above findings, despite the initial guidance on linkages between the ageing and the 2030 Agenda provided by the Population Unit, there persist a significant need for further clarification and guidance on the issue, both at national and international levels.

The Population Unit should seize this opportunity and engage in provision of practical tools and advice on how to integrate the life-course approach to ageing in order to enhance the capacities at national level to promote the rights of older persons in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, it should promote the use of specific age-related indicators in the SDG monitoring and reporting frameworks.

Greater impact at national level in linking ageing issues with the national SDG reporting frameworks could be ensured through stronger engagement with the UN Resident Coordinator's offices in countries where more guidance on linking the 2030 Agenda and ageing priorities is required.

⁶⁹ Interview representative of DESA, 3 August 2020.

⁷⁰ interviewed representative OHCHR, 20 July 2020.

⁷¹ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, Norway, 15 July 2020

⁷² Survey respondent, see Annex 4

C.1.1. Specific outcome achieved

As already mentioned, collaboration with UNFPA has been notable. In the run up to the 25th anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action in 2019, a five-year periodic assessment of ICPD Programme of Action Implementation in the UNECE region was concluded and a Regional Report "Fulfilling the Potential of Present and Future Generations"⁷³ was produced. A regional UNECE Conference on 1-2 October 2018 on Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development, was organized jointly with UNFPA. Likewise, collaboration in developing the Roadmaps has been positive, the latest being the one for Belarus (2019)⁷⁴. Interviews with key informants from UNFPA confirmed the importance of working jointly with the Population Unit and emphasized *"the good practice of setting up the roadmap for Moldova, Belarus and Georgia by the Population Unit which provides a framework for UNFPA to further build up on it and continue supporting the countries in furthering demographic and ageing policies in line with the developed national policies."*⁷⁵

Additionally, the collaboration with the EC on the AAI has resulted in a product AAI and its Reports that are of significant value to UNECE/EU member States. According to interviewed key informants, this is a unique product which enables countries to gather comparative data at national level to inform better the policy-making processes.

Of specific relevance to ensure coherence is the contribution of the Population Unit to integration of ageing issues in the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. All the interviewed respondents consider the role played by the Population Unit in linking ageing issues with the SDG's to be relevant and important. This was confirmed by the Survey findings and as stated by one respondent, *"Due to the cross-cutting nature of ageing, it was especially useful identifying all the relevant references to ageing in 2030 agenda. Additionally, due to the fact that ageing related issues are often overlooked in the both national SDG agendas and subsequent reporting, it was important to have well-articulated connections between SDG's and ageing in order to advocate for ageing to get more attention on the national level."*⁷⁶

C.1.2. Human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming integrated

As already stated above, both activities related to the AAI and the ICPD+25 integrate gender and human rights concerns. Likewise, number of Policy Briefs address specifically human rights and gender aspects of ageing (see above). Interviews with representatives of countries and partner organizations where Roadmaps have been developed also confirmed that the situation analysis and resulting policy documents use human-rights-based approach and integrate gender perspectives. The role of the Population Unit in providing a Guidance on how to integrate ageing into the SDG's was additionally praised.

This finding was also confirmed by the Survey, and as one respondent stated, *"The 2018 Policy Seminar contributed to better understanding of the relevance of ageing issues in the SDGs. The*

⁷³ UNITED NATIONS, New York and Geneva, 2018, Fulfilling the Potential of Present and Future Generations, Report on ICPD Programme of Action Implementation in the UNECE Region, Available at: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Icpd/2018/ECE-WG.1-29.pdf>

⁷⁴ ECE/WG.1/32, Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing Belarus, 2019, Geneva

⁷⁵ Interviews with UNFPA representatives in Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and UNFPA EECARO

⁷⁶ Survey respondent, see Annex 4

*ongoing collaborations with UNECE on human rights of older persons, contributes to specific goals on equality, gender, cities etc, as well as better appreciation of the values of human rights-based approach for the SDG implementation, with emphasis on equality and non-discrimination, participation of older persons and strengthening accountability.*⁷⁷

Overall, the evaluation confirmed that human-rights based approach and gender equality has been sufficiently integrated in the work of the Population Unit and the WGA.

C.2. Methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS

The WGA, being the main platform for intergovernmental process to advance the ageing issues, is also engaged in implementing some of the activities of the Unit. Of relevance are their annual working meetings, organization of Ministerial Conferences and specific support to the countries in developing and Roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing.

According to the Reports of the WGA, synergies among member States in defining policy commitments on ageing are enhanced through their annual meetings which serve as a forum to not only discuss progress, but define the specific issues related to ageing that require policy attention in the region. In addition, the recent practice of organizing policy seminars at the back-to-back meetings aimed at in-dept discussion on relevant developments in the field of ageing, contribute towards the enhancement of the policy coherence among member States.

However, as noted by one informant, *“not all issues related to ageing are relevant for all countries as are not all objectives and targets. National situations are different and planning the priorities of work for the WGA is a challenge. And sometimes reporting on them is automatic process. I believe there should be more flexibility for countries to define their priorities in the work of the WGA and use concrete measures to monitor progress.”*⁷⁸

As the annual meetings are attended by number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, this practice of collaboration may be assumed to contribute towards coherence in addressing the issue of ageing and should thus be continued.⁷⁹ As stated by one respondent to the Survey, *“Much attention was paid to the issues of dementia and informal care at the WGA meetings in 2018 and in 2019. After each meeting, I share the information with the corresponding office in the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Now jointly with the colleagues from the Ministry, we develop some amendments to the article on lifelong care of the Civil Code of Ukraine.”*⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

⁷⁸ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, Norway, 15 July 2020

⁷⁹ For example, annual WGA meetings have been attended by representatives of the European Commission, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (ECV), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), AGE Platform Europe, Alliance Defending Freedom, Association of Former International Civil Servants, Central Asian Gerontology Center, European Federation of Older Persons, HelpAge International, HelpAge International Moldova, International Federation of Social Workers, International Longevity Centre, Global Alliance (ILC GA), International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), NGO Committee on Ageing – Vienna, Red Cross of Serbia, Soroptimist International, Turkey Retired Persons Organization, and Women’s World Summit Foundation.

⁸⁰ Survey response, See Annex 4.

A specific example to support such findings may also be found in the process of preparation and implementation of the international conferences on aging (for example the Lisbon one in 2017), entailing extensive collaboration with the host governments and key national organizations, as well as participating members states and non-governmental community.

The MIPAA/RIS periodic review processes guided by the WGA have provided a useful platform to involve experts and representatives of the research and NGO communities in the process. And finally, the practice of participation of the WGA members in activities related to the development of Roadmaps seems to be an important venue for establishment of collaboration and policy coherence in the field of ageing, resulting from a joint effort of not only host governments, but agencies and organizations working in the country as well (as was the case with Belarus and as initiated for Kazakhstan).

Interviews with members of the Bureau of the WGA and other select informants confirmed that this process ensures coherence not only at national levels but regional one as well. This was also reiterated by the respondents to the Survey. Moreover, as stated by one Survey respondent, MIPAA/RIS review ensures *“Bringing the regional perspective into the global review, particularly as related to the review and appraisal of MIPAA and its relation to SDG’s.”*⁸¹ Moreover, as noted by one informant, *“the process, in itself, necessarily entails collaboration amongst different national entities, due to the multidisciplinary nature of the periodic review, hence strengthening coherence among different sectors and institutions at country level.”*⁸²

Overall, the evaluation finds significant coherence and collaboration in the framework of the WGA deliberations and the activities of the Population Unit. However, to make this process even more collaborative and ensure greater coherence at both national and regional levels, changes related to the following may be considered:

- a) ensure greater involvement by more member states in the work of the WGA and engage proactively the NFPA in activities such as peer exchange, study visits, etc.
- b) reconsider the modality, timeframe and focus of the periodic MIPAA/RIS review to make it stronger instrument of accountability for governments and a learning tool to influence future priorities on ageing in the region, based on a thorough discussion and agreement amongst member States.
- c) given the cross-cutting nature of the ageing issue, as well as the limited financial and human resources of the Population Unit, extensive collaboration and co-ordination with relevant partners is a necessary modality for operation, and should be further strengthened including through joint projects.

⁸¹ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

⁸² Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, Portugal

5.3. Effectiveness of the Population subprogramme work

E.1.1 Contributing to Member States' attainment of MIPAA/RIS/ Lisbon Ministerial Declaration commitments

The desk review showed that the most effective way to contribute towards member States' attainment of the MIPAA/RIS commitments is provided through direct support to develop ageing policies, provision of evidence and enhancing their national capacities through seminars and workshops.

As contained in the programme documents of the Population Unit, the main objective of the subprogramme is *“to promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region”*, while the expected accomplishment is *“enhanced national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing, intergenerational and gender relations”*. The main indicator of achievement is: *“Increased number of countries that have adjusted their national policies or introduced new measures for implementing the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,”* with specific targets: 2016 - 33 countries, 2017 - 36 countries; and 2018 - 2019 - 39 countries. In 2020, such target is not contained in the work programme.

The desk review confirmed that 39 countries have already developed specific ageing policies, thus meeting the targets planned, attesting to the effectiveness of the programme strategy and delivery.

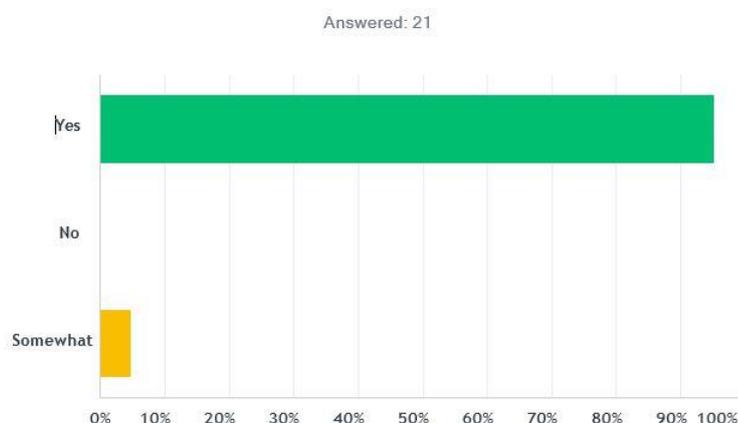
The Survey confirmed the effectiveness of the contribution of the Population Unit deliverables to member states efforts to achieve their ageing objectives and MIPAA/RIS commitments.

According to the Survey, the majority of the NFPA (70%) asked whether the collaboration with the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit was effective in achieving the planned results, (i.e. you have developed your national policy on ageing – Strategy, Action Plan, increased capacities, etc.) think so in comparison with 30% that believed that it was somewhat helpful.

In addition, survey respondents were asked about the effectiveness of the collaboration in achieving specific results/deliverables. When asked if the collaboration with the Population Unit and the WGA resulted in achieving the expected results, 95% of the Survey respondents from partner organizations considered this to be the case (see **Figure 11** below).

Figure 11. Effectiveness of the work of the Population Unit and the WGA-opinions by partner organizations

Do you think that the collaboration of your institution with the UNECE Population Unit was helpful in delivering the expected results?



Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

Interviewed stakeholders considered the work done by the Population Unit to be highly effective. They reiterated the importance of MIPAA/RIS periodic review as an effective instrument to keep the ageing issue on the policy agenda of the region. As stated by one interviewed respondent, *“the MIPAA and RIS, and their periodic review is an extremely important tool, and has helped effectively raise the awareness on the issue in general, as well as the work of specific UN agencies in the European region, such as WHO”*⁸³

However, as noted earlier, some key informants believed that there is a need to reflect on the changing reality of ageing and the issues that emerge to be of priority, and as such, adjust the nature and time-frame of the periodic MIPAA/RIS review in order to make it a more effective instrument for policy action in the region. As stated by one respondent, *MIPAA/RIS cover many topics and reporting on them becomes a difficult task for governments and civil society. I believe there is a need to consider a different approach to reporting, like make shorter reporting periods with focus on few topic.*⁸⁴ Other respondent also noted that *“the WGA should consider issue based reporting on annual basis, on the basis of select priority issues as a way a way forward, since long time has passed by since Madrid,”*⁸⁵ in order to increase the effectiveness of this process.

Another aspect explored in the evaluation is the effectiveness of the WGA itself in meeting the requirements of its ToRs. Although the Survey findings and the opinions of many respondents confirm the effectiveness of the WGA as intergovernmental body entrusted to promote the issue of ageing at regional level, some respondents expressed concern over its effectiveness. Namely, as noted by one respondent, *“although the potential of the WGA is good for it to be the leading intergovernmental body on ageing, its effectiveness is dependent upon the quality and the level of the members appointed by member states. Unfortunately, some members are either not sufficiently knowledgeable of the subject or hold a lower level posts at their national*

⁸³ Interview representative of WHO, 4 August 2020

⁸⁴ Interview with member of the Bureau, representative of NGO’, 15 July 2020

⁸⁵ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, NGO representative, 15 July 2020

governments, and hence cannot contribute to the work of the group as well as in their own countries effectively.”⁸⁶

The evaluation confirmed that the main challenge seems to be how to activate those members of the WGA that are not regularly active and strengthen the group so that it reinforces its role as a leading platform for intergovernmental cooperation on the issue of ageing. As recommended in the previous sections, the WGA should take this issue in its future deliberations to seek ways to address this weakness.

E.2. Contributing to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments

According to data obtained from the desk review, despite the limited financial and human resources capacities of the Unit, they have efficiently mobilized external resources and their key deliverables - Roadmaps, Policy Briefs and AAI and GGP, have been implemented as planned, supporting countries to advance their policy objectives on ageing. Additionally, it should be noted that the UNECE provides continued and effective support and servicing of the WGA and its Bureau, and that, based on the above-mentioned Reports, those were provided by the UNECE as required. Interviewed representatives from the Bureau and the WGA highlighted frequently the effectiveness of the WGA meetings and the practice of organizing back-to-back policy seminars.

As stated by one respondent *“not only that the meetings of the WGA provide us with opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss relevant topics, but the newly established practice of having a policy seminar at the back of these meetings has proven to be very useful for us”⁸⁷* However, as stated by another key informant *“given the weak position of the Population Unit in the UNECE and the current status of the WGA, it is difficult to argue in my country that this is a platform which leads the policy discussions on ageing in the region. Staff in Ministries hardly know about UNECE and associate the UN work on ageing with ILO and WHO. UNECE leadership should recognize the importance of the work of the Unit and strengthen it.”⁸⁸*

Regular, recurrent activities related to data and knowledge production, preparation and management of relevant documentation and coordination of the work and collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partner agencies and organizations were undertaken as planned, and in line with the provisions of their approved work programmes, and they have been praised by the relevant stakeholders for their effectiveness.

This was confirmed through the interviews with key respondents, specifically by the representatives of countries where the Roadmaps have been implemented.⁸⁹ In addition, interviews with representatives of the research community attested to the effectiveness of the Policy Briefs, providing the academic community with knowledge and data on important aspects of ageing in the region. As state by one informant *“Policy Briefs are excellent source of knowledge and information for the research community, although maybe policy-makers may not find it that useful.”⁹⁰*

⁸⁶ Interview former member WGA, European Commission, DG Justice, 15 July 2020

⁸⁷ Interview representative of the WGA Bureau, Moldova, 13 July 2020

⁸⁸ Interview member of the WGA Bureau, Norway, 15 July 2020

⁸⁹ Interview representative of UNFPA CO Belarus, 23 July 2020, and UNFPA CO Georgia, 23 July 2020.

⁹⁰ Interview representative of the National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy, 18 August 2020.

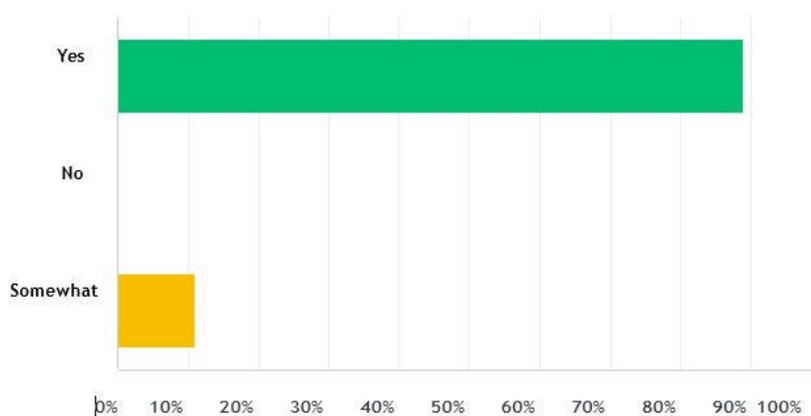
However, some key informants believe that the length and format of the Policy Briefs may not be most effective for the intended audience - the policy makers, while others consider that “*they are useful but do not address issues relevant for some countries, and hence they should aim to reflect the realities of different countries.*”⁹¹ In view of this, it may be pertinent for the Population Unit to consider a change in the format of the Briefs to make them less academic and oriented more towards the policy makers’ needs.

The Survey confirmed the effectiveness of the specific products of the Population Unit in supporting the efforts to mainstream ageing in national policies. Out of 18 responses by the NFPA, 16 (89%) believe that the specific deliverables of the Population Unit have been effective in helping them mainstream ageing in national policies. (see **Figure 12** below).

Figure 12. Effectiveness of the Population Unit products to mainstream ageing in national policies - opinion of the NFPA

In general, do you think that these specific deliverables of the UNECE Population Unit are useful and support your efforts to mainstream ageing in your national policies?

Answered: 18



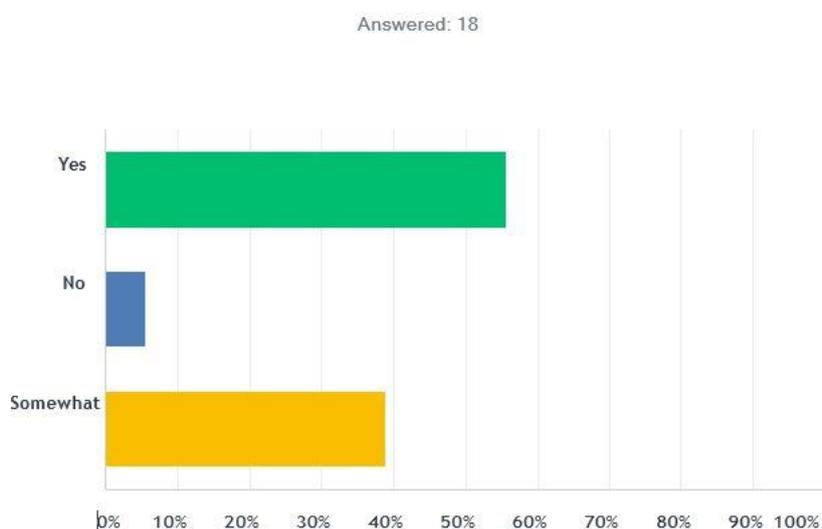
Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

Survey responses likewise confirm the effectiveness of the Population Unit products in meeting the needs of countries to integrate gender and vulnerability into its policies. Survey findings show that more than half of the NFPA respondents (55,6%) believe so, in comparison with 39% who believe that this is somewhat the case, and only 5,4% who do not share this opinion (see **Figure 13** below).

⁹¹ Interview representative of the WGA Bureau, Moldova, 13 July 2020

Figure 13. Effectiveness of integrating gender and vulnerably into national ageing policies – opinion of NFPA

Have some or all of the above deliverables been useful and helped you mainstream gender and issues of vulnerable groups in your national ageing policies (for example, issues of older women, or older persons living with dementia, subject to abuse, etc)?



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

E.3. Contribution of the AAI and the support for the GGP to evidence building for policymaking on ageing

As noted above, the AAI has been considered a useful tool in meeting the objective of the subprogramme to provide evidence base for policy making on ageing. Based on the desk review, it can be stated that, as the AAI provides for country ranking and/or benchmarking against goals in the Index, it has provided an impetus for policymakers to adopt an integrated approach, the case being with the Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. Likewise, the AAI seems to be contributing to raise awareness of the contribution of older persons to society (this being one of the main policy goal of the Lisbon Declaration), as well as contributing towards the objective of the subprogramme to support evidence-based policies on ageing.⁹² *“The examples of the AAI application in the EU Member States and to selected subnational contexts illustrated in this report have shown various possibilities to use this tool as a practical support in monitoring experiences and progress in the implementation of active ageing policies.”*⁹³

However, currently this Index is available in 35 countries, mostly those of the European Union. As noted by one informant, *“it may be useful to develop an AAI for Eastern European countries” with indicators responding to their demographic realities.*⁹⁴

The AAI has been appreciated by policy makers attested by the fact that the third phase was initiated with the EC funding. Additional evidence to confirm this finding was obtained through

⁹² As appraised in A/74/6 (Sect. 20)

⁹³ ECE/WG.1/33, 2018 Active Ageing Index, Analytical Report, 2019, pp.80

⁹⁴ Interview representative UNFPA CO Moldova, 27 July 2020.

the interviews with key informants and could be concluded that the AAI is indeed an especially useful tool for countries to inform their policy making.

However, some respondents considered that the effectiveness of the tool could be further improved by modifying certain indicators which currently *"can only be done at national level, but not regional one,"*⁹⁵ whereas in some countries, policy-making on ageing is done at regional level. Others believe that *"the findings of the AAI Survey are not properly distributed as data interpretation takes lot of time and there is no interest in the public to read about it."*⁹⁶ Other respondent highlighted number of caveats regarding the AAI, including, *"data availability for the Index and usefulness of the indicators."*⁹⁷

These are important concerns that should be considered by the partners involved in the project with a view of their mitigation and enhancement of the effectiveness of the tool.

Regarding the GGP, data obtained from the interviews as well as the Survey shows that it is not widely considered as an effective tool. Currently, 20 UNECE countries are conducting the GGP, but data from the interviews and the Survey do not provide evidence to confirm the effectiveness of the tool. Only one respondent provided a feedback, stating that *"the experience in Moldova has been useful so far, however, there are some methodological shortcomings, including as related to the budgetary requirements for the survey and its different phases, as well as sampling and tabulation plan."*⁹⁸

5.4. Efficiency of the Population subprogramme work

Ef.1. Use of available resources to deliver expected outputs

As noted earlier, during the evaluation period, the Population Unit was run by only two professionals, one at P-5 and one at P-2 level and one general service staff.

Regular budget allocations for the work of the Unit has fluctuated. During 2016-2017 biennium the budget for non-post items, was U.S. dollars 20,800. Of the allocations for consultancy fees, in 2016: \$3,600 were used to support Armenia's RM evaluation, and in 2017: \$3,200 for the preparation of the MC proceedings. Staff travel used in 2016: \$5,719 used in 2017: \$7,055, making an overall budget utilization of 94% (non-post). The budget for non-post items for the 2018-2019 biennium was 13,540 US dollars, of which 5,013 US were for consultancy, and 8,528 US for staff travel. In 2020, the regular budget allocation for the Population Unit for 2020 amount to US\$ 2.467.00, however due to liquidity crisis only 1/5th of it was disbursed.⁹⁹

Overall, the low budget allocations for the Unit and the continued pressure to decrease regular budget resources pose a serious constraint for the Unit and the efficient implementation of their work programme. This was an overwhelming view of all interviewed key informants, both members of the WGA and partner organizations.

⁹⁵ Interview member of the Bureau from NGOs (Italy), 22 July 2020)

⁹⁶ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, NGO representative, 15 July 2020

⁹⁷ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, NGO representative, 15 July 2020

⁹⁸ Interview Representative UNFPA CO Moldova, 27 July 2020.

⁹⁹ Data obtained from the Population Unit.

Answers as to the possibility to increase regular budget allocations for the Unit were sought during this evaluation. As stated by one respondent, *“there seems to be small possibility for the Executive Office to increase the funds for the Unit,”*¹⁰⁰ given the overall trend in the UN of zero growth budget. In part, this is a result from the fact that *“Permanent Missions in Geneva, are not familiar to a sufficient extent with the work of the Unit,”*¹⁰¹ and that *“the Unit, given its limited human resources, is not in a position to undertake more systematic visibility and communication efforts.”*¹⁰²

However, interviewed staff members of the Population Unit believe that the real reason why Permanent Missions are not that familiar with the work of the Unit and the WGA, is that *“their interests are primarily in technical and not social issues, and that in addition, the assigned NFPA struggle to get to their Foreign Ministries.”*¹⁰³

In addition to regular budget allocation, activities of the Unit are funded from additional resources raised, both as a direct contribution of member states to the Ageing Fund, direct contribution for specific projects/activities (such as the AAI) and in-kind contributions.

Given the trend to engage in mobilization of extra-budgetary (XB) resources to cover programmatic work, not only in the UN but other international organizations as well, it is recommended that *“the Population Unit should be more assertive in their approach with donors, and ensure that additional staff is covered from the XB projects.”*¹⁰⁴

Given the limited human resources capacity of the Unit, they often resort to use of consultants to undertake the planned work. Although this modality may be resolving the capacity challenges faced by the Unit, it does indeed create problems of sustainability and building up of resource base and know how to further their mandate. This issue should be considered by the UNECE and a solution to it should be sought. However, as indicated by one key informant, *“currently, member states have no appetite to increase neither the number nor the level of staff. There is a recruitment freeze since April, creating even more difficult situation for programme managers.”*¹⁰⁵

Therefore, the Population Unit should consider seriously engaging in development of new XB projects, possibly joint ones with other UN agencies, and capitalize on those to include more staff on its team. Yet, it should be noted that this approach will not help solve the underlying problem of staffing shortage of the Unit to implement more effectively the mandated ongoing activities.

In terms of efficiency in implementing the work plans, the desk review assessed whether planned results were delivered. Below is a summary of the major results delivered during the period 2016-2019 and partly 2020 as contained in documents ECE/WG.1/2016/4¹⁰⁶ and

¹⁰⁰ Interview representative of the Population Unit, 27 July 2020.

¹⁰¹ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, 13 July 2020

¹⁰² Interview representatives of the Population Unit, 27 July 2020.

¹⁰³ Interview representatives of the Population Unit, 27 July 2020.

¹⁰⁴ Interview UNECE Executive Office representative, August 20, 2020

¹⁰⁵ Interview UNECE Executive Office Representative, 20 August 2020

¹⁰⁶ ECE/WG.1/2016/4 , Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Ninth meeting Geneva, 21-22 November 2016 Item 5 of the provisional agenda Implementation of the WGA work programme in 2016 ,

Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2016, Note by the Secretariat

ECE/WG.1/2017/3¹⁰⁷ for the period 2016-2017 and ECE/WG.1/2018/4,¹⁰⁸ ECE/WG.1/2018/3¹⁰⁹ and A/74/6 (Sect. 20)¹¹⁰ for the period 2018-2019, and ECE/WG.1/2020/3.¹¹¹

a) **Policy Briefs on Ageing:** As planned the Unit has developed 8 Policy Briefs, one more than the initially planned 7 ones (Policy brief on Gender Inequality in Aging Society).¹¹² As stated by one interviewed key informant, “*not only that I find Policy briefs very relevant and useful, I am impressed by their regularity.*”¹¹³ One concern though expressed by number of key informants is that of translation of the Policy Briefs in languages other than English.¹¹⁴

The UNECE should look at ways to ensure financial allocation for translation of the Policy briefs in other languages if it is to increase the readers base and make it accessible to more policy makers and research community.

b) **Third cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation** – Based on the National MIPAA/RIS implementation reports, the Unit prepared a Synthesis Report, outlining major trends in the region, including progress made and remaining challenges. The ECOSOC, and the Commission on Social Development at its 56th session, recognized with appreciation the successful process of the third cycle review of MIPAA,¹¹⁵ while interviewed respondents highlighted the efficiency of the process.

c) **Conferences and workshops** – Number of Conferences took place during the evaluation period, including:

- UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing – The Lisbon Ministerial Conference on Ageing took place in September 2017, under the theme “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the Potential of Living Longer”, with the necessary preparatory work initiated during 2016. Preparatory work was undertaken by the Portuguese Government, the UNECE and the Bureau of the WGA. Official consultations with member States on the draft Ministerial Declaration were conducted during the year. Collaboration with academia, non-governmental organizations

¹⁰⁷ ECE/WG.1/2017/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2017 Work of the Bureau, Report on the ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

¹⁰⁸ ECE/WG.1/2018/4, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eleventh meeting Geneva, 19-20 November 2018 Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda Implementation of the main elements of the Working Group on Ageing work programme in 2018 and planned outputs in 2019., Implementation of the work programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2018. Note by the Secretariat

¹⁰⁹ ECE/WG.1/2018/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eleventh meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2018 Work of the Bureau, Report on the tenth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

¹¹⁰ A/74/6 (Sect. 20) , General Assembly, 2019. Proposed programme budget for 2020, Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe

¹¹¹ ECE/WG.1/2020/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Thirteenth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2020 Work of the Bureau, Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

¹¹²These are: Analysis of the Ageing in sustainable and smart cities, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 24, May 2020; Gender equality in ageing societies, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 23, March 2020; The challenging roles of informal carers, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 22, September 2019; Combating ageism in the world of work, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 21, February 2019; Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 20, November 2018; Realizing the potential of living longer, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 19, September 2017; Older persons in rural and remote areas ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 18, March 2017; Migration and older age, ECE Policy Brief on Ageing No. 17, July 2016;

¹¹³ Interviewed representative of ILO, 28 July 2020.

¹¹⁴ Interviewed members of the Bureau of the WGA from France, Portugal, Norway, Moldova, Austria

¹¹⁵ E/CN.5/2018/L.3, Third Review of the Madrid International Plan on Ageing 2002, 2018

and policymakers was ensured, pursuant to the relevant stipulations of the biennial work programme.

- UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD+25 “Enabling Choices: Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development” on 1-2 October 2018 was organized jointly with UNFPA.

- A regional capacity-development workshop on addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators took place in Minsk, hosted by the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus, and in collaboration with UNFPA's Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, through Sweden’s contribution to the Ageing fund.

- National conferences on ageing, 2016 (Armenia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

- In June 2018, a national seminar “Active Ageing Index in Poland” took place as planned. The first WGA Policy seminar was held in November 2018, on the topic of Ageing and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and the second Policy seminar on Informal care for persons with dementia was held in November 2019.

- During 2018, a side event “MIPAA meets SDG1: Responses to old-age poverty in the UNECE region” was organized by the Working Group on Ageing at the 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development on 31 January 2018 in New York. Also, on 29 October 2019, a side event on “Ageing and its implications for gender equality” was held by WGA members at the Beijing+25 Regional Review Meeting,

d) Capacity development –

- Roadmaps for mainstreaming ageing –

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the government of Georgia adopted the "State Policy Concept on Population Ageing in Georgia” based on the Roadmap’s recommendations (2015), followed by adoption of an Action Plan on Ageing for 2016-2018. In addition, an evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia took place, funded by Sweden, as a collaborative effort of relevant stakeholders in Armenia, members of the WGA from the Republic of Moldova and Sweden, and the evaluation expert and Secretariat staff. In 2018-2019, at the request of the Belarus Government, the Roadmap on mainstreaming ageing in Belarus was developed in support of preparation of national strategy on ageing. The Roadmap was launched on 1 October 2019 in Minsk. The work on the Roadmap on mainstreaming ageing in Kazakhstan was initiated in late 2019 - early 2020.

e) Monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening the evidence base for policymaking

- The Active Ageing Index (AAI) –

The second phase of the AAI project undertaken by Population Unit and the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion was concluded in 2016 and the third phase was initiated. During 2016, outreach and coordination of the work of the Expert Group on the Active Ageing Index continued, including the

organization of its sixth meeting in October 2016. The computation of AAI under the third phase continued, and the guidelines for the AAI calculation in non-EU countries and/or at subnational level were developed and issued in September 2018. Moreover, a research study on AAI results for different population groups was carried out in Italy, as was an update of AAI results for the European Union countries and countries for which data are available from the harmonized European surveys was issued. The Guidelines and the results of the Italian research studies are available on the AAI wiki-space.

A second international seminar on the AAI¹¹⁶ took place in Bilbao, co-organized by the UNECE, European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, and the University of the Basque Country with the support of the Biscay Provincial Government (Spain), in line with the provisions for enhancing collaboration with other organizations and academia. Likewise, a meeting of the Expert group on AAI was held in Bilbao (Spain), back to back with the international seminar.

Although there is significant evidence on the efficiency in implementing the AAI, a concern was expressed by one respondent over the capacity of the Population Unit to implement the project effectively, given the limited number of staff members.¹¹⁷ This concern should be taken on board by the UNECE and ensure that the Unit is fully functional and capable of efficiently implementing its work, including through strengthened staffing structure.

- The GGP –

The UNECE continued to act as a clearinghouse for data administration of GGP and as a coordinator of the network of National Focal Points – the GGP Council of Partners. In this capacity, the UNECE Secretariat has been co-organizing the Council of Partners meetings: (2016, in Mainz (Germany): 2017, Berlin (Germany): 2018, Brussels (Belgium): 2019, Paris (France); 2020, (virtual meeting due to Covid-19).¹¹⁸

Regular bridging and programme management support, including handling of data submissions under the Generations and Gender Programme has been ongoing in 2018-2020. A new round of GGP surveys was initiated in 2019-2020. In the meantime, additional UNECE countries – Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Latvia – started fielding the Generation and Gender Survey (GGS) 2020. The UNFPA and other agencies are supporting activities at country level, an example being a Regional Forum on the GGS in Belarus and the initiation of the programme in Moldova with UNFPA support in 2018.¹¹⁹ The GGP piloted studies on conducting the survey online with a smaller sample of about 400 participants in Portugal, Germany and Croatia.

Based on the above accomplishments it can be concluded that the expected specific outputs and activities of the Unit were implemented as planned, and with the limited financial and human resources. All key informants¹²⁰ praised the Unit for implementing their work in an efficient manner despite the limited resources. As stated by one respondent, “*despite being a*

¹¹⁶ <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/AAI/Second+international+seminar++on+the+Active+Ageing+Index>

¹¹⁷ Interviewed respondent from the UNECE Executive Office, August 20, 2020

¹¹⁸ http://www.unece.org/ggp_council_partners.html

¹¹⁹ Interview representative of UNFPA CO in Moldova, 27 July 2020

¹²⁰ All interviewed members of the Bureau as well as partner organizations

*very small team, they manage to do many activities and implement their work plans, often relying on consultancies.”*¹²¹ *“However, having only two posts, and one at P-2 level, which is very junior and rotating, poses also a threat to the continuity of the knowledge and know-how of the Unit.”*¹²²

While recognizing *“the impressive work done by the small Unit,”*¹²³ many key informants expressed concern over the current staffing and financial situation of the Population Unit, pointing to the fact that such situation is hampering the sustainability of the significant and relevant work on ageing performed by the Unit.

The issue of ageing population is an especially important one for the region, particularly now with the COVID-19 developments. Emerging issues and needs in the region to address ageing concerns merit stronger Unit with sustainable human and financial resources base, and the UNECE should explore how can this be achieved, despite the zero-growth policy at the Secretariat level. One possible way, in addition to an increase of the financial resources from the regular budget, is for *the Unit to obtain one large project, maybe from the development account, and assign to it one additional staff, to do additional fundraising.”*¹²⁴

It is thus recommended that the UNECE should consider ways to strengthen the staffing structure of the Population Unit either through regular or extrabudgetary resources, making temporarily available staff from other Units to work on population/ageing issues and support the Unit in mobilizing additional resources through relevant projects. Governments in turn, *“should honor their commitment to the issue of ageing and find ways to allocate more resources to the WGA and the Population Unit to be able to carry out their work in the future.”*¹²⁵

5.5. Sustainability of the Population subprogramme work

S.1. Persistence over time of the benefits of the Population subprogramme’s activities

The desk review, as noted above, found evidence of the appreciation of the WGA and member States of the support provided by the Unit to achieve their commitments related to ageing. Appreciation of the Policy Briefs, AAI, the Road Maps and the servicing of the WGA and related intergovernmental events, including monitoring and review of the MIPAA/RIS is noted in the WGA Annual Reports, the findings of the Survey and the interviews with key informants. As such, it can be concluded that one specific aspect of the long-term, organizational sustainability of the Population Unit – strategic and programme deliverables - has been ensured.

Likewise, it should be noted that Survey respondents confirmed their interest in continuing the collaboration with the WGA and the Population Unit. Out of 18 NFPA responses, 83.33% (15) state so, while 16.67% (3), do not indicate the desire to receive future support. Out of 21 responses by partner organizations, 95.24% (20) indicate positive disposition to continue collaboration versus 4.76% (1) of the respondents that do not indicate so.

¹²¹ Interview representative PU UNECE, 11 August 2020

¹²² Interview representative PU UNECE, 11 August 2020

¹²³ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, July 13, 2020

¹²⁴ Interview representative PU UNECE, 11 August 2020

¹²⁵ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, Spain, 15 July 2020

Interviews with key informants confirmed the importance of the ageing issue for the UNECE region and the need for the UNECE to continue leading the intergovernmental work on the subject. The new developments related to COVID-19 further reinforce the need to maintain significant attention to the population issues, and to strengthen interagency coherence and collaboration on the subject¹²⁶. As confirmed by many interview respondents, governments are becoming aware of the ageing demographic trends in the region and that there is a need to actively engaging to adapt to this reality.

However, the sustainability of the work and the specific deliverables and results of the WGA and the Population Unit are influenced by other factors, such as: a) political will of member States to support the work on ageing; and b) availability of sufficient financial and human resources to continue producing the desired deliverables.

The findings of the survey indicate that both NFPA and partner organizations want to continue benefiting from the work done by the Population Unit, with 83% of NFPA respondents stating clearly that they would like to continue their collaboration and receive support in the future from the UNECE Population Unit.¹²⁷ Over 95% of partner agencies¹²⁸ expressed their opinion that they would like to continue the collaboration with the UNECE Population Unit benefiting from the unique their positioning and the WGA to be the platform for discussion, engagement and guidance on ageing issues, as well as their the technical knowledge and capacity.

The interviews with key informants unanimously confirmed this finding and reiterated the need for the UNECE to strengthen the resource base of the Unit and ensure that the accumulated know-how and knowledge is not lost. Additionally, as stated by one interview respondent, the Population Unit should *“keep working in a systematic way with other partner organizations and the EU as well as national governments in a more time-intensive way, to keep all stakeholders engaged on the issue.”*¹²⁹

Several **recommendations** to ensure sustainability of the gains on ageing in the ECE region emanate from the evaluation and are related to the need to make the collaboration with national governments more dynamic and engaging. The possible way to do so includes:

1. *“promote the practice of peer exchange”*¹³⁰
2. *“promote the practice of study visits for the FPA from countries lagging behind to countries with more developed ageing policies and practices and learn from that experience”*¹³¹
3. *“compile lessons learned and good practices and share them with the NFPA”*¹³²

¹²⁶ Currently, as indicated by interviewed key respondents from UNFPA EECARO, WHO, and UNECE a Concept Paper to work jointly on the issue has been prepared, representing a good basis to initiate joint activities which may help the UNECE Population Unit to engage in mobilization of ExB resources.

¹²⁷ Source, Survey, 2020, See Annex 4

¹²⁸ Source, Survey, 2020, See Annex 4

¹²⁹ Interview representative of the National Institute on Health and Science on Ageing, Italy, 18 August 2020

¹³⁰ Interview member of the Bureau, Ireland, July 13, 2020

¹³¹ Interview member of the Bureau, Ireland, July 13, 2020

¹³² Interview member of the Bureau, Ireland, July 13, 2020

4. engage in raising awareness among political leadership in countries on the importance of the ageing issue and design and implement targeted capacity building for higher level management in relevant Ministries.”¹³³

The recent developments regarding the WGA, i.e. the adoption of the ECOSOC resolution 2020/19 that endorsed the change of the name and the revised terms of reference of the WGA, is a positive development in a direction of sustainability of the work on ageing done by the UNECE Population Unit. This is in line with the overwhelming opinion expressed by the interviewed current and former members of the WGA’s Bureau, all arguing for the need to strengthen the position of this working group to ensure the sustainability of the past, current and future efforts on ageing. As stated by one respondent, “*not only is this body a critical tool to mainstream ageing across the region, but its transformation into a Standing WGA is a step towards its sustainability*”.¹³⁴

This development, however, should be coupled with stronger commitment of the UNECE to strengthen the resource base of the Unit and support their efforts to engage further in partnering agreements with UN and other organizations to address the issue of population and ageing. This opinion was expressed unanimously by all interviewed members of the Bureau and representatives of partner organizations. Using the UN Resident Coordinator system to further the efforts on ageing at national level should be a window of opportunity for the UNECE to implement their mandate emanating from the international commitments on ageing.

Additionally, as stated in the Secretary General Report “*Europe has already reduced extreme poverty to below 3 per cent. At same time, Europe is facing pressing challenges, such as environmental degradation and climate change, demographic transition, inequality, and pressure on public finances*”¹³⁵ the demographic changes in the region merit greater attention. The UNECE is rightly positioned to lead the work on ageing and demographic change in Europe and should hence capitalize on its knowledge and expertise and further strengthen its work to ensure future sustainability.

As such, it is recommended that the UNECE considers ways to strengthen the resource base of the Unit and build on its advantages vi-a-vis both, other Regional Commissions, and other UN organizations.

S.2. Engagement with member States and broader stakeholder groups

As presented above, the Population Unit and the WGA have established fruitful collaboration with numerous partners, both international governmental and non-governmental, as well as national ones. The sustainability of continuous engagement with those partners is of course depending on the capacity of the Population Unit to engage in relevant and fruitful activities. As such, whether these efforts will sustain over time or not will be determined by the commitment of the organization to strengthen its work on the issue of ageing, and whether

¹³³ Interview member of the WGA Bureau, Moldova, July 13,2020

¹³⁴ Interview member of the Bureau, Austria, 23 July 2020.

¹³⁵ United Nations, 2019, Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019, Special Edition, pp.31.

sufficient staffing and financial resources, either regular or extrabudgetary will be made available.

The desk review revealed that allocations from the regular UN budgets are decreasing, and that only several member States contribute to the Ageing Fund. This poses serious threat to the sustainability of the work on ageing done by the UNECE, and it should be addressed adequately. Many interviewed respondents believed that a more aggressive approach towards involving delegates of the Permanent Missions in Geneva is needed to raise the support for the ageing issues. As noted by one interviewed respondent, *“the work and role of the WGA is not very known among delegates in Geneva. This is one of the main weakness of the WGA, and it should be addressed urgently”*¹³⁶ Other interviewed respondent noted that *“there is no sufficient visibility of the work of the WGA and the Population Unit, and one way to improve that is through enhanced collaboration with other Regional Commissions, and agencies such as UNFPA.”*¹³⁷

Yet, evidence collected through the interviews and the Survey suggests that there is willingness by all relevant stakeholders to continue the engagement with the WGA and the Population Unit to enhance MIPAA/RIS implementation. Nonetheless, some changes are needed.

As stated by one respondent, *“I believe the WGA needs an overarching goal to work towards and to get traction from member States to achieve this. I think the WGA has many valuable programmes of work, but it is spread quite thin and the scope is overly broad. There would be huge value and enthusiasm to get behind a clear mission. The MIPAA and SDG goals can be very technical and challenging to translate to others not in Ageing policy areas. I also think the approach to developing policy briefs should be reviewed to make them more useable and effective.”*¹³⁸

Again, according to the Survey findings, the intergovernmental process on ageing could be made more sustainable, including through:

a) *Setting up a more focused mission of the WGA and strengthen their status, including through provision of adequate secretariat support;*¹³⁹

b) *Finding ways to involve more national governmental and non-governmental partners in the policy discussions on ageing;*¹⁴⁰

¹³⁶ Interview member of the Bureau of the WGA, France, July 20, 2020

¹³⁷ Interview representative European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, July 21, 2020

¹³⁸ Survey, 2020, see Annex 4

¹³⁹ Survey respondent “Identifying ways to broaden the audience of the WGA would be useful to convince the atypical stakeholders that they should also consider their impacts on older persons and on population ageing related challenges. For example, the WGA could further engage with other groups within the UN system and beyond (e.g.: OECD) to advocate for the need to better consider population ageing issues in international fora.”, Source: Survey, 2020

¹⁴⁰ Survey respondent, “To involve more national parties (state agencies of the social sphere, ngo, international agencies) in discussion and development process on international level”;; Survey respondent “maintain regular continuous work and contacts, including new members in the process, maybe also include other member States and focal points in development of road maps (maybe if possible through EU Funds?) or exchange of kind of “internships” in another ministry or organization for a certain time (payed); Source Survey, 2020

c) *Renewing MIPAA/RIS commitments, including through adjustment/revision of MIPAA/RIS as appropriate;*¹⁴¹

d) *Improving coherence and coordination among UN agencies and institutions working on ageing.*¹⁴²

Additionally, greater engagement with member States is needed, and as noted in the ECE/WG.1/2020/3¹⁴³ “*some Bureau members suggested to organize periodic WGA briefings to the permanent missions in Geneva and use all suitable occasions for engaging in panels, organizing side events or public launch of policy briefs and other activities.*”

The WGA and the Population Unit should hence seek ways to enlarge their support base and reinforce the importance of the issue of ageing to ensure sustainability of the important gains made in the field. Additionally, the UNECE should commit to strengthen the Population Unit both financially and in terms of human resources despite the current budgetary restrictions, to enable them to effectively implement their mandate.

5.6. Impact of the Population subprogramme work

Given the fact that the evaluation covers the period of 5 years, it is difficult to assess the extent to which the subprogramme has impacted intergovernmental efforts to mainstream ageing in relevant policy fields.

However, as argued above, the population subprogramme has contributed to more member States adopting and/or adjusting their policies to align them with the MIPAA/RIS (39) by providing direct support in designing ageing policies and or/ improving their capacities to do so. Moreover, as the support to the development of Roadmaps is provided upon request of member States, it may also be assumed that other components of the work of the subprogramme (capacity building workshops, knowledge and data generation, etc) have contributed towards enhancing the political will of those countries to develop ageing-related policies and Action Plans.

Interviews with key informants confirmed this finding. Respondents stressed the important role that the WGA and Population Unit have played in developing ageing policies. As stated by one interviewed respondent, “*the major impact achieved by the Population Unit is that of mainstreaming ageing in national policies.*”¹⁴⁴ This finding was confirmed by the Survey.

The impact of the support provided by the WGA and the Population Unit to members states in mainstreaming MIPAA/RIS commitments into their ageing policies is further reinforced by the fact that out of 22 Survey responses of the NFPA, 21 indicate that their country has

¹⁴¹ Survey respondent “A stronger political /governmental commitment -Renew MIPAA”, source Survey, 2020, and “The WGA at its next session should raise the issue of the need to review not only the MIPAA/RIS implementation, but the content of the RIS, in view of the current developments in the region” (Interview respondent from the European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, 21 July, 2020)

¹⁴² Survey respondent “A more coherent/coordinated UN-work on ageing (different UN-bodies have separate ageing-work processes (UN-DESA, WHO, UNECE)”, Source: Survey, 2020

¹⁴³ ECE/WG.1/2020/3, Economic Commission for Europe, Working Group on Ageing, Thirteenth meeting, Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2020, Report on the twelfth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing, available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Bureau_wga/ECE-WG-1-2020-3-AC.pdf

¹⁴⁴ Interview representative European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, 21 July 2020

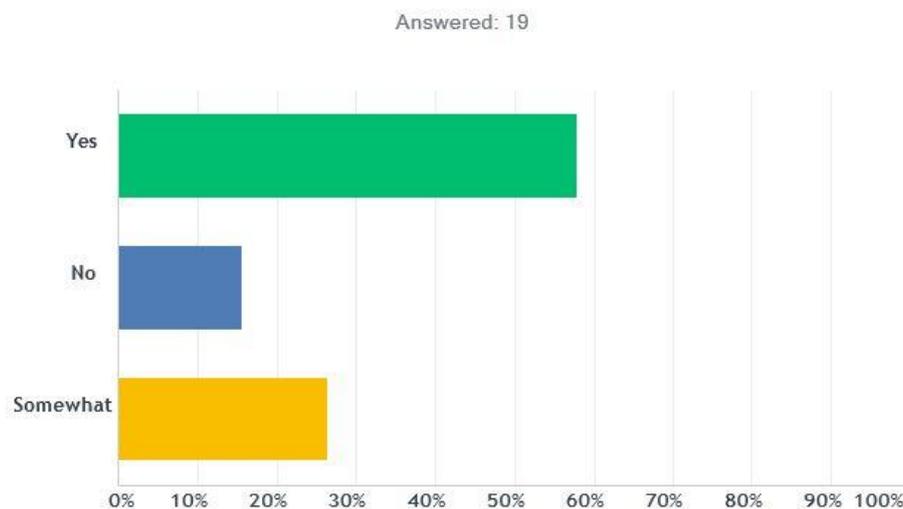
mainstreamed ageing in their policies since 2016, and only one respondent indicated that they have not done so (see Figure 4, section on relevance above). However, the direct correlation between the number of countries that have developed ageing policies and the support provided by the Population Unit cannot be established. As indicated in the Survey findings, only half of the respondents confirming that they have developed such policy stated that they have done so with the support of the UNECE. Moreover, the Survey also showed that of those respondents that have collaborated, with the UNECE, 70% indicate that the collaboration helped them achieve the planned results, while 30% indicated that such collaboration was somewhat helpful. It is therefore difficult to directly attribute the impact to the work undertaken by the WGA and the Population Unit to the development of relevant ageing policies.

This is of concern and may point out to the weak financial and human capacity base of the Population Unit to systematically engage with national governments in developing and implementing their ageing policies.

The criteria of impact related to the national capacities for monitoring ageing policies was also explored through interviews with relevant stakeholders (Bureau members) and UNECE staff that supports them in the process. As indicated by the NFPA respondents to the Survey, 58% of them believe that as a result of the Population Unit work on data and knowledge generation, their monitoring capacity has increased, as compared to 26% and 16% that think that this is somewhat or not the case. (see **Figure 14** below).

Figure 14. Impact on enhancing national capacities to monitor policies

Has the work of the population Unit of the UNECE contributed to increase your capacity to monitor ageing policies?

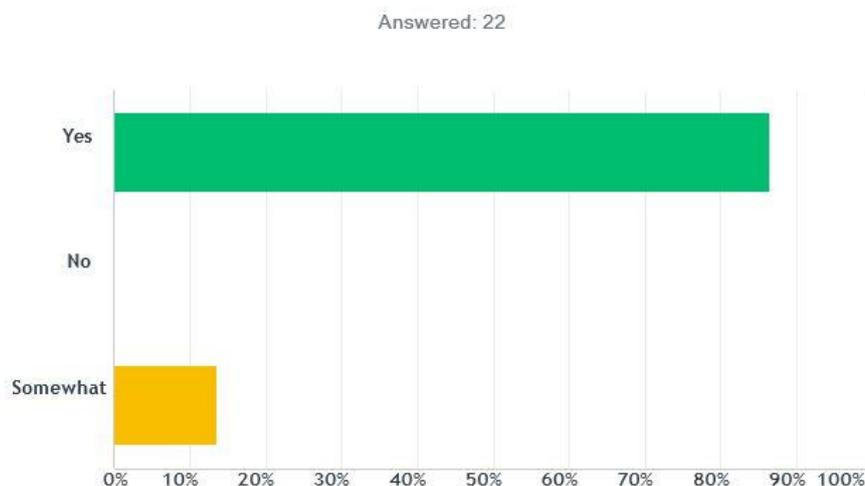


Source: Evaluation Survey, 2020

Partner organizations also believe that the work of the Population Unit has impacted positively the achievement of MIPAA/RIS commitments. According to the Survey, 86% of them believe that this is the case, while only 14% think that somewhat this is the case (see **Figure 15** below).

Figure 15. Impact on MIPAA/RIS implementation -opinion of partner organizations

Do you think that the work of the Population Unit in general, and in the last 5 years, has impacted positively the achievement of the MIPAA/RIS and Lisbon Ministerial Declaration commitments?



Source: Evaluation Survey 2020

According to them, the work of the “WGA is crucial for the MIPPA/RIS process and it creates the opportunity to be engaged and to contribute to the issues that will be reflected in the Ministerial conferences,”¹⁴⁵ as is the role of the Population Unit in keeping the issue of ageing on the regional and national agenda. As stated by few Survey respondents “UNECE plays a fundamental role in elevating ageing on the agenda in the region and ensuring national commitments,”¹⁴⁶ as “the subject tends to be forgotten or ignored. The endless efforts to keep it on the agenda is to a large extent the success of UNECE.”¹⁴⁷

The issue of whether the work of the WGA and the Population Unit has impacted change in gender equality among older persons and among the vulnerable groups of older persons has been appraised based on data collected in the Survey. Survey respondents were asked if some or all the deliverables of the WGA and the Population Unit been useful and helped them mainstream gender and issues of vulnerable groups in their national ageing policies. Over 55% of the NFPA confirm that this is the case, compared to 39% that believe that this was somewhat the case.

NFPA respondents pointed out clearly that the work of the WGA and the Population Unit has been helpful in raising awareness on the issues “I think it has helped inform and raise awareness of issues and given an insight on how these issues manifest themselves in other countries.”¹⁴⁸ Moreover, as pointed out by other respondent, “Having these issues identified and acknowledged by UNECE, provides confirmation, credibility and support of our individual advancement and promotion of policies in these areas.”¹⁴⁹ The impact of the work of the

¹⁴⁵ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁴⁶ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁴⁷ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁴⁸ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁴⁹ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

UNECE on these issues has also been noted by one respondent in the development of a National Strategy *“Yes it helped very much. For instance, discussing on a policy seminar a topic and also experiences of other states, e.g. in the field of people with dementia. The input helped to develop our national strategy.”*¹⁵⁰

Respondents from partner organizations also see value in the work related to gender and vulnerable groups implemented by the WGA and the Population Unit. Respondents acknowledged the value of the AAI and the GGP in *“providing empirical data to measure gender equality and gender gaps.”*¹⁵¹ Likewise, respondents have acknowledged the value of the Roadmaps in assessing the situation of older persons from a gender and vulnerability perspective and developing national policies to address those *“Developing Road Map for mainstreaming ageing to the national strategies. The document addressed gender dimension in the health section and specific section on gender equality in the ageing societies.”*¹⁵²

Interviewed informants also acknowledged that the Population Unit and the WGA are promoting these issues sufficiently, and that their countries integrate those issues in their national policies.

Overall, it could be concluded that the integration of the issues of gender equality and vulnerability in the specific deliverables of the UNECE (Policy Briefs, Policy Seminars, Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing, etc) has helped countries to not only become more aware of the need to take into account these aspects in their national policy making, but to develop specific policy documents as well. The UNECE should continue mainstreaming gender and vulnerability into their work programmes and should find ways to systematically collect evidence on how their work impacts the integration of gender and vulnerability in the national ageing policies.

To ensure sustained efforts on ageing performed by the WGA and the Population Unit and increase their impact on MIPAA/RIS implementation through development of national policies and Action Plans, Survey respondents, as well as interviewed key informants believe that it is necessary to:

- a) Strengthen financially and with human resources the Population Unit.
- b) Provide more direct support to countries to mainstream ageing in policies and ensure that gender and vulnerability issues are properly addressed.
- c) Change the methods and processes for MIPAA/RIS monitoring and review to ensure more efficient and meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

¹⁵⁰ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁵¹ Survey respondent, See Annex 4

¹⁵² Survey respondent, See annex 4

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Data collected through desk review, interviews with key informants and the online Survey was tabulated according to the main evaluation criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact.

Content analysis was performed, using the main functions of the WGA and the Population Unit as the main independent variables for assessment. Those are: a) acts as a Secretariat to the WGA, supporting the intergovernmental efforts to advance policy response by governments on the issue of ageing; b) supports the periodic MIPAA/RIS regional review process and produces evidence-based knowledge and information on ageing; and c) works to enhance capacities for ageing-related policy making, including through provision of direct support to member States to design and implement ageing related policies and production of data and knowledge on the issue.

Based on the analysis and assessment conducted, the below are the main conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation.

Main conclusions:

1. Based on the desk review, opinions of the interviewed members of the Bureau and partner organizations, it can be concluded that in general the work performed by the WGA and the Population Unit is highly relevant, effective, needed and in line with the demographic priorities in the region.
2. The evaluation found significant evidence that national governments place high relevance on the opportunity to meet in the framework of the WGA, exchange information and good practices and learn from experiences of other countries, and to receive direct technical and capacity enhancement support from the WGA and the Population Unit. As such, they believe that the specific deliverables of the Population Unit are not only relevant, but effective as well in their pursuit to meet the MIPAA/RIS commitments. The most relevant and effective deliverables are the Policy Briefs and the AAI, followed by the Roadmaps and capacity enhancement workshops. However, the evaluation also reveals that there are some aspects related to these products which should be further improved in the future, as contained in the recommendations below.
3. The evaluation revealed that, to date, 39 countries have mainstreamed ageing in their policies, thus meeting the targets of the subprogramme's objective. This attests to the relevance and effectiveness of the support provided by the subprogramme to the intergovernmental efforts to mainstream ageing in relevant policy fields, and to the positive contribution to impact a change at the level of policy development by UNECE member States in the area of ageing. Enhancing further the effectiveness of the work performed by the Population Unit and the WGA is however recommended, as contained in the specific recommendations below.

4. Gender issues addressed by the WGA and the Population Unit are considered relevant and sufficient. Data confirms an overwhelming opinion that the situation of older women and men and gender considerations are sufficiently integrated in the deliberations of the WGA and the specific work deliverables of the Population Unit. However, despite the inherent gender aspects in the issue of ageing, programme documents do not spell out clear gender results and indicators, indicating the need to further improve gender mainstreaming efforts in the programming of the Unit. Likewise, the evaluation found overall agreement among stakeholders that issues related to vulnerable groups are sufficiently addressed and relevant. However, as the concept of “vulnerable groups” includes many socially excluded groups including women, this issue should be further clarified for future programming purposes.

5. The coherence of the work of the Population Unit with the 2030 agenda, the UN agencies, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as among member States on ageing issues was confirmed. This is mainly a result of the fact that the UNECE has the advantage to mobilize the intergovernmental process, reach out to member States and provide a platform for regional cooperation, which enables partner agencies to build upon it and carry their ageing-related work at national level. Certain shortcomings were identified though as related to better linkage between the SDGs and ageing, particularly at the level of national reporting frameworks and it is thus recommended that the Population Unit addresses those. Likewise, specific aspects requiring attention regarding the Inter-agency working group on ageing were also identified and should be addressed as recommended below.

6. The evaluation confirmed that the expected specific outputs and activities of the Unit were implemented as planned, with small variations resulting from factors outside of control of the Unit but closely related to the prevailing modality of implementation of the work of the Population Unit - use of external expertise through consultants. However, the evaluation showed that the current staffing and financial situation of the Population Unit is of concern and is unsustainable, especially as recent developments related to COVID-19 raise the need to reinforce the engagement on the issue of ageing in the region. Emerging issues and needs in the region to address ageing concerns merit stronger Unit with sustainable human and financial resources base. However, given the trend in the UN to decrease regular budget resources, the UNECE should seek ways to address the issue of financial and human resources sustainability of the Unit, including as recommended below.

7. Recent developments and the ever-growing demographic changes in Europe call for not only maintaining the ageing issue on the regional agenda but reinforcing it. The need to ensure sustainability of the issue was confirmed during this evaluation. However, there are number of factors that impact on the sustainability of the work of the WGA and the Population Unit, including: a) the political will of member States to support the work on ageing; and b) the availability of sufficient financial and human resources to continue producing the desired deliverables. The evaluation revealed several possible ways to address those factors, and they are contained in the recommendations below.

8. The evaluation documented a few areas where the work of the Population Unit and the WGA has had important impact in advancing the efforts to deal with the issue of ageing in the region. More member States have adopted and/or adjusted their policies to align them with the

MIPAA/RIS during the evaluation period. The Roadmaps are important tool to impact developments in the countries related to their policy response to the ageing situation. The impact has also been identified by partner organizations who consider the leading role of the UNECE in providing for and facilitating the intergovernmental platform to further the MIPAA/RIS commitments to be of crucial importance for this. Some weaknesses identified during this evaluation and as presented under the specific functions and deliverables of the Unit, merit further attention by the UNECE and its WGA. This is reflected in the specific recommendations contained below.

Recommendations for action:

- 1. Enhance the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of the SWGA** by strengthening the political will among member States to support the UNECE work on ageing through active engagement with the Permanent Missions in Geneva and seeking ways to actively engage more NFPA in the activities of the Working Group.
- 2. Strengthen the relevance of the MIPAA/RIS review process** to become a stronger accountability mechanism for governments, including by engaging in further discussion on the subject at the SWGA and make a concerted decision based on the needs and realities of member States, with due respect to the guiding rules and regulations of the United Nations.
- 3. Make effort to include gender and vulnerability issues in the programming cycle** in a more systematic manner, including through mainstreaming of these issues in the situation analysis and integration of specific gender-sensitive results and performance measures, as well as clarify what the concept of “vulnerable groups” includes and reflect this in the future programme documents.
- 4. Ensure greater coherence on ageing issues at national and regional levels** by strengthening the linkages between 2030 Agenda and the SDG ‘s reporting frameworks with MIPAA/RIS commitments, including through promotion of the use of age-specific indicators in the SDGs monitoring and reporting frameworks, and provision of practical tools and advice on doing so. In pursuing greater coherence with the 2030 Agenda, the Population Unit should seek stronger collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator’s offices at national level as well as with the Geneva-based Interagency Working Group on Ageing.
- 5. Further improve the relevance and effectiveness of some of its major deliverables**, such as the AAI and the Policy Briefs to mitigate the identified shortcomings and ensure that they support better policy-making processes at national level.
- 6. Mitigate the negative staffing and budget situation of the Population Unit**, including by:
 - a) being more assertive in the approach with donors, to ensure funding of extra-budgetary projects that include financial allocations for additional staff; and
 - b) fill in the staffing gap by either ensuring that the current P-2 post is upgraded to P-3 and/or facilitate additional staff from other UNECE Units to support the Population Unit for a suitable period of time to help the Unit fundraise and develop new XB projects.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Advancing intergovernmental work towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments

I. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to review the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of ECE work in advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration on ‘Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer’ and the commitments of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS, 2002).

The results of the evaluation are expected to contribute to a longer-term vision for the ECE-led intergovernmental work in the area of population ageing and to raise the awareness of the impact of the Population subprogramme’s activities. The outcomes of the evaluation can be used to enhance the outreach to policymakers and other major stakeholders to strengthen their engagement in intergovernmental processes and to improve the methods and processes of intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration that support realization of MIPAA/RIS and 2030 Agenda.

II. Scope of activities for evaluation

The evaluation will explore the activities of the Population subprogramme during the period from September 2016 to September 2020 that support the programme of the ECE [Standing] Working Group on Ageing and are aimed at implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments. The activities cover all of Population subprogramme’s work on population ageing issues:

- facilitating international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing and intergenerational relations taking into account the situation and different needs of individual countries;
- developing guidelines and policy recommendations for governments on population ageing issues;
- supporting MIPAA/RIS monitoring activities and coordinating the five-year review and appraisal exercises of MIPAA/RIS implementation;
- providing demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities;
- raising awareness of population ageing and its implications throughout the ECE region;
- creating synergies with related policy agendas and collaboration within and outside the ECE.

The universally recognized values and principles of human rights and gender equality need to be integrated into all stages of the evaluation, in compliance with the United Nations Evaluation Group's revised gender-related norms and standards. Therefore, the evaluation will assess how gender considerations were included in the process and it would make recommendations on how gender can be better included in the process.

III. Background

The objective of the ECE Population subprogramme¹⁵³ is to enhance national formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations that would help countries to adjust to demographic changes and create an environment conducive to the full realization of the individual and societal potential of living longer. As the United Nations Regional Commission for Europe, ECE is mandated to facilitate the periodic MIPAA review and appraisal exercises at the regional level and through its long-standing intergovernmental body – the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) – has a unique regional platform for international cooperation, exchange of experience and policy discussion on ageing. The annual meeting of the WGA is a constructive mechanism to follow up on various activities related to MIPAA/RIS implementation and other related international frameworks in the area of population and development.

In its role of the secretariat to the WGA, the Population subprogramme supports the realization and monitoring of MIPAA/RIS and consequently contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16 where the connections between the SDGs and priority policy goals agreed in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration are the strongest (Recognizing the potential of older persons; Encouraging longer working life and ability to work; and Ensuring ageing with dignity).

The Population subprogramme cooperates and coordinates its activities with other United Nations agencies, international governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of ageing, to avoid duplication, and to focus on challenges of specific interest to ECE member States.

The Population subprogramme work builds on the core activities which proved helpful in implementing MIPAA/RIS since the WGA establishment and have been flexible to respond to the enduring and newly emerging societal challenges: policy seminars and in-depths discussions, policy briefs on ageing, road maps for mainstreaming ageing, capacity-building workshops, monitoring of MIPAA/RIS implementation and leading its five-year review and appraisal exercises as well as periodic implementation reviews of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994).

The ECE Working Group on Ageing was established in 2008 in response to the 2007 León Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which concluded the first review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA/RIS. The group was created with the purpose of reinforcing and continuing the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and with expectation of better integrating country-level expertise on ageing into ECE work and ensuring that ECE activities in this field continue to

¹⁵³ As referred to subprogramme 8 of Programme 17 in [A/69/6/Rev.1](#) and [A/71/6/Rev.1](#)

correspond to the needs of member States. In the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, ECE member States acknowledged “that the UNECE Working Group on Ageing has proven its added value as an intergovernmental body that provides an institutional framework for the exchange of information and good practice and for engaging stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community, in ageing-related policymaking”.

Activities over the evaluation period (September 2016 - September 2020) were geared towards the goals of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration adopted at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2017 which concluded the third review and appraisal cycle of the MIPAA/RIS and outlined priorities for the fourth implementation cycle. The work started with facilitating consultations among the member States on transforming the Working Group on Ageing to a standing intergovernmental body to further support the intergovernmental collaboration in the field of population ageing (follow-up to the paragraph 38 of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration). In April 2019, the ECE 68th Commission decided to approve the revised terms of reference and change of the name of the WGA to a Standing Working Group. The new programme of work for 2018-2022 agreed upon at the 11th WGA meeting in November 2018 outlined core activities related to the advancement of intergovernmental efforts in the field of ageing with an overarching aim of leaving no older person behind in the pursuit of sustainable society for all ages. A number of these activities were implemented during the period under evaluation. They include:

- (a) organization of policy seminars and in-depths discussions back-to-back with the annual sessions of the WGA;
- (b) preparation of policy briefs that provide access to evidence-based gender-sensitive policy advice on specific aspects of MIPAA/RIS and showcase good practices from across the region;
- (c) Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing and reviews of national policies on ageing;
- (d) Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing;
- (e) monitoring implementation of MIPAA/RIS and strengthening the evidence base for age- and gender-sensitive policymaking.

Also, periodic five-year regional reviews on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD was carried out jointly with the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

In 2020, preparations for the fourth cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS were initiated. The guidelines for national reporting are under preparation and informal consultations on the theme, outcome document and venue of the regional ministerial conference have been launched.

IV. Issues

The evaluation will answer the following questions:

Relevance

1. Is the work of the ECE Population subprogramme relevant for advancing intergovernmental efforts towards the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial

Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments? Is the Programme of Work relevant to attaining the 2030 Agenda?

2. How relevant are the activities with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?
3. Does the Population subprogramme incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups in its work? Is disability inclusion mainstreamed in the activities of the subprogramme?

Coherence

4. How coherent is the collaboration with other entities (United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia, etc.) in delivering on expected accomplishment and mandated outputs?
5. How coherent are the methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS?
6. What outcomes have been achieved through the collaboration with partners (expected/unexpected, positive/negative), in the activities of the sub-programme? Could this engagement with partners and various stakeholder groups be improved?
7. To which extent a human-rights based approach and gender mainstreaming were incorporated in the undertaken activities?

Effectiveness

8. Does the subprogramme contribute to member States' attainment of their commitments under the MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration?
9. To what extent did the undertaken activities contribute to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments?
10. To what extent did the work on the Active Ageing Index and support for the Generations and Gender Programme contribute to evidence building for policymaking in the area of ageing?
11. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the objectives and expected accomplishments set forth?

Efficiency

12. Were there sufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes, including in a timely manner?
13. Have the available resources been used efficiently to deliver expected outputs?

Sustainability

14. What is the likelihood that the benefits of the Population subprogramme's activities will persist over time?
15. To what extent do member States and broader stakeholder groups engage with the population subprogramme's work in an enduring way?

Impact

16. Has the Population subprogramme work led to an increased number of member States adopting comprehensive policies on ageing and/or adjusting existing programmes to align with the MIPAA/RIS, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, and 2030 Agenda?
17. Has the national capacity for monitoring and assessment of such policy measures improved as a result?
18. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to enhancement of gender equality

- and empowerment of (older) women and men in all dimensions of development?
19. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups?

V. Methodology

The evaluation will be conducted on the basis of:

1. A desk review of all relevant documents over the period including:
 - All relevant documents including materials developed in support of the activities (agendas, plans, participant lists, background documents, final reports and publications)
 - Reports of the Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau; Reports on annual work programme implementation
 - Proposed programme budgets covering the evaluation period
 - Relevant UN and ECE resolutions on the matter.
2. A tailored questionnaire will be developed by evaluator in consultation with ECE to assess the views of stakeholders: experts, members of the Working Group on Ageing, staff from ECE, other regional commissions and relevant counterparts in the United Nations System and other international organizations.
3. The questionnaire will be followed by interviews of selected stakeholders (methodology to be determined by the evaluator in consultation with ECE). These will be carried out via phone or other electronic means of communication. Results of the survey will be disaggregated by gender.

The report will summarize the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. An executive summary (max. 2 pages) will sum up the methodology of the evaluation, key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

All material needed for the evaluation, will be provided to the consultant. In addition to the documents mentioned above in 1), the Project Manager will provide the list of persons to be interviewed by telephone. ECE will provide support and further explanation to the evaluator as needed.

The evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the ECE Evaluation Policy. A gender-responsive methodology, methods and tools, and data techniques are selected. The evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations reflect a gender analysis.

VI. Evaluation schedule¹⁵⁴

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 30 Apr 2020 | ToR finalized, and evaluator selected |
| 27 May 2020 | Desk review of all documents provided by ECE to the evaluator |
| 08 June 2020 | Delivery of inception report including design of survey |
| 17 June 2020 | Feedback on inception report by the Programme manager |
| 24 June 2020 | Launch of data gathering |
| 10 July 2020 | Conducting telephone interviews |
| 29 July 2020 | Analysis of collected information |

¹⁵⁴ Final timetable to be agreed following engagement of the evaluator

10 Aug 2020 Draft report sent to Programme Manager
21 Aug 2020 Comments to evaluator after review by PM and PMU
11 Sep 2020 Final report

VII. Resources

Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of Population unit, will manage the evaluation with the support of the Population unit staff. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will provide guidance to the Project Manager and evaluator as needed on the evaluation design, methodology and quality assurance of the final draft report.

VIII. Intended use / Next steps

The evaluation will be consistent with the UNECE Evaluation Policy. The results of the evaluation will be used in the planning and implementation of future activities of the Population subprogramme in support of the realization of MIPAA/RIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A management response to the evaluation will be prepared by ECE, and relevant recommendations implemented as scheduled in the management response. Progress on implementation of recommendations will be available on the ECE public website.

IX. Criteria for evaluation

The evaluator should have:

- An advanced university degree or equivalent background in relevant disciplines, with specialized training in areas such as evaluation, project management and social statistics.
- Knowledge of and experience in working with social policy and its monitoring.
- Relevant professional experience in design and management of evaluation processes with multiple stakeholders, survey design and implementation, project planning, monitoring and management, gender mainstreaming and human-rights due diligence.
- Demonstrated methodological knowledge of evaluations, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis for end-of-cycle project evaluations.
- Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of another language (for example Russian) may be an advantage.

Evaluators should declare any conflict of interest to ECE before embarking on an evaluation project, and at any point where such conflict occurs.

Annex 2. List of documents reviewed

- 1. A/Conf.197/9, Resolution 1***, Annex I. Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 and Annex II. Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
- 2. Economic and Social Council, ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6** 11 September 2002, REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING 2002, UNUNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing Berlin (Germany), 11-13 September 2002
- 3. A/74/6 (Sect. 20)**, General Assembly, 2019. Proposed programme budget for 2020, Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe.
- 4. A/70/6 (Sect. 20)**, General Assembly, 2015, Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017* , Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe , (Programme 17 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017)**
- 5. A/70/6 (Sect. 23)** Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017* , Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation**
- 6. A/69/6 (Prog. 17)** General Assembly, Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 17 Economic development in Europe
- 7. A/71/6 (Prog.17)*** Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019, Part two: biennial programme plan, Programme 17 Economic development in Europe
- 8. A/72/6 (Sect. 23)**, Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019* , Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation
- 9. A/72/6 (Sect. 20)*** Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019*, Part V Regional cooperation for development, Section 20 Economic development in Europe, (Programme 17 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019)**
- 10. ECE/WG.1/2018/Room Document 2**, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eleventh meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2018 Item 5 of the provisional agenda, The Working Group on Ageing work programme for the fourth implementation cycle of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
- 11. ECE/WG.1/2013/2**, Economic Commission for Europe , Working Group on Ageing, Sixth meeting Geneva, 25 and 26 November 2013, Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its Sixth Meeting
- 12. ECE/WG.1/2016/4**, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Ninth meeting Geneva, 21-22 November 2016 Item 5 of the provisional agenda Implementation of the WGA work programme in 2016, Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2016 , Note by the Secretariat
- 13. ECE/WG.1/2015/5** Economic and Social Council Distr.: General 29 July 2015 , Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eighth meeting Geneva, 19 and 20

November 2015 Item 9 of the provisional agenda Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning , Draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2016-2017, Note by the Secretariat

14. ECE/WG.1/2017/5, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23-24 November 2017 Item 8 of the provisional agenda Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning, Draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2018-2019, Note by the Secretariat

15. Programme Performance Report of the United Nations 2016, Policy and Oversight Coordination Service Office of the Under-Secretary-General Department of Management, New York

16. ECE/WG.1/2017/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2017 Work of the Bureau, Report on the ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

17. ECE/WG.1/2018/4, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eleventh meeting Geneva, 19-20 November 2018 Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda Implementation of the main elements of the Working Group on Ageing work programme in 2018 and planned outputs in 2019., Implementation of the work programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2018. Note by the Secretariat

18. ECE/WG.1/2018/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Eleventh meeting Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2018 Work of the Bureau, Report on the tenth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

19. ECE/WG.1/2016/4 , Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Ninth meeting Geneva, 21-22 November 2016 Item 5 of the provisional agenda Implementation of the WGA work programme in 2016 , Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2016, Note by the Secretariat

20. ECE/WG.1/2017/3, Economic Commission for Europe Working Group on Ageing Tenth meeting Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2017 Work of the Bureau, Report on the ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing

21. E/CN.5/2018/L.3, Third Review of the Madrid International Plan on Ageing 2002, 2018

22. (E/2019/15/Add.2 and ECOSOC decision 2019/253) Draft resolution recommended by the Economic Commission for Europe, as contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary- General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields, **Draft resolution IV** Change of name and revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing.

23. Chantelle McCabe, July 2019, Programme level evaluation: Gender mainstreaming in UNECE, Final Report.

24. Una Murray, 2019, Evaluation Report, Final Evaluation: Extending policy relevance of the Active Ageing Index (AAI): Cooperation with UNECE.

Annex 3. List of Interviewed Persons

Name	Organization	Date of interview
Karl Duff	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Department of Health, Ireland	13 July 2020
Aliona Cretu	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Moldova	13 July 2020
Aina Strand	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway	15 July 2020
Edmundo Martinho	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, President of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Portugal	15 July 2020
Manuel Montero Ray	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equity (IMSERSO), Spain	16 July 2020
Kai Leichenring	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Executive Director, Euro Center, Vienna	16 July 2020
Heidrun Mollenkopf	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Vice-President AGE Platform Europe	16 July 2020
Johan Ten Geuzendam	Former member of the WGA, European Commission, DG Justice	16 July 2020
Katerina Knapova	Former member of the WGA, Czech Republic	17 July 2020
Bjorn Halvorsen	Former member of the WGA, Norway	
Rio Hada	OHCHR	20 July 2020
Dirk Jarre	Former member of the WGA, European Federation of Older Persons	20 July 2020
Alexis Rinkenbach	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Ministère des solidarités et de la santé, France	20 July 2020
Anna Zakrevskaya	Former member of the WGA, Belarus	21 July 2020
Aleksandar Sidorenko	European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna	21 July 2020
Pietro Checcuci	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, INAPP – National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies, Italy	22 July 2020
Martin Amberger	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany	22 July 2020
Ales Kenda	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia	22 July 2020
Olga Atroshchanka	UNFPA, Belarus office	23 July 2020
Alanna Armitage	UNFPA, EECARO	23 July 2020
Jorge Bravo	UNDESA, Population Division	23 July 2020
Lela Bakradze	UNFPA, Georgia Office	23 July 2020
Erika Winkler	Member of the Bureau of the WGA, Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria	23 July 2020
Eduard Mihalas	UNFPA, Moldova Office	27 July 2020
Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich	UNECE Population Unit	27 July 2020
Lisa Christina Warth	UNECE Population Unit	27 July 2020

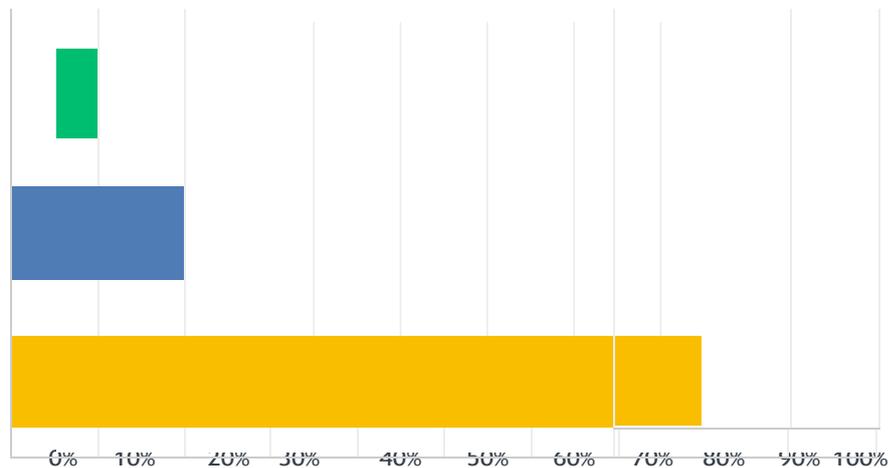
Dorothea Shmidt Claus	ILO, Employment Policy Department	28 July 2020
Amal Rafeh	UNDESA, Division for Inclusive Social Development	3 August 2020
Manfred Huber	WHO/Europe, Healthy ageing disability and long-term care	4 August 2020
Nicolas Dath Baron	UNECE, Programme Management Unit	11 August 2020
Marta Diavolova	UNFPA, EECARO	11 August 2020
Lamura Giovani	National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy	18 August 2020
Michael Silver	UNECE, Executive Office	20 August 2020

Annex 4. Evaluation Survey Findings

EVALUATION OF THE UNECE SUBPROGRAMME ON AGEING SURVEY RESPONSES

Q2 How many years have you worked on ageing issues in your organization/institution?

Answered: 40



ANSWER CHOICES

less than 1 year

1 to 5 years

Over 5 years

RESPONSES

5.00% 2

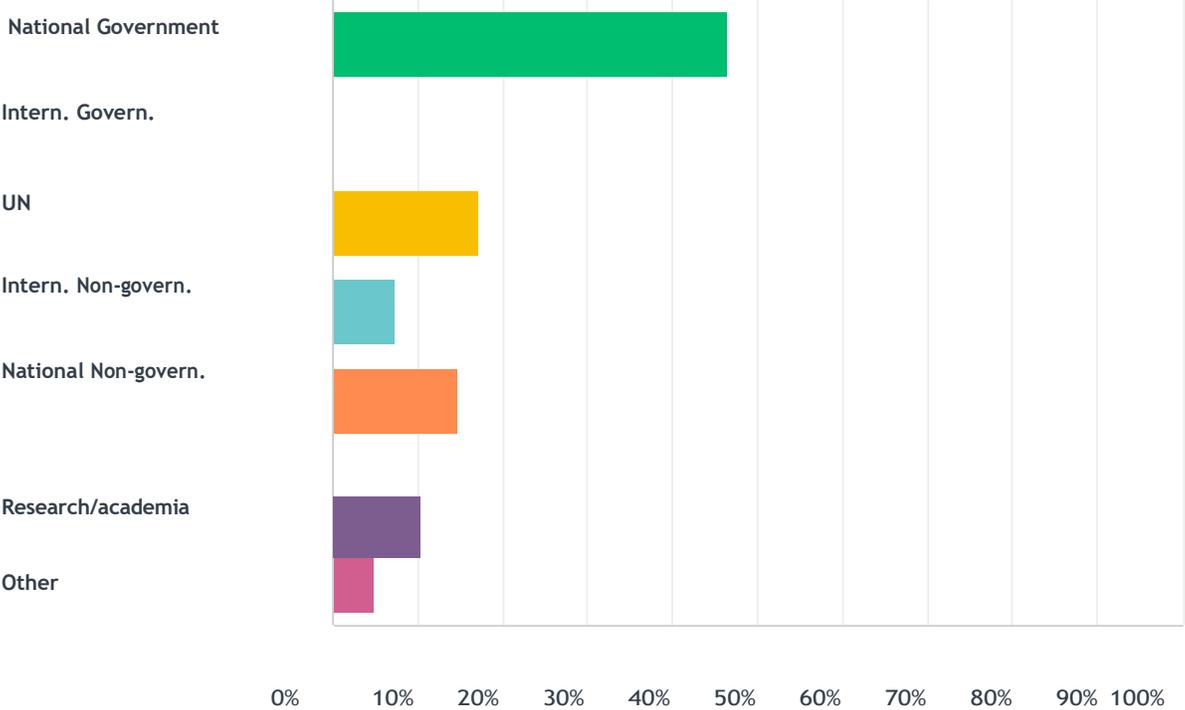
20.00% 8

75.00% 30

40

Q3 What type of organization do you work for?

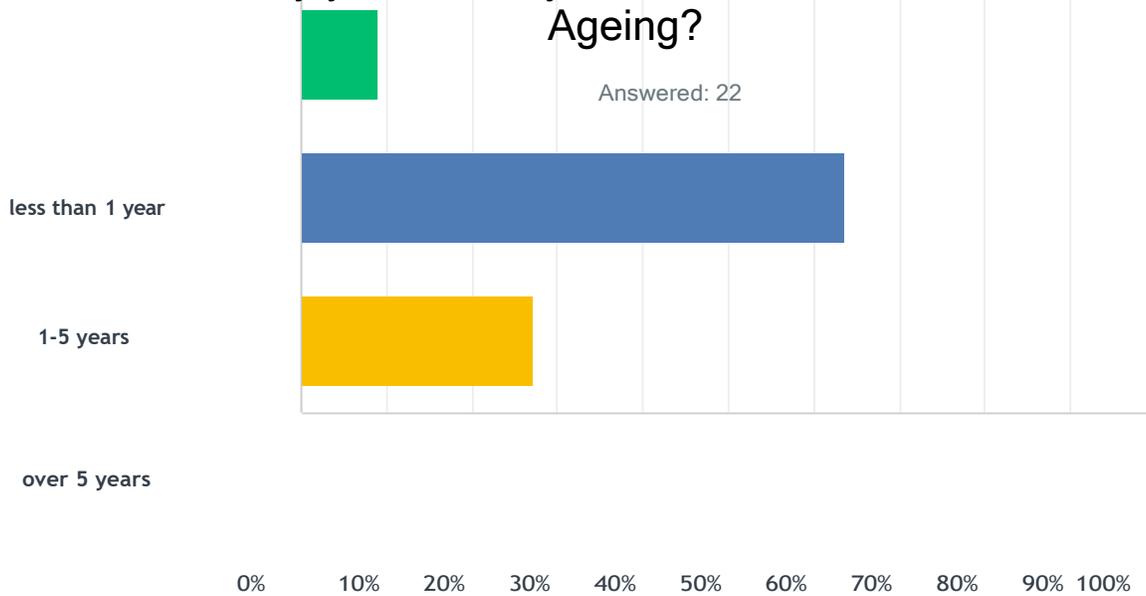
Answered: 41



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
National Government	46.34%	19
International Governmental (non-UN)	0.00%	0
UN	17.07%	7
International Non-governmental	7.32%	3
National Non-governmental	14.63%	6
Research/academia	9.76%	4
Other	4.88%	2
TOTAL		41

Responses by the National Focal Points on Ageing:

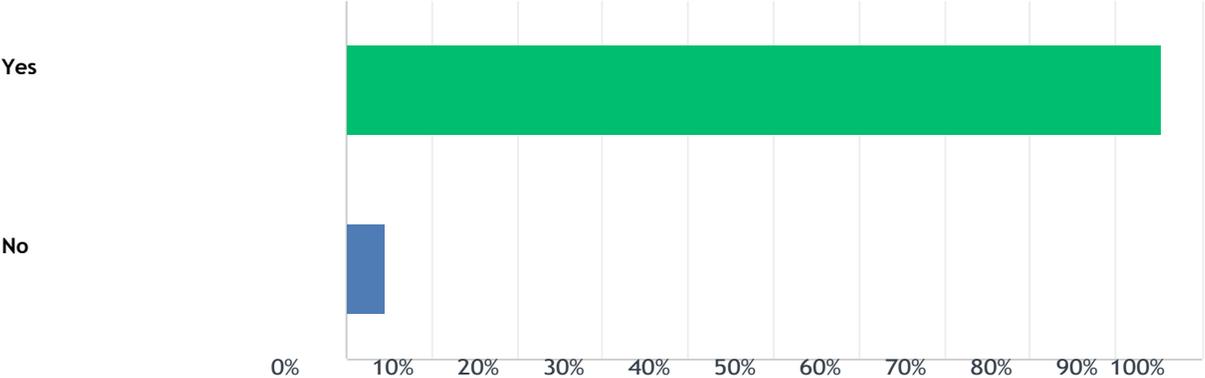
Q4 How many years have you been a National Focal Point on Ageing?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than 1 year	9.09%	2
1-5 years	63.64%	14
over 5 years	27.27%	6
TOTAL		22

Q5.Has your country developed and/or mainstreamed ageing in specific policies since 2016 to align them with MIPAA/RIS and recent Ministerial Declarations (2012 Vienna, 2017 Lisbon)?

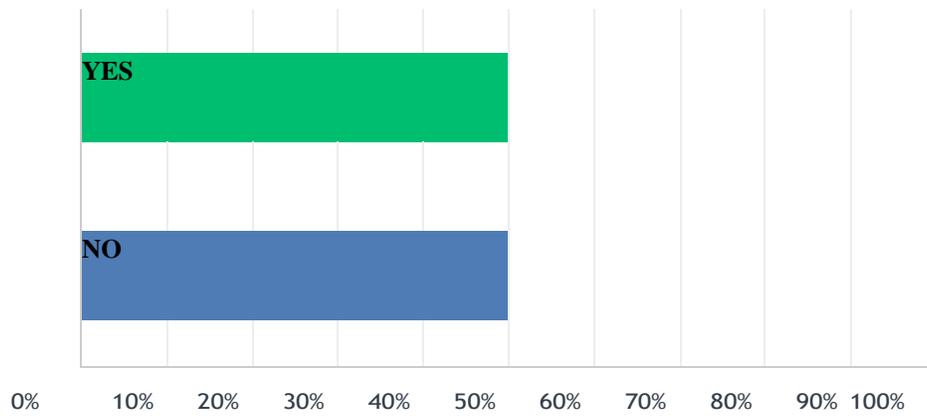
Answered: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	95.45%
	21
No	4.55%
	1
TOTAL	22

Q6. Did you collaborate with the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit in this process?

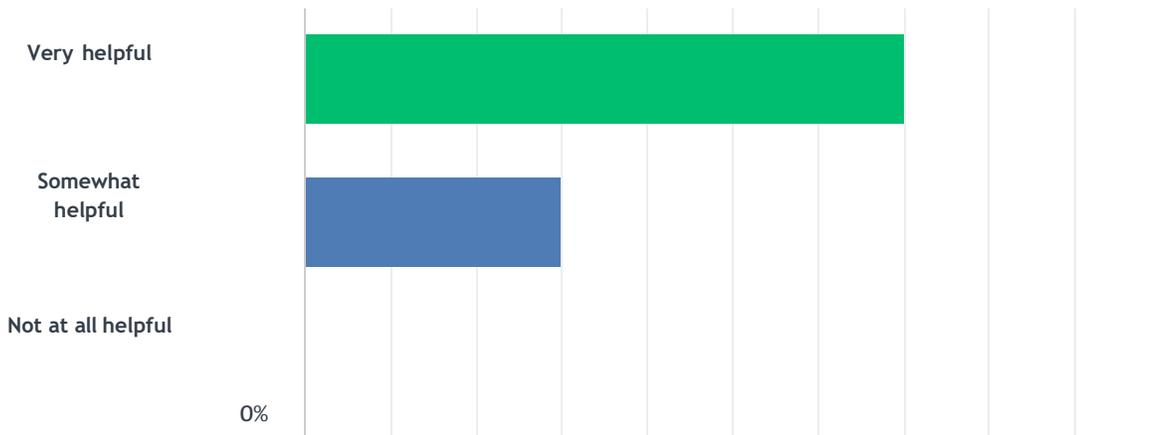
Answered: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	50.00%
	10
No	50.00%
	10
TOTAL	20

Q7 Was the collaboration with the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit helpful in achieving the planned results (i.e. you have developed your national policy on ageing – Strategy, Action Pan, increased capacities, etc.)?

Answered: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very helpful	70.00%	7
Somewhat helpful	30.00%	3
Not at all helpful	0.00%	0
TOTAL		10

Q8 Please tell us the main reasons why that collaboration did not bring about the desired result(s)? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 0

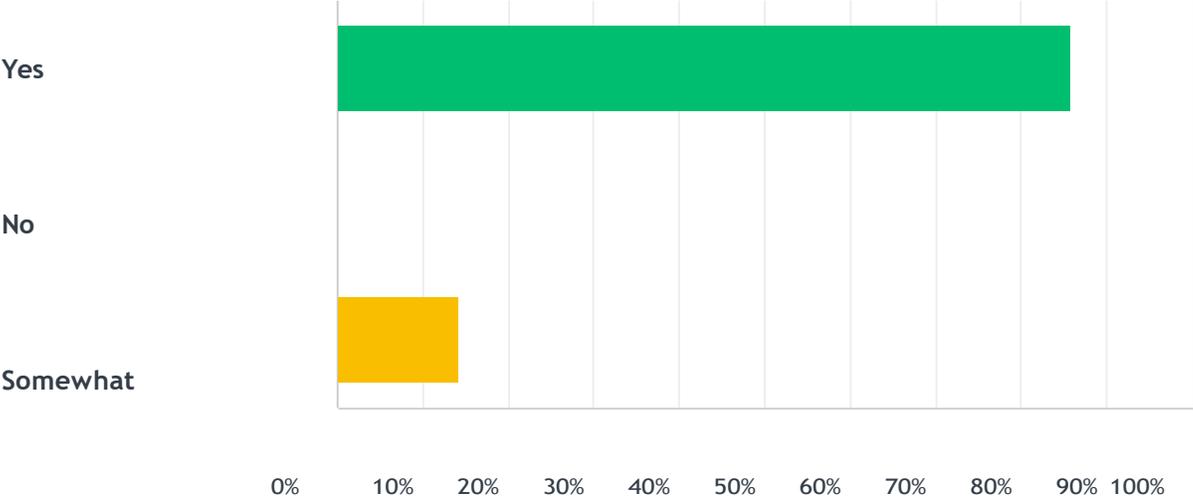
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Lack of political will at home to advance ageing issues.	0.00% 0
Insufficient institutional capacity of my organization (human and financial) to advance ageing issues	0.00% 0
The support provided by the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit was not adequate	0.00% 0
Other	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0

Total Respondents: 0

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q9. Do you think that the work of the Working Group on Ageing is relevant for the advancement of the intergovernmental efforts to mainstream ageing in your national policies?

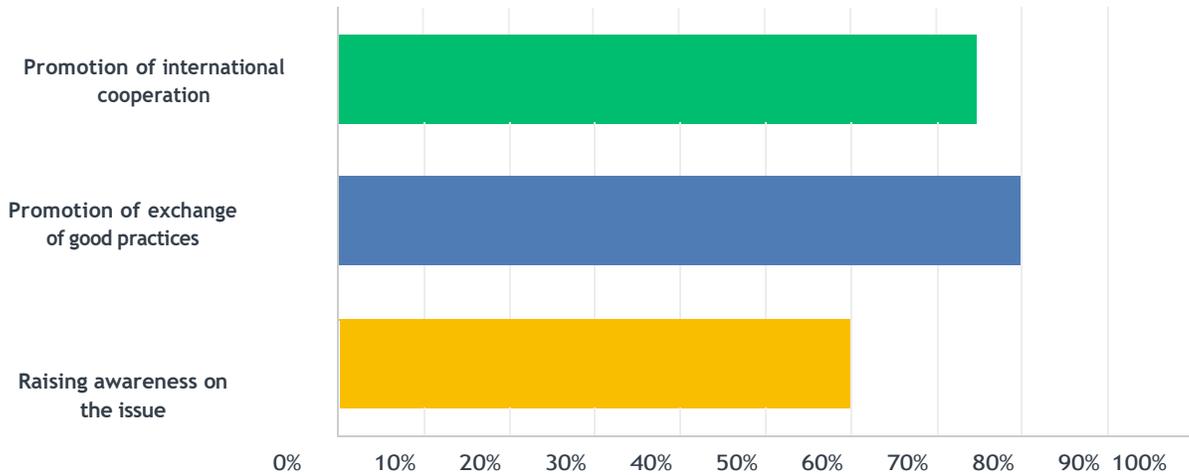
Answered: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.71%	18
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	14.29%	3
TOTAL		21

**Q10.If you think that their work is relevant or somewhat relevant, please tell us which specific aspects of their work you find relevant?
(Select only those that apply)**

Answered: 20



QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 16%	Average Score 4.5/6.0 (74%)	Standard Deviation 1.67	Difficulty 1/1
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ANSWER CHOICES

SCORE RESPONSES

Promotion of international cooperation on ageing to meet MIPAA/RIS commitments (through Ministerial Conferences and Declarations, periodic reviews, and appraisals of MIPAA/RIS, etc)	3/6	75.00%	5	1
Promotion of exchange of experiences, lessons learned and policy discussions among countries members of the UNECE	2/6	80.00%	16	
Raising awareness on ageing and its implications in the UNECE region	1/6	60.00%	12	

Total Respondents: 20

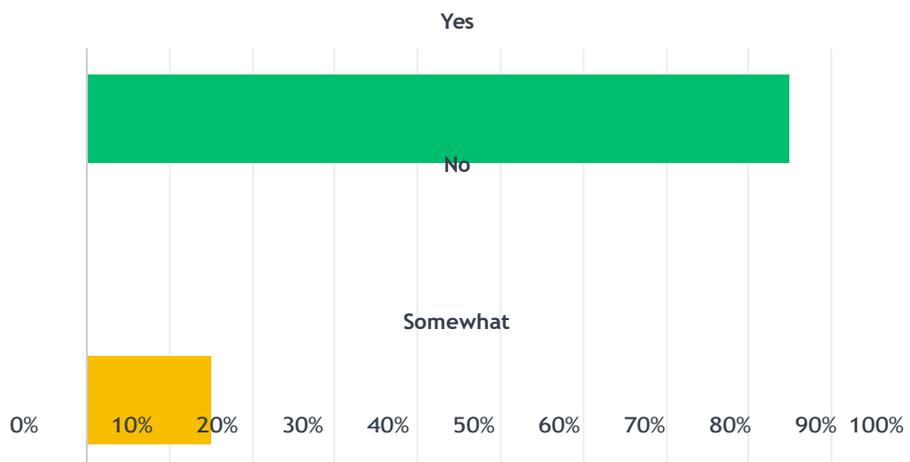
Q11 If you think that their work is not relevant, please explain why?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 44

#	RESPONSES	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q12 Do you find useful the opportunities for international cooperation, policy discussions and exchange of experience provided through the WGA and the Secretariat to further ageing concerns in your national policy making?

Answered: 20

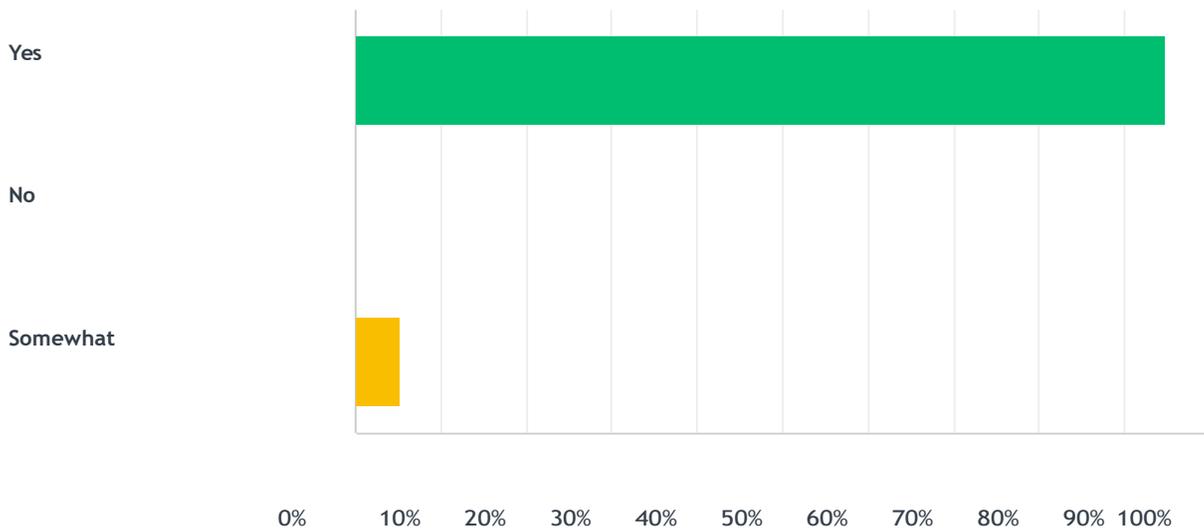


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	85.00% 17
No	0.00% 0
Somewhat	15.00% 3
TOTAL	20

#	PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY	DATE
1	Having opportunities to share experiences and policy discussions is valuable to the development and implementation of policies within a country.	7/23/2020 4:11 PM
2	Exchange of experience and knowledge among various counties is very useful for national policy makking.	7/23/2020 1:00 PM
3	It is always helpful to know and learn various countries' practices concerning ageing.	7/22/2020 2:06 PM
4	Very concrete, actual, practical and useful. It usually can be implemented into the national level	7/21/2020 3:36 PM
5	Availability of existing international experience and statistical data for all	7/21/2020 8:38 AM
6	The cooperation and exchange with experts from other UNECE Member States helps to improve the own work and to compare results and achievements and to learn from each other by gaining an inside perspective. It helps very much for the national as well as the international work	7/20/2020 1:12 PM
7	Inspiration, new ideas	7/19/2020 9:27 PM
8	It gives us a good perspective and overview over the theme as a whole and gives us good inspiration through exchanges of best practices. However, every country has its very own view and take on ageing societies but the exchange is nevertheless an important part of the policy process.	7/17/2020 7:55 AM

Q13.If you find useful the opportunities for international cooperation with the WGA and UNECE Population Unit, tell us your opinion on whether they should continue delivering their guidance and support as currently provided?

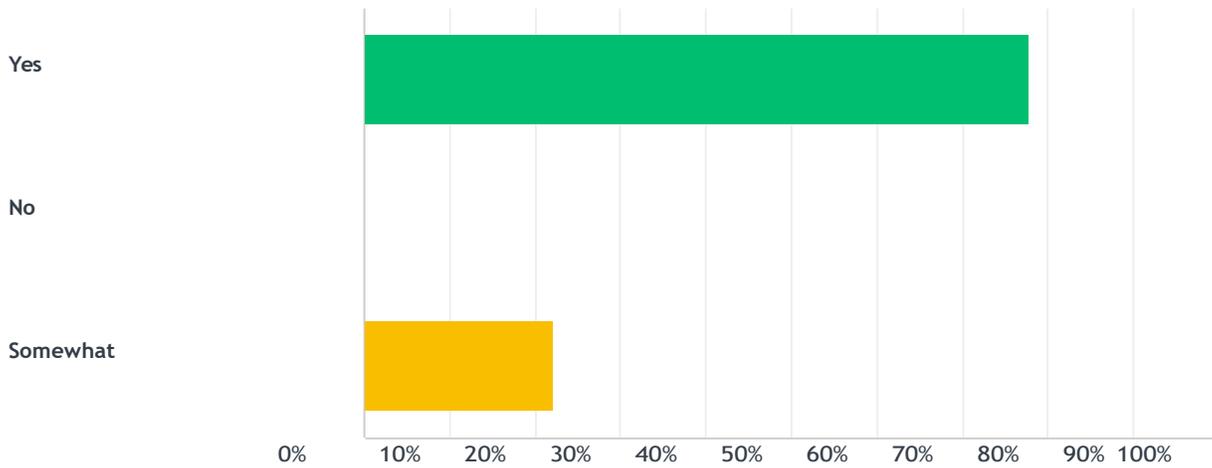
Answered: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.74%	18
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	5.26%	1
TOTAL		19

Q14. Do you think that gender aspects of ageing are sufficiently addressed in the WGA discussions and deliberations?

Answered: 18

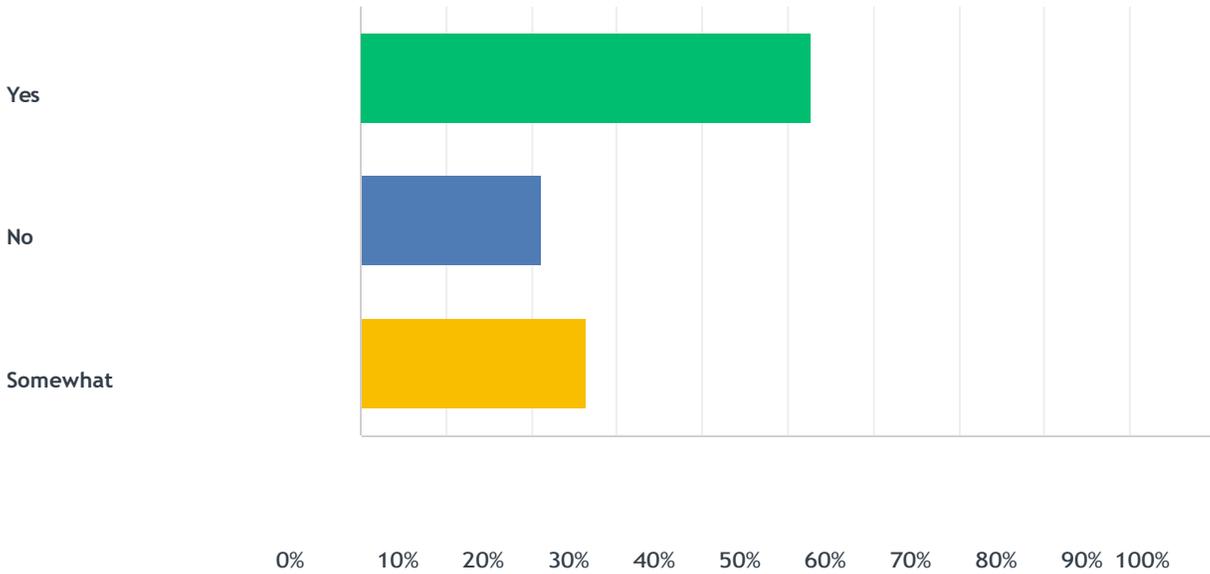


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	14
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	22.22%	4
TOTAL		18

#	IF YOU THINK THEY ARE ADDRESSED OR SOMEHOW ADDRESSED, PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE.	DATE
1	An example is Policy Brief #23 on Gender equality in ageing societies	7/24/2020 12:27 PM
2	I think ageing disproportionately affect women and they more work could be supported in this regard	7/24/2020 10:55 AM
3	There is now an acknowledgement of the issues. That is an important first step.	7/23/2020 4:13 PM
4	I believe there has been a significant sensitivity towards the gender aspect within the discussions during WGAs' sessions. If it wasn't secretariat who mentioned it, it usually was a representative of the member states.	7/23/2020 2:16 PM
5	/	7/23/2020 1:03 PM
6	When we were discussing the draft Lisbon Declaration in 2017, gender aspects were sufficiently addressed and discussed within the WGA.	7/22/2020 2:14 PM
7	Social loneliness of elderly women	7/21/2020 3:40 PM
8	Governments provide support measures for aged people in labor market involvement without any gender difference.	7/21/2020 9:54 AM
9	Gender aspect is important in the ageing process as well. Many women reach a higher age than men and they are supporting family and friends with care and also unpaid care work. However, for example the gender pay gap leads to a a gender pension gap and thus it is also important to see the gender aspect while discussing health issues. You cant separate that from ageing and a life-course perspective.	7/20/2020 1:17 PM
10	Especially the situation of older women is mentioned in many discussions, and as topic or cause/effect in policy documents. I think it is also necessary to highlight the role of older men more, as we see more and more older men are lonely and have less contact with family and friends. In next generation of older people, the situation of older men seems to be more difficult, for those being out of work and with little means. (cf the OECD).	7/19/2020 9:33 PM
11	As we worked on the development of guidelines for mainstreaming ageing, the topic of intersectional discrimination was raised multiple times, with an emphasis on the intersection between age and gender.	7/17/2020 3:26 PM
12	The gender aspect is addressed because women tend to live longer than men. So it is often women who live their last years alone or without a partner. I think the gender aspect could be addressed even more: how is the ageing-experience different for women as it is for men? How can women who raised their children and therefore worked less and as a consequence have a lower pension be less dependent from their husband? I think the gender aspect can go a lot deeper.	7/17/2020 7:59 AM

Q15.Do you think that the issues of inclusion of vulnerable groups and older persons with disability are sufficiently addressed in the WGA discussions and deliberations?

Answered: 19

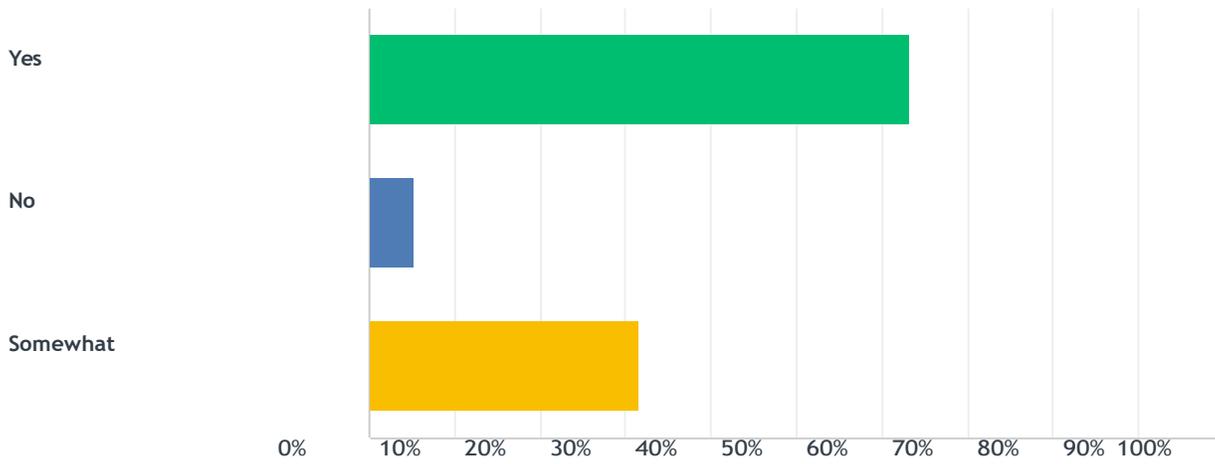


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.63%	10
No	21.05%	4
Somewhat	26.32%	5
TOTAL		19

#	IF YOU ANSWERED YES OR SOMEWHAT, PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IT:	DATE
1	An example is Policy Seminar held on 20 November 2019 with topic "Informal Care for Persons with Dementia"	7/24/2020 12:27 PM
2	I think recent policy seminar, policy briefs and presentations at WGA have addressed this	7/24/2020 10:55 AM
3	Similarly, there is growing acknowledgement of the need to focus policies on disability and the intersection with aging, including the concept of those aging with a disability.	7/23/2020 4:13 PM
4	I believe that during discussions of for example content of policy briefs there was sufficient stress on the integration of vulnerable groups of older persons.	7/23/2020 2:16 PM
5	/	7/23/2020 1:03 PM
6	When the independent living of the elderly has been discussed, the topic of vulnerable groups and people with disabilities has been touched upon.	7/22/2020 2:14 PM
7	People with dementia, other psychological and mental deceases	7/21/2020 3:40 PM
8	Older persons are as such a quite heterogenous group. And not all or most older persons have deficits and disabilities and are as such vulnerable. it is important to see the different aspects of ageing and also create a realistic and positive image of ageing not only an image of older persons as vulnerable and disabled persons in need of help and care but also what older persons can and do contribute to societey, to voluntary work, political and social participation etc	7/20/2020 1:17 PM
9	Older persons include a wide diversity of sub-populations and considering the inclusion issues of all vulnerable groups in policy making remains a challenge. Embedding inclusion issues in the development of ageing policies is a process and can always be improved. Our understanding of intersectional issues is still at a relatively early stage. There is also a will not to depict older persons as vulnerable people, but rather as a group that can contribute to society. As such, discussions tend not to focus too much on older persons with disabilities, while still considering their issues. Those issues are definitely part of the discussion, but could probably be raised more strongly at times.	7/17/2020 3:26 PM

Q16 Are you familiar with the specific deliverables of the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit?

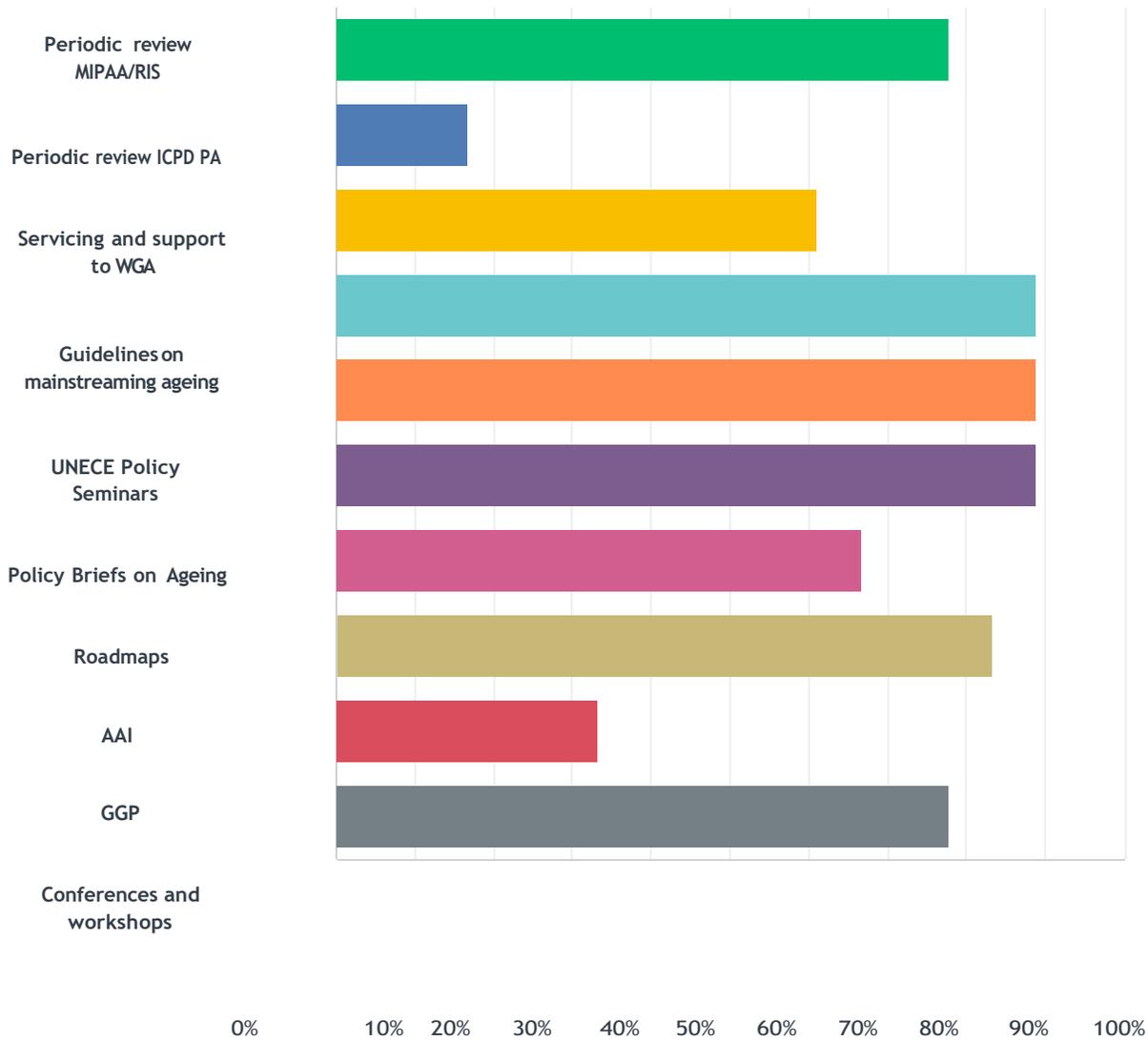
Answered: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.16%	12
No	5.26%	1
Somewhat	31.58%	6
TOTAL		19

Q17 Please tell us specific deliverables you are familiar with? (tick all that apply).

Answered: 18

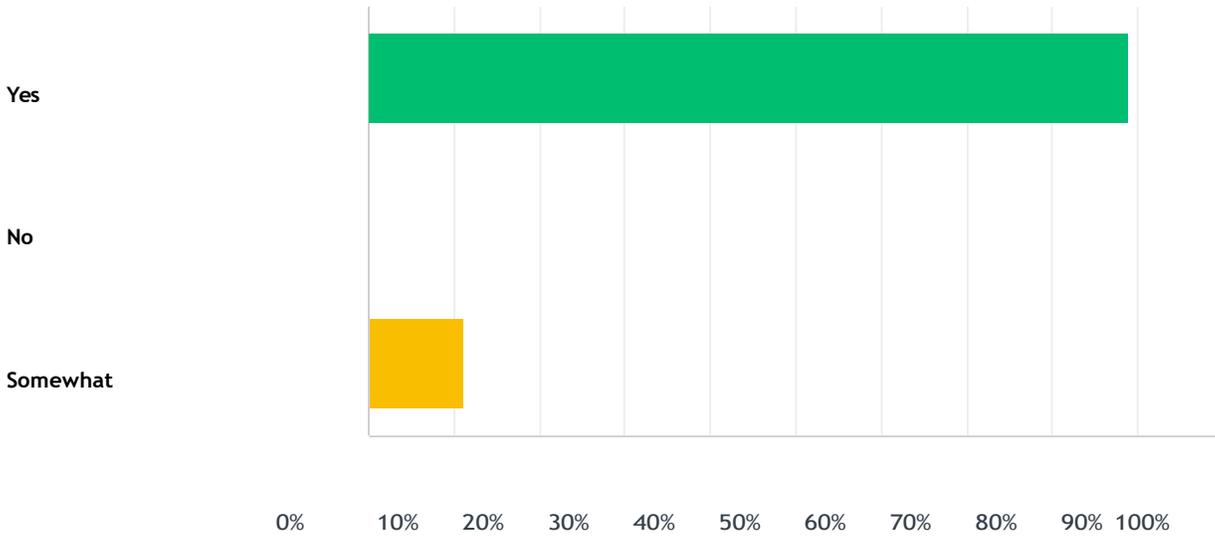


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Periodic (5-year) review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation	77.78%	14
Periodic (5-year) reviews of ICPD Programme of Action implementation	16.67%	3
Servicing and support to the intergovernmental processes through the Working Group on Ageing	61.11%	11
Development of Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing	88.89%	16
UNECE Policy Seminars on ageing	88.89%	16
Policy Briefs on Ageing	88.89%	16
Roadmaps to mainstream ageing	66.67%	12
Active Ageing Index	83.33%	15
Gender and Generations Programme	33.33%	6
Conferences and workshops	77.78%	14

Total Respondents: 18

Q18. In general, do you think that these specific deliverables of the UNECE Population Unit are useful and support your efforts to mainstream ageing in your national policies?

Answered: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.89%	16
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	11.11%	2
TOTAL		18

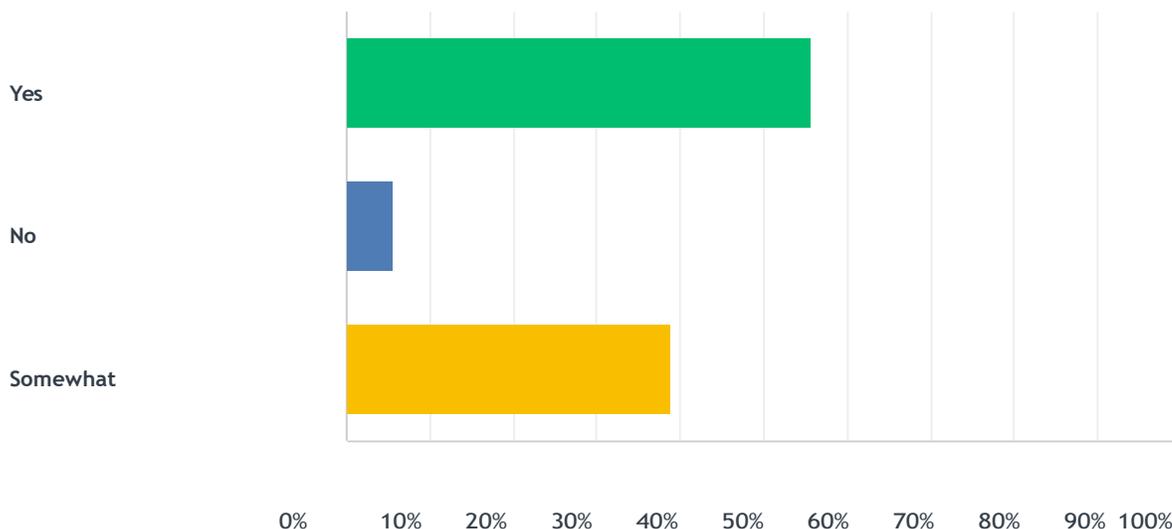
Q19 Of those specific deliverables, which ones do you find most relevant and useful for your work? (mention all that apply)

Answered: 15

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Roadmaps to mainstream ageing ; Active Ageing Index ; Policy Briefs on Ageing all documents	7/24/2020 3:42 PM
2	Periodic (5-year) review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation UNECE Policy Seminars on ageing Policy Briefs on Ageing Conferences and workshops	7/24/2020 12:33 PM
3	AAI Guidelines on mainstreaming ageing Policy seminars and briefs MIPAA review	7/24/2020 10:58 AM
4	Active Ageing Index Policy Briefs on Ageing	7/24/2020 9:16 AM
5	Policy Seminars, Policy Briefs; Review & Appraisal of MIPAA	7/23/2020 4:17 PM
6	MIPAA/RIS implementation appraisal, policy briefs, roadmaps, seminars and workshops, hopefully also the guidelines in the future	7/23/2020 2:17 PM
7	Periodic review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation	7/23/2020 1:07 PM
8	Servicing and support through the WGA; UNECE Policy seminars on ageing; Policy briefs; Active Ageing Index; Conferences and workshops.	7/22/2020 2:19 PM
9	All	7/21/2020 3:42 PM
10	Active Ageing Index	7/21/2020 10:11 AM
11	policy seminars and policy briefs as well as conferences and workshops and the development of guidelines, the servicing and support of the WGA and the periodic MIPAA review	7/20/2020 1:22 PM
12	Periodic reviews, Policy seminars, Some Policy Briefs, AAI at some degree	7/19/2020 9:37 PM
13	The periodic review, the policy briefs, the seminars and the support to the intergovernmental processes are the most relevant to my work, but the other deliverables are also useful as points of reference (e.g. Active Ageing Index which does not apply to my country, roadmaps to mainstream ageing, etc.). The guidelines, once finalized will likely be useful too.	7/17/2020 3:28 PM
14	Conferences and workshops	7/17/2020 9:14 AM
15	Development of guidelines on mainstreaming ageing Policy seminars on ageing Conferences and workshops	7/17/2020 8:04 AM

Q20. Have some or all of the above deliverables been useful and helped you mainstream gender and issues of vulnerable groups in your national ageing policies (for example, issues of older women, or older persons living with dementia, subject to abuse, etc)?

Answered: 18

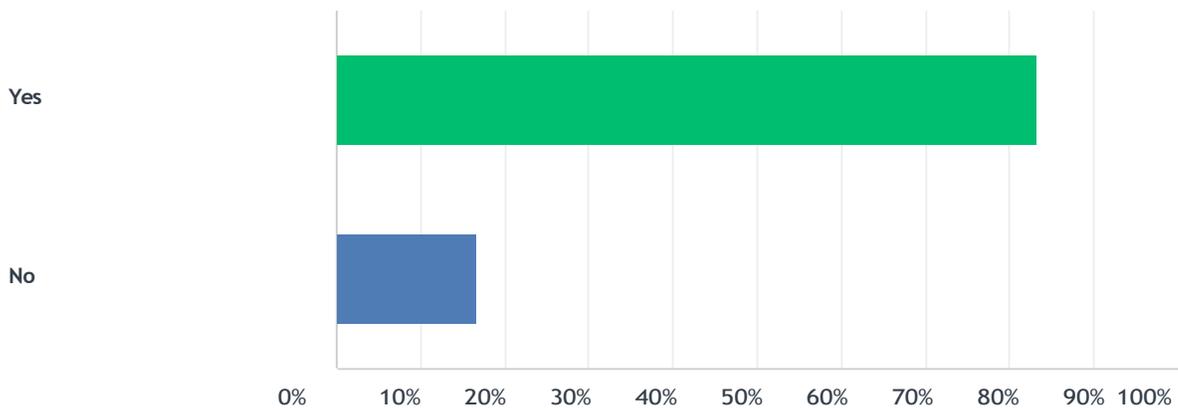


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	55.56% 10
No	5.56% 1
Somewhat	38.89% 7
TOTAL	18

#	PLEASE PROVIDE SOME EXAMPLE	DATE
1	Periodic (5-year) review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation	7/24/2020 12:33 PM
2	I think it has helped inform and raise awareness of issues and given an insight on how these issues manifest themselves in other countries	7/24/2020 10:58 AM
3	Having these issues identified and acknowledged by UNECE, provides confirmation, credibility and support of our individual advancement and promotion of policies in these areas.	7/23/2020 4:17 PM
4	We used some specific ideas from the policy briefs	7/23/2020 2:17 PM
5	/	7/23/2020 1:07 PM
6	I have reported the good practices to my colleagues at the relevant departments within the Ministry.	7/22/2020 2:19 PM
7	Persons with dementia, all aspects	7/21/2020 3:42 PM
8	Yes it helped very much. For instance discussing on a policy seminar a topic and also experiences of other states, e.g. in the field of people with dementia. The input helped to develop our national strategy	7/20/2020 1:22 PM
9	Not very relevant, but a certain awareness rising.	7/19/2020 9:37 PM

Q21 Please tell us whether you would like to enhance your collaboration with the WGA and the UNECE Population Unit and receive specific support and guidance in the future?

Answered: 18

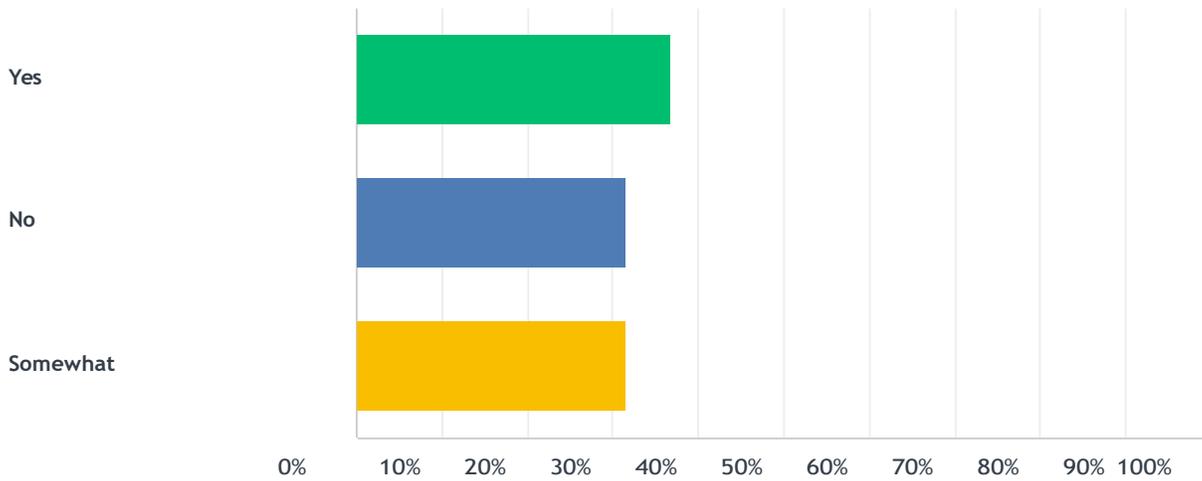


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	83.33% 15
No	16.67% 3
TOTAL	18

#	PLEASE EXPLAIN FURTHER	DATE
1	Through Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing	7/24/2020 12:41 PM
2	I am happy to be part of the future direction of the WGA and to support it in having a great meaning and impact for member states	7/24/2020 11:01 AM
3	Continued opportunities to collaborate is always helpful	7/23/2020 4:19 PM
4	I am not present at the ministry any more, so I can't tell.	7/23/2020 2:18 PM
5	/	7/23/2020 1:07 PM
6	They are doing very good work both at the collaboration process and the deliverables.	7/22/2020 2:23 PM
7	Implementing The road map and the National strategy on ageing	7/21/2020 3:43 PM
8	Ageing increase will make the search for new instruments necessary in upcoming years	7/21/2020 10:25 AM
9	It would also be helpful to support international other processes in the field of ageing that are going on (as done so far for instance WHO decade of healthy ageing etc).	7/20/2020 1:23 PM
10	Helpful to strengthen and develop further national policies on ageing, and to raise awareness on ageing issues Monitoring tools/report would be helpful. AAI is not to well implemented.	7/19/2020 9:41 PM
11	As I wrote before, we value the input the UNECE Population Unit gives us, as it gives us the international perspective on ageing. However, at the end of the day every country / government has to implement the guidance in its own way with its own measures as the demography and problems that come with an ageing society manifest very differently in each country.	7/17/2020 8:07 AM

Q22 Do you think that your institution has sufficient capacity to monitor ageing policies?

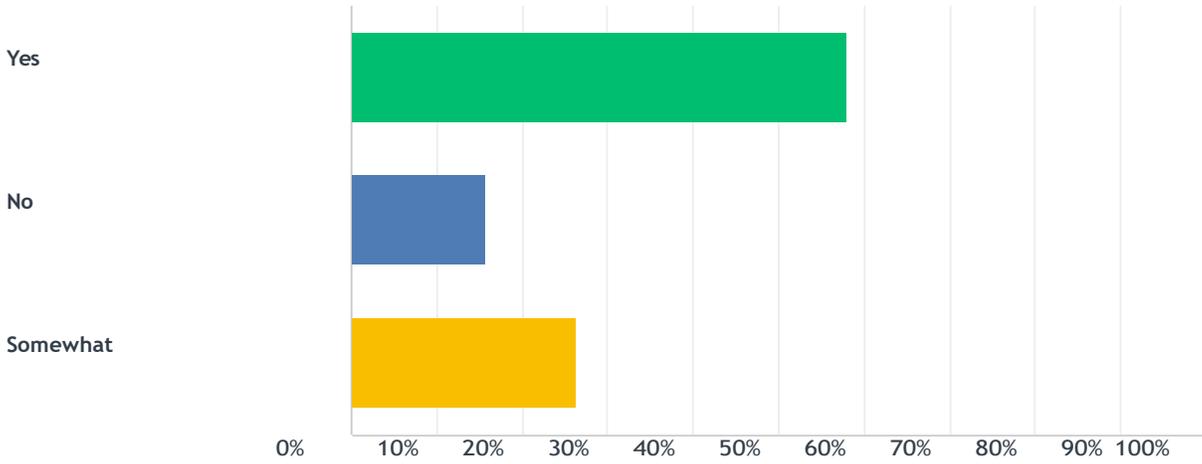
Answered: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.84%	7
No	31.58%	6
Somewhat	31.58%	6
TOTAL		19

Q23.Has the work of the population Unit of the UNECE contributed to increase your capacity to monitor ageing policies?

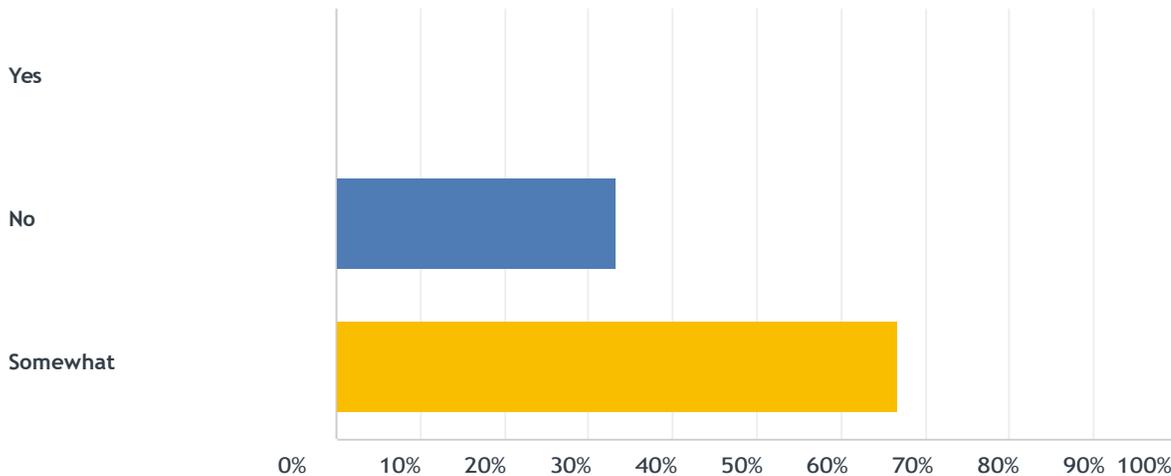
Answered: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.89%	11
No	15.79%	3
Somewhat	26.32%	5
TOTAL		19

Q24 If you do not think the collaboration with UNECE Population Unit has not been useful in enhancing your current monitoring capacity, do you think it will be useful if UNECE engages in activities in the future that will enhance your monitoring capacities?

Answered: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	33.33% 1
Somewhat	66.67% 2
TOTAL	3

Q25 How can the intergovernmental process on ageing be made more sustainable? Please tell us your suggestions, if any.

Answered: 10	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It is important for intergovernmental cooperation to continue the working group / committee format commitments 1	7/24/2020 3:46 PM
2	I firmly believe the WGA is in need of an overarching goal to work towards and to get traction from member states to achieve this. I think the WGA has many valuable programmes of work but I think it is spread quite thin and the scope is very broad. There would be huge value and enthusiasm to get behind a clear mission. The MIPAA and SDG goals can be very technical and challenging to translate to others not in Ageing policy areas. I also think the approach to developing policy briefs should be reviewed to make them more useable and effective. WGA needs an elevator pitch.	7/24/2020 11:05 AM
3	Continued comparisons of similar countries is helpful.	7/23/2020 4:20 PM
4	/	7/23/2020 1:07 PM

To promote the implementation and follow-up of the regional implementation strategy through regional cooperation UNECE member States have the primary responsibility for the implementation and follow-up of the RIS. They are encouraged to do so, among other means, through regional cooperation, civil society involvement, and cooperation with the UNECE secretariat. The analysis of your activities in this field may take into account the following: a) Activities undertaken by your country to strengthen cooperation among UNECE member States in the field of ageing The social protection, as a separate segment and instrument in leading the social policy, has broad competences in preventing and resolving the problems associated with the demographic aging of the population and th risks associated with it.

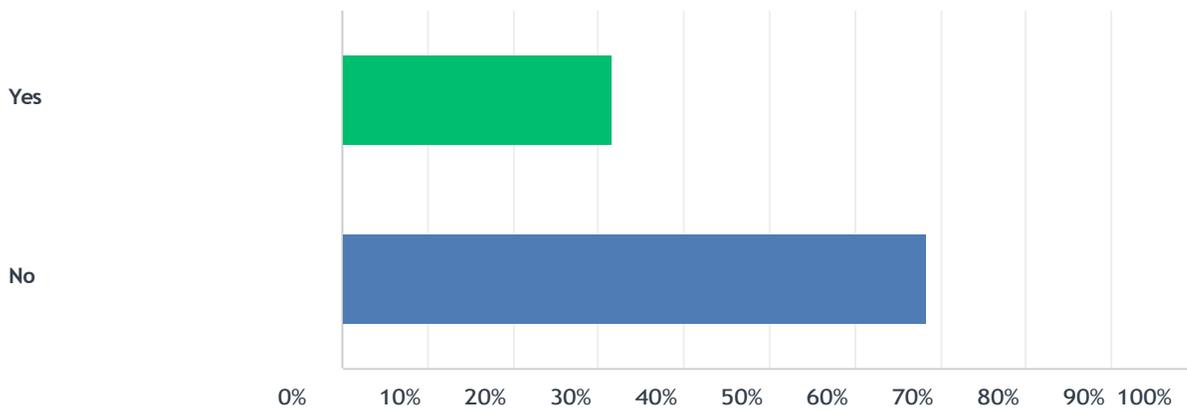
However, after the Madrid Summit, as a government institution we do not have a continuous cooperation with the UNECE member states and the UNECE secretariat. b) What opportunities have you provided for the civil society to cooperate in these processes? The NGO sector and the organizations of older persons with projects funded by international foundations contribute to the raising of the quality of life of older persons. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy fully supports the implementation of their activities related with the older persons. The Law on Social Protection provides a possibility for the Government of the Republic of Macedonia to issue a call to the civil society for funding specific projects aimed at the older persons. c) Have you requested/received assistance from the UNECE secretariat and/or other entities of the United Nations system in the implementation of RIS? The assistance of the UNECE secretariat may include trainings of professionals and volunteers who will be focused on the older population, adoption of strategic documents in accordance with the EU policies, standardization of the services in the Homes for the older persons and necessary financial support for the development of different types of deinstitutionalised protection. d) If so, what are your needs for assistance and how would you describe the further needs for assistance? 5. Conclusions and Priorities for the Future a) Brief summary on the extent of addressing the challenges and opportunities of population ageing since the León Conference in 2007 b) Indicate, based on the assessment provided and in view of expected future demographic developments, what will be your country's future policy challenges and perspectives related to ageing: Currently, our Country is implementing reforms based on two concepts - deinstitutionalization and decentralization, while the National Strategy for Employment enables the older population to stay in the field of labour in a high-quality way and to provide effective and productive contribution to the market economy. Furthermore, we work on developing the deinstitutionalized forms of protection of the older persons, on raising the standards in the institutional care, on the education of professionals working with older persons, but also on more intense involvement of the older persons in making decisions that concern them. c) Indicate major strengths and weaknesses of your country in the field of ageing; The national institutional capacities in our Country are not sufficient to meet the growing needs for institutional care for the older persons. In the last two years there are growing initiatives for construction of private homes for older persons, but due to the high cost of the services they are unaffordable for a number of older people with a minimum pension. The situation with deinstitutionalized care is not at desired level, however many measures have been taken in this area, and the results are expected to be seen in the future. However, the Republic of Macedonia works intensively in the field of raising awareness about the problem of older persons and aging, and at the same time, with the active employment also takes care of the older population that otherwise would be threatened by the negative consequences of aging which carry in themselves a high mortality rate. d) Outline future activities in the areas of population and individual ageing and other related areas; All measures and future activities in this field are included in the development plans and political strategies at national, regional and local level. This especially refers to the commitment which aims to integrate aging at all fields so as to eventually create a harmony between the demographic changes and the society in

general. e) Propose adjustments to existing policies; The policies are embedded in strategies and plans and programmes for social protection, but their realization depends on the macroeconomic policy and the reform process in the field of decentralization and deinstitutionalisation. f) identify priorities for further policy research; In the future the Republic of Macedonia necessitates on-the-field researches which would help to identify the needs of the older population, and based on which policies shall be created for the care and protection of the older population. g) Describe the level of need and/or wish to exchange experiences across countries; The Republic of Macedonia has an increased need for exchange of experiences with other countries that have positive processes in terms of the problem of older persons and aging, and have a similar system of social protection for older persons (countries in the region, Croatia, Serbia, Austria and others). The needs for exchange are related to the manner of functioning and organization of the protection of the older persons, as well as the manner of work of the professionals and their education. h) Indicate your country's requests, needs and wishes with regard to the work of international organizations in the field of ageing. The international institutions need to undertake steps to provide financial support for the system of social protection and in presenting the experiences and solutions of other countries, in the creation of a more secure system of protection of the older persons.

6	To involve more national parties (state agencies of the social sphere, ngo, international agencies) in discussion and development process on international level	7/21/2020 3:45 PM
7	regular continuous work and contacts, including new members in the process, maybe also include other member states and focal points in development of road maps (maybe if possible through EU Funds?) or exchange of kind of "internships" in another ministry or organisation for a certain time (payed)	7/20/2020 1:26 PM
8	A stronger political /governmental commitment. Renew MIPAA. A more coherent/coordinated UN-work on ageing (different UN-bodies have separate ageing-work processes (UN-Desa, WHO, UNECE) A stronger secretariat (2-3 staff are vulnerable).	7/19/2020 9:45 PM
9	Identifying ways to broaden the audience of the WGA would be useful to convince the atypical stakeholders that they should also consider their impacts on older persons and on population ageing related challenges. For example, the WGA could further engage with other groups within the UN system and beyond (e.g.: OECD) to advocate for the need to better consider population ageing issues in international fora. Focal points on ageing could also benefit from tips on how to "convince the unconvinced" within their respective jurisdiction.	7/17/2020 3:32 PM
10	Some national fee for supporting the WGA could help to strenghtening the evaluation of UNECE Population Unit and WGA as well.	7/17/2020 9:15 AM

Q26 Do you have any recommendations regarding the work of the UNECE Population Unit to help increase their relevance, impact, and effectiveness in addressing ageing issues?

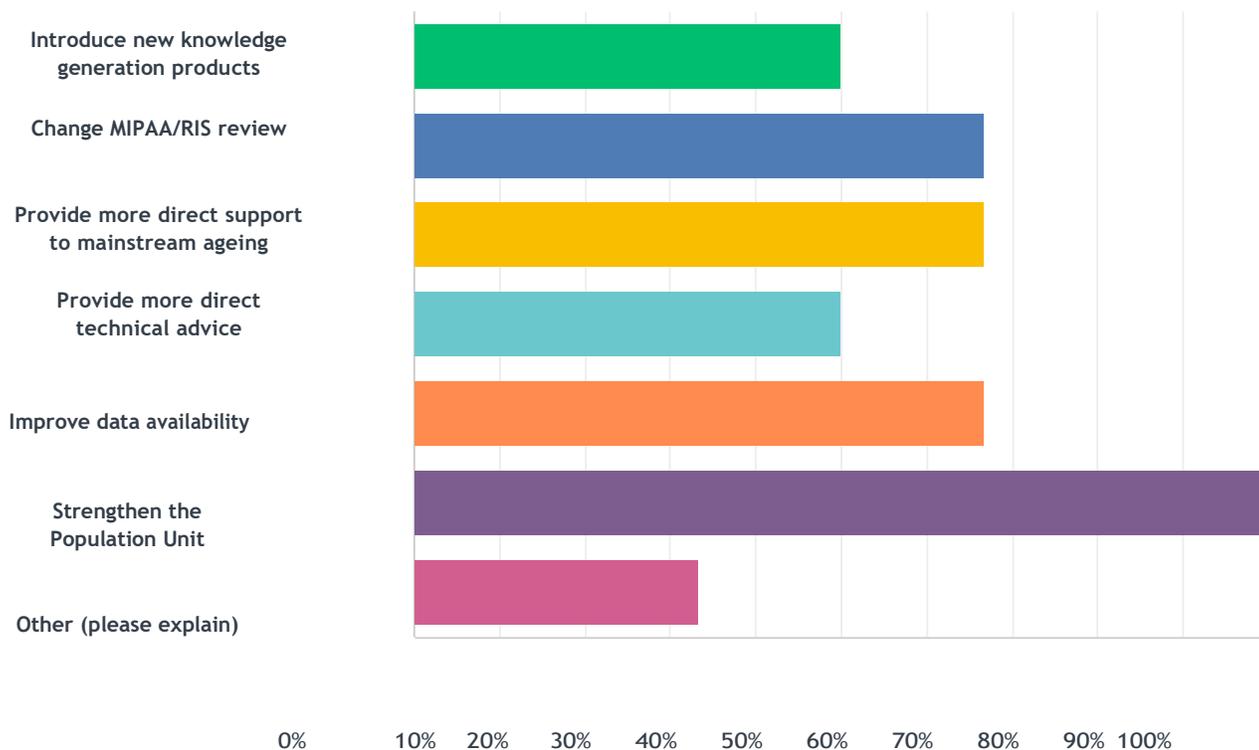
Answered: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.58%	6
No	68.42%	13
TOTAL		19

Q27 Please tell us what? (tick all that applies)

Answered: 6

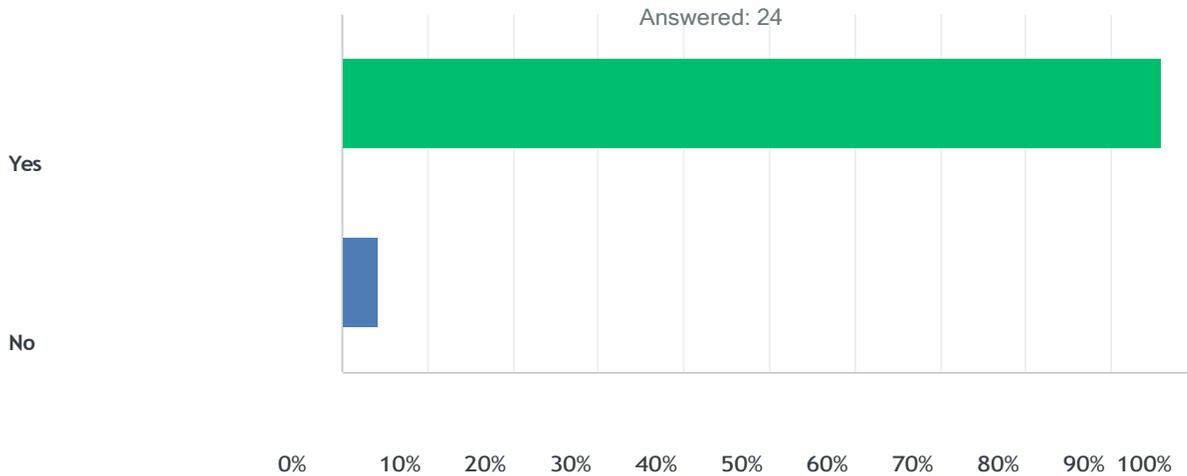


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Introduce new products to generate knowledge	50.00%	3
Change the methods and processes for MIPAA/RIS monitoring and review	66.67%	4
Provide more direct support to countries to mainstream ageing in policies	66.67%	4
Provide more direct technical advice to countries	50.00%	3
Improve data availability and accessibility	66.67%	4
Strengthen financially and with human resources the Population Unit	100.00%	6
Other (please explain)	33.33%	2

Total Respondents: 6

Responses by Partner organizations:

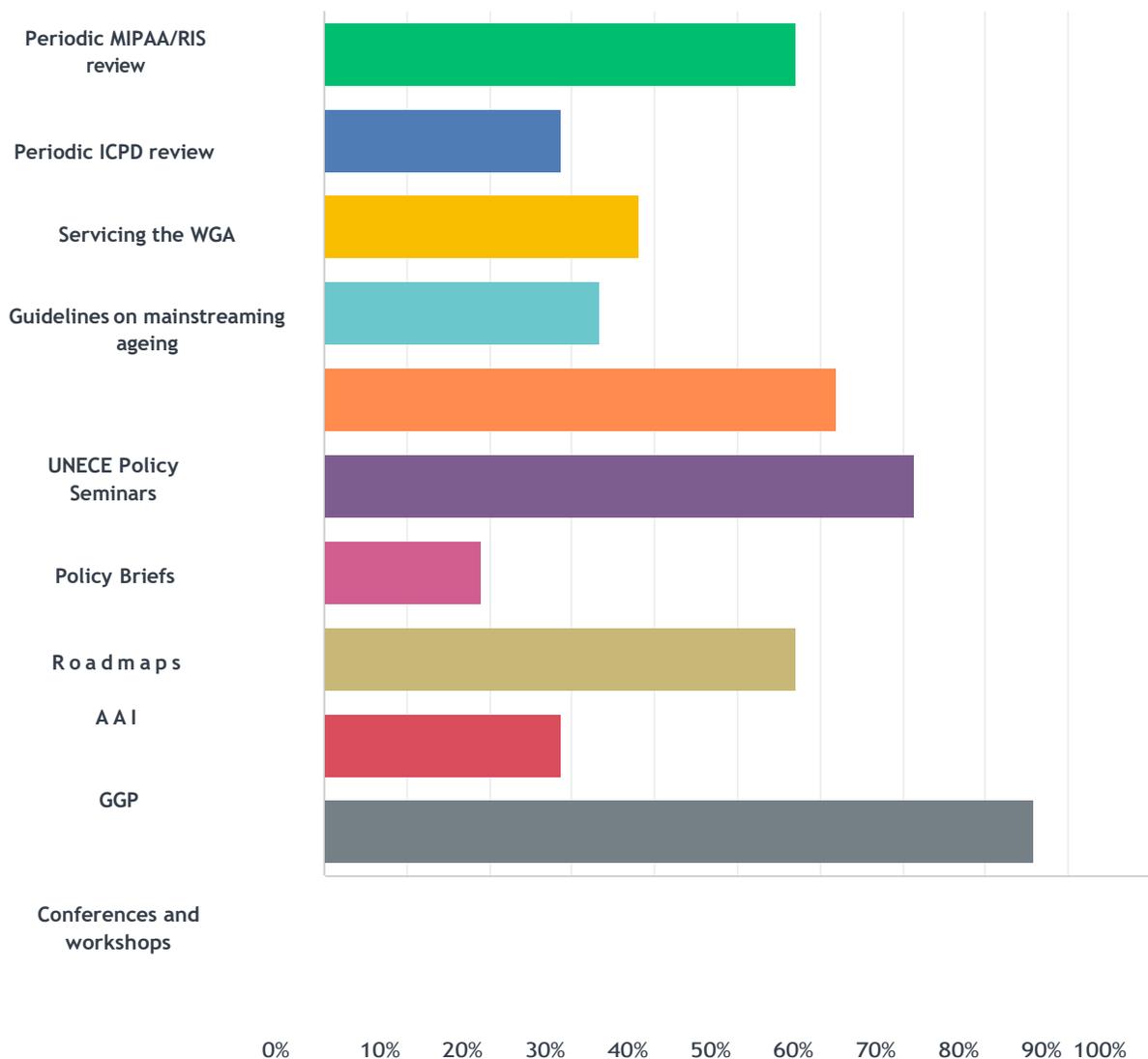
Q28 Has your institution collaborated with the UNECE Population Unit and or the Working Group on Ageing?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	95.83%
	23
No	4.17%
	1
TOTAL	24

Q29 Please tell us on what specific activity(s) result? (tick all that apply)

Answered: 21



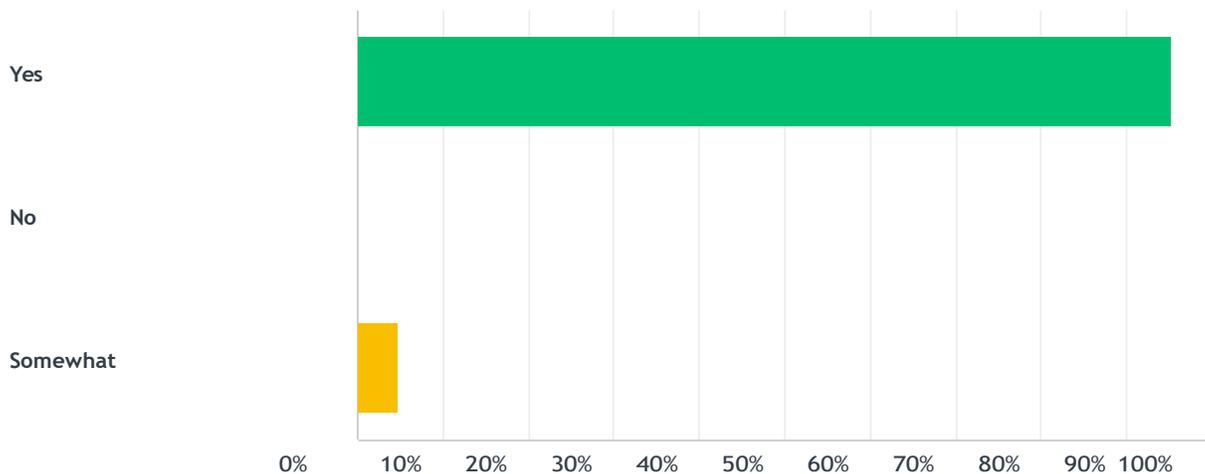
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Periodic (5-year) review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation	57.14% 12
Periodic (5-year) reviews of ICPD Programme of Action implementation	28.57% 6
Servicing and support to the intergovernmental processes through the Working Group on Ageing	38.10% 8
Development of Guidelines on Mainstreaming Ageing	33.33% 7
UNECE Policy Seminars on ageing	61.90% 13

Policy Briefs on Ageing	71.43%	15
Roadmaps to mainstream ageing	19.05%	4
Active Ageing Index	57.14%	12
Gender and Generations Programme	28.57%	6
Conferences and workshops	85.71%	18

Total Respondents: 21

Q30. Do you think that the collaboration of your institution with the UNECE Population Unit was helpful in delivering the expected results?

Answered: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.24%	20
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	4.76%	1
TOTAL		21

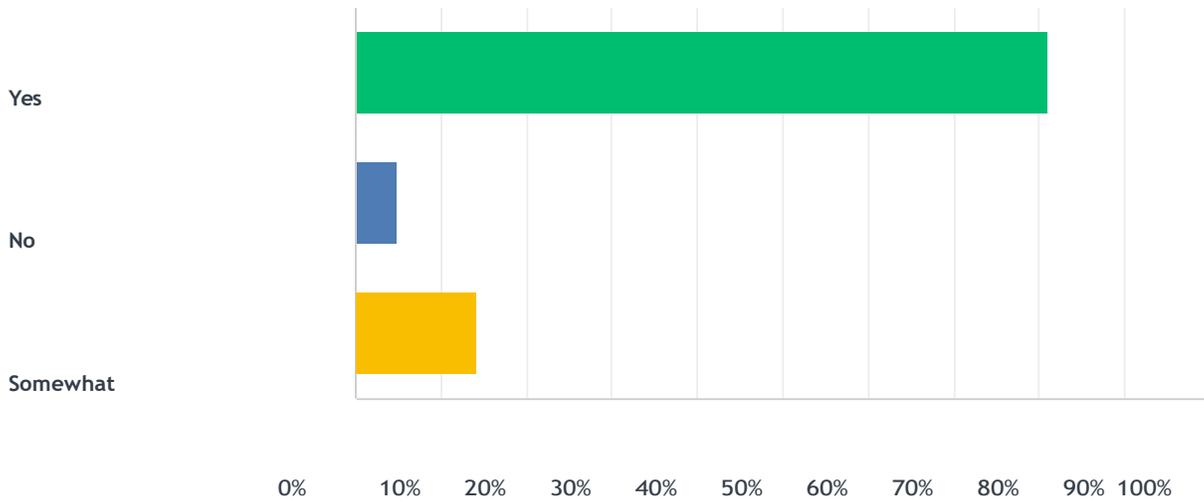
Q31 If the collaboration did Not bring or Somewhat brought about the desired results, please tell us the main reasons for that?

Answered: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
There are no responses.		

Q32 Was the cooperation with the UNECE Population Unit relevant to attaining the 2030 Agenda?

Answered: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	80.95%	17
No	4.76%	1
Somewhat	14.29%	3
TOTAL		21

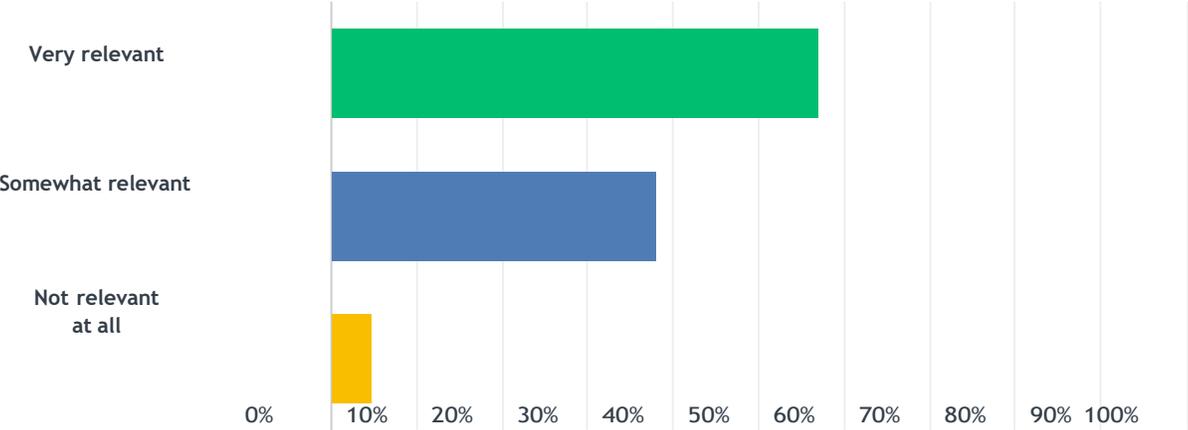
Q33 Please explain briefly how that cooperation/collaboration contributes to achieving the SDGs?

Answered: 20

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	1) review progress towards international agreements; 2) foster exchange of experience between stakeholders, share good practices; 3) capacity building - technical knowledge on aging and SDGs; advocacy and policy dialogue 4) the normative role of UNECE/PU and secretariat role - critical for enhancing dialogue among MSs and CSOs	8/10/2020 1:14 PM
2	Bringing the regional perspective into the global review, particularly as related to the review and appraisal of MIPAA and its relation to SDG	8/3/2020 1:52 PM
3	Making sure that the instruments that we use properly capture the SDGs	7/27/2020 1:03 PM
4	such collaboration / collaboration directly contributes to the achievement of the SDGs	7/25/2020 7:31 PM
5	The 2018 Policy Seminar contributed to better understanding of the relevance of ageing issues in the SDGs. The ongoing collaborations with UNECE on human rights of older persons contributes to specific goals on equality, gender, cities etc, as well as better appreciation of the values of human rights-based approach for the SDG implementation, with emphasis on equality and non-discrimination, participation of older persons and strengthening accountability.	7/25/2020 6:13 PM
6	UNECE's participatory approach and regular activities lead to regular exchanges of experience between countries in the region. But also regular seminars enable the strengthening of resources at the national level for the implementation of the SDG.	7/24/2020 7:46 PM
7	Due to the cross cutting nature of ageing it was very useful identifying all the relevant references to ageing in 2030 agenda. Additionally, due to the fact that ageing related issues are often overlooked in the both national SDG agendas and subsequent reporting it was important to have well articulated connections between SDG's and ageing in order to advocate for ageing to get more attention on the national level.	7/24/2020 10:31 AM
8	the ICPD agenda is fundamental to achieving SDGs. Population and Development issues, including ageing are core to SDGs	7/22/2020 8:21 PM
9	By discussions and interventions during sessions; by contributing to the Policy seminar 2018.	7/22/2020 6:28 PM
10	Collaboration with UNECE on mainstreaming ageing into national strategies contributes to LNOB principles, and specifically to achieving SDG 10	7/22/2020 11:39 AM
11	The joint inter-agency effort on ageing helps to raise the point that ageing is an important issue regarding the possibility to reach the SDGs. One agency alone would not be able to make this point. The sum of knowledge and reserach contributes to fact-based policy making, again a precondition to reach the SDGs.	7/20/2020 9:41 AM
12	Ukraine is facing most burning problems these days. Both the war in the East of the country and volatile political situation have huge destroying impact on life of Ukrainians. Co-operation with the UNECE Population Unit and the WGA helps to better prioritise the goals and tasks, to chose the relevant instruments. Participation of our NGO in the WGA enables us to collaborate with the national government and to offer a first-hand account of new ideas and practices, relevant decisions and documents.	7/19/2020 10:47 AM
13	We could deliver documents highlighting how tools developed thanks to the UNECE Population Unit can contribute to achieve some of the SDGs.	7/17/2020 3:52 PM
14	unite all human	7/17/2020 1:19 PM
15	Advocacy and guidance	7/17/2020 12:29 PM
16	The cooperation with the UNECE population Unit within the WGA is contributing to bridge environment sustainability issues with the problems raised by the demographcictransition which is impacting all the societies of the UNECE Region.	7/17/2020 12:03 PM
17	Flagging up ageing issues in specific SDGs, exchange of good practice, evidence-base	7/17/2020 8:41 AM
18	Conferences, seminars, exchange of experience between countries	7/17/2020 6:28 AM
19	Promoting evidence informed policies to achieve SDGs	7/16/2020 10:32 PM

Q34. How relevant are the activities you have collaborated with the UNECE Population Unit with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?

Answered: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very relevant	57.14%	12
Somewhat relevant	38.10%	8
Not relevant at all	4.76%	1
TOTAL		21

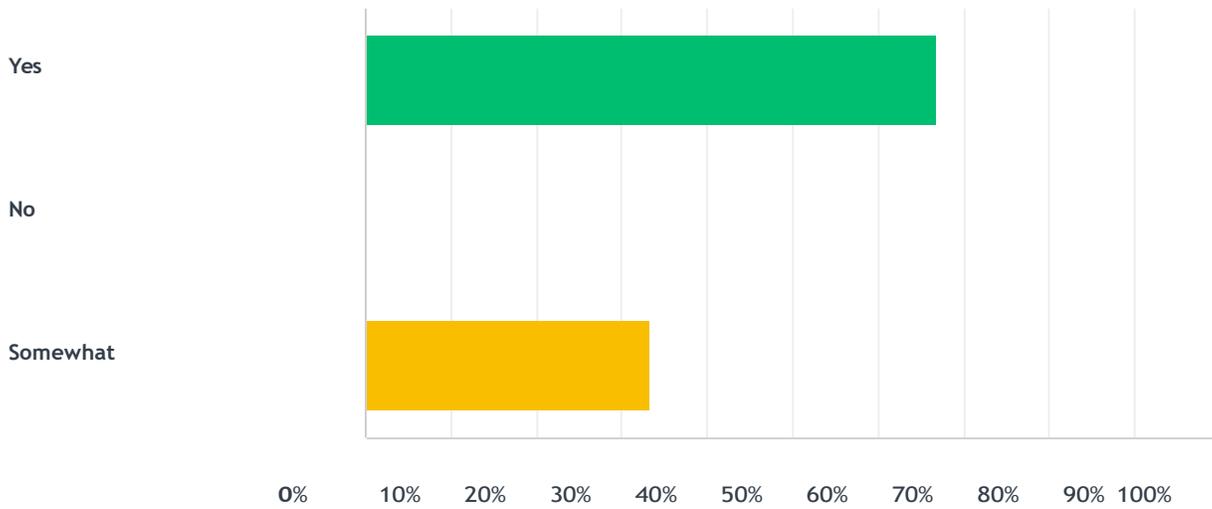
Q35 If you consider them relevant or somewhat relevant, please explain briefly what did you collaborate at?

Answered: 16

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Within the framework of ICPD regional review - SRHR; gender equality, family-friendly policy development; human rights of older persons inc. accumulated poverty over life course among female older persons. Joining different WGs within UNECE a well as within regional UN system - contributing to preparations of RFSD, Beijing@25 regional review; WG on data, etc.	8/10/2020 1:18 PM
2	Contributions of UNECE Pop Unit to the SG report include various references to older women and their experiences	8/3/2020 1:53 PM
3	Providing empirical data to measure gender equality and gender gaps	7/27/2020 1:04 PM
4	Various contributions UNECE made to the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing have highlighted the protection gaps regarding older women (e.g. social security) as well as good practices to address them from the ECE region.	7/25/2020 6:14 PM
5	UNECE ministerial conferences and seminars have made it possible to talk more about older women, especially the rhetoric of discrimination and violence that is the tip of the iceberg. The exchange of data and recommendations enabled a clearer view of the problems that older women face.	7/24/2020 7:52 PM
6	We collaborated on supporting national participation in the Ministerial Meeting and follow up	7/22/2020 8:22 PM
7	Participated as a panelist on a panel on gender and older women.	7/22/2020 4:50 PM
8	Developing Road Map for mainstreaming ageing to the national strategies. The document addressed gender dimension in the health section and specific section on gender equality in the ageing societies	7/22/2020 11:45 AM
9	Old age poverty is gender biased, a fact that gets often ignored, The inter-agency efforts promote this point and raise awareness. We collaborated through publications and events.	7/20/2020 9:43 AM
10	Our NGO is focused on the issues of old people. These days we are much concerned about very old and senile people in stressful situations. When discussing the gender issues in small groups at the WGA we agreed (to some extend) that very old and senile men are even more vulnerable than the women of the same age. And this factor should be taken into account that when providing support to very old people. This is important in the situations of natural disasters, war conflicts, aid delivery to IDPs, etc.	7/19/2020 10:59 AM
11	At producing reports analysing data also from a gender perspective.	7/17/2020 3:52 PM
12	Conferences, seminars	7/17/2020 12:30 PM
13	Gender equality emerged as a central issue in the context of the periodic Review and Appraisal of MIPAA/RIS.	7/17/2020 12:05 PM
14	Conferences, research	7/17/2020 8:42 AM
15	They affect all aspects of the life of older people and, if implemented, will improve the quality of life of the target group. Will help build a society for all ages.	7/17/2020 6:37 AM
16	Gender dimension has been included in all collaborative projects	7/16/2020 10:33 PM

Q36. Did the specific activity/collaboration with the Population Unit incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups? Was the issue of disability included in the activity/collaboration with the Population Unit?

Answered: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.67%	14
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	33.33%	7
TOTAL		21

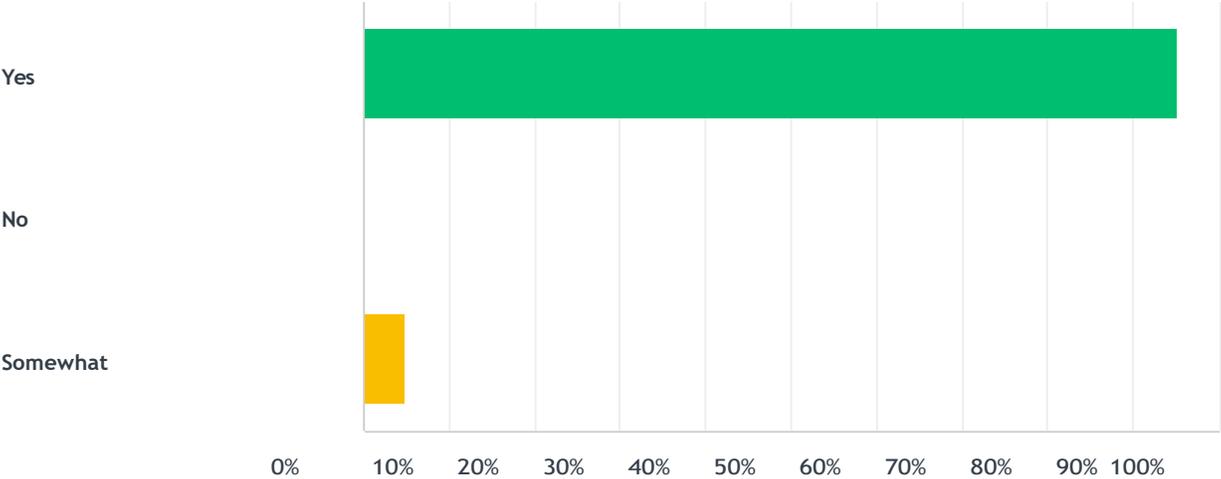
Q37 Please tell us what was the activity/collaboration with the Population Unit?

Answered: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We worked together on ICPD monitoring Framework which reflects several indicators on inequalities; WS on ageing and SDGs - included inequalities; regional conferences have special attention to gender issues as well as leaving no one behind.	8/10/2020 1:21 PM
2	Contributions to the SG global report, made reference to the vulnerabilities experienced by various sub-groups of older persons, including those with disabilities	8/3/2020 1:55 PM
3	Disaggregation of the data by income or other measure of deprivation	7/27/2020 1:05 PM
4	Collaboration with the population department is to increase the capacity to respond to effectively address current and emerging population problems and mainstreaming demographics in your country	7/25/2020 7:42 PM
5	UNECE actively contributed to the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing which examined issues including dementia and other disabilities concerning older persons.	7/25/2020 6:16 PM
6	Generally speaking, the approach to emphasize the very diversity in the population of older people and in that way combat ageistic stereotypes but in the same time not overlooked the issues related to the issues of older people who live with disability. In addition to that it was very relevant to raise the issue of informal carers.	7/24/2020 10:37 AM
7	co funding activities, ICPD 25 regional review, which included a focus on ageing	7/22/2020 8:23 PM
8	Raising awareness, insisting on considering vulnerable groups	7/22/2020 6:28 PM
9	We always include the perspectives of intersections with older persons with disabilities.	7/22/2020 4:52 PM
10	In the Road Map for Mainstreaming ageing specific section was addressing the social support needs of persons with disabilities. The document was also addressing social inclusion gaps in all ares of socio-economic development for persons with disabilities	7/22/2020 11:51 AM
11	Publications, events, general discussions within the group, exchange of knowledge.	7/20/2020 9:44 AM
12	Much attention was paid to the issues of dementia and informal care at the WGA meetings in 2018 and in 2019. After each meeting I share the information with the corresponding office in the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Now jointly with the colleagues from the Ministry we develop some amendments to the article on lifelong care of the Civil Code of Ukraine.	7/19/2020 11:14 AM
13	The development of the Active Ageing Index and production of the last Analytical Report on the implementation of this tool.	7/17/2020 3:53 PM
14	indexs	7/17/2020 1:19 PM
15	Conference	7/17/2020 12:30 PM
16	Disability progressively emerged as an important topic, in the framework of the debate about human rights of older people. which took place in the WGA. The debate was also stimulated by the reference to the International Convention on the Rights of People with Disability.	7/17/2020 12:10 PM
17	Policy briefs, good practice exchange, conceptual frameworks	7/17/2020 8:42 AM
18	As previous	7/16/2020 10:34 PM

Q38 Do you think that your engagement and collaboration with the UNECE Population Unit on ageing issues will continue in the future?

Answered: 21

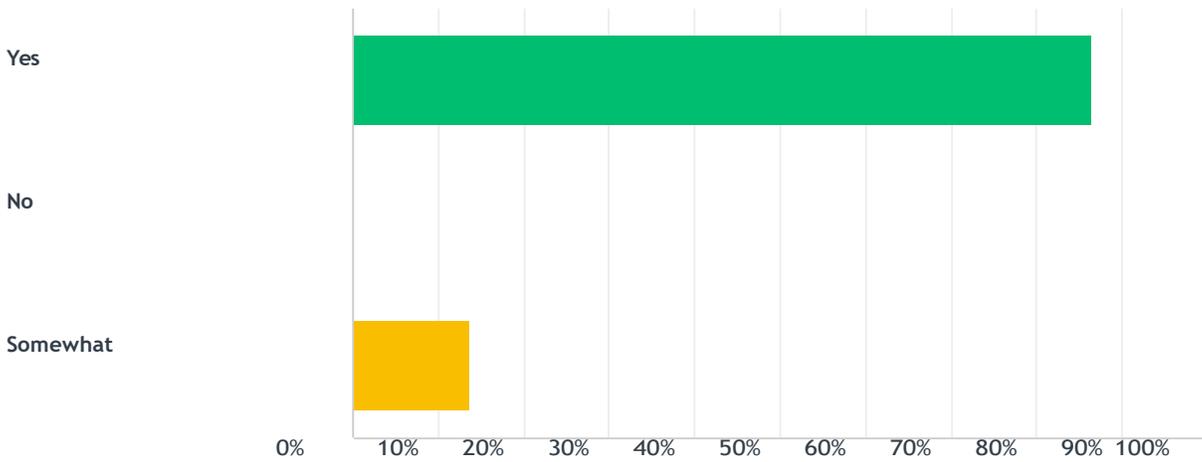


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.24%	20
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	4.76%	1
TOTAL		21

#	IF YOU ANSWERED YES OR SOMEWHAT, PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS OR SUGGESTIONS	DATE
1	We are initiating a joint initiative on aging: UNFPA/WHO/UNECE and HelpAge International Joint Regional Initiative on Ageing - "Building back better in the light of COVID-19: Strengthening health and social care provision and enabling environments for older persons in Europe and Central Asia"; Regional review processes of ICPD@25; Demographic shifts in Europe and Central Asia are recognized in SG 2019 SDG global report and call upon priority attention. The role of PU is key in addressing the issue as part of the intergovernmental processes. Actually expanding the focus of PU - not only on aging but on demographic issues will be key. Demographic shifts are recognized by EU and for the first time, the Commission introduced a commissioner on demography and democracy. It is an illustrative act on recognizing that population dynamics will shape the development of the union. At the PAN- European level, we are missing such a body since EU includes only 27 MS.	8/10/2020 1:29 PM
2	We plan on increasing collaboration with UNECE, as the regional arm of the UN, and also in collaboration with all other regional commissions. We hope to expand this partnership beyond MIPAA implementation	8/3/2020 1:56 PM
3	In collaboration with the Population Division, it is possible to predict the aging of the population in the country through the completion of the Aging Roadmap	7/25/2020 7:48 PM
4	We will continue counting on UNECE's contributions to the discussions at UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Their policy briefs are particularly useful as they highlight not only challenges but also guidance and solutions, as well as practical examples.	7/25/2020 6:18 PM
5	Through regular participation in the meetings of the Working Group on Aging and participation in ministerial conferences.	7/24/2020 8:06 PM
6	UNFPA and UNECE are now working together on a regional initiative on ageing to protect and promote the rights and health of older persons within the COVID19 pandemic and beyond	7/22/2020 8:24 PM
7	Would like to see the work more focused on specific aspects and reporting more binding concerning those aspects which would make progress comparable	7/22/2020 6:29 PM
8	The Unit truly includes NGOs, more than other units of UN agencies. There is constant communication and consultation and our perspectives are heard by the unit. The unit also convenes an informal interagency group on ageing that also includes civil society. And Civil Society has a seat at the bureau. I hope this collaboration continues.	7/22/2020 4:56 PM
9	GGS, analysis of economic consequences if ageing issues are not addressed, applying SDG indicators for th issues of ageing	7/22/2020 11:53 AM
10	For the ILO ageing slowly becomes a more recognized subject. With the help of UNECE it can be brought even more to the forefront. Publications, events, awareness raising campains will be the main means to work together.	7/20/2020 9:45 AM
11	I dare not make such predictions	7/19/2020 11:30 AM
12	Our research centre is heavily involved in co-organising the next Interministerial Conference on Ageing, which is likely to be held in Italy in September 2022.	7/17/2020 3:56 PM
13	ageing must first problem in the world	7/17/2020 1:20 PM
14	Conferences, seminars, papers, advice, briefs etc	7/17/2020 12:31 PM
15	The collaboration will continue in the the WGA and possibly in the context of specific initiatives.	7/17/2020 12:12 PM
16	One of the perspective areas of collaboration will emanate during the fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA	7/16/2020 10:35 PM
17	Implementing activities on active ageing	7/16/2020 9:57 PM

Do you think that the work of the Population Unit in general, and in the last 5 years, has impacted positively the achievement of the MIPAA/RIS and Lisbon Ministerial Declaration commitments?

Answered: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.36%	19
No	0.00%	0
Somewhat	13.64%	3
TOTAL		22

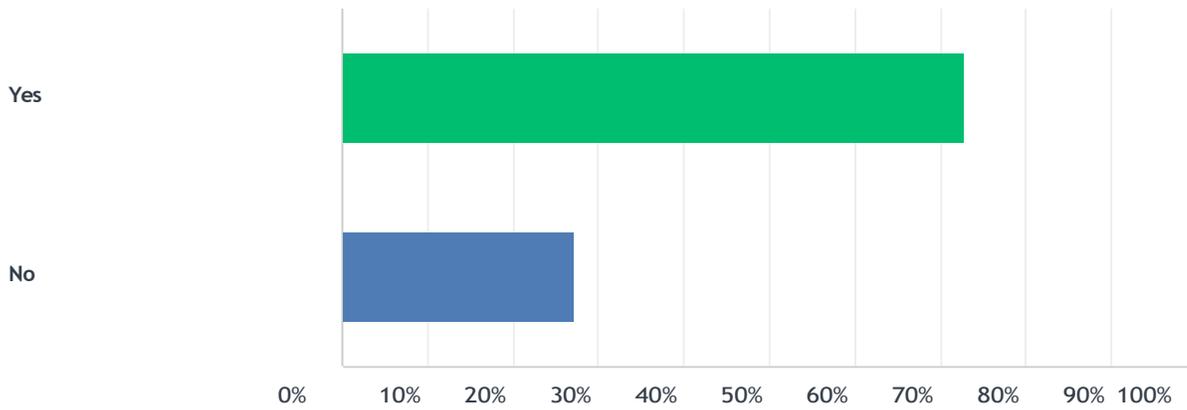
Q40 If Yes, please tell us briefly why do you think so?

Answered: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	PU advanced the active aging index, exchange of experience between countries, mobilized political support from MSs for the issue to be addressed, capacity building initiatives; integrated the issue within existing processes - RFSD, ICPD Regional Review, etc	8/10/2020 1:31 PM
2	Member States from the region make reference to the Working Group in our meetings in NY. Clearly, there is engagement that is also reflected at UNHQ in NY	8/3/2020 1:57 PM
3	Collaboration with researchers and those collecting scientific data is essential to pursue the aims of the MIPAA/RIS	7/27/2020 1:06 PM
4	Our country prepared a review on and MIPAA	7/25/2020 7:49 PM
5	UNECE prepared useful summary and analysis of national implementation reports which contributed to identification of common challenges and good practices for Member States' consideration.	7/25/2020 6:19 PM
6	Through regular evaluation and monitoring of work at the national and regional level, demographic aging is more visible, in the region we have new services and better exchange of experience.	7/24/2020 8:10 PM
7	Work of WGA is crucial for the MIPPA/RIS process and it create the opportunity to be engaged and to contribute to the issues that will be reflected in the Ministerial conferences.	7/24/2020 10:40 AM
8	UNECE plays a fundamental role in elevating ageing on the agenda in the region and ensuring national commitments	7/22/2020 8:25 PM
9	Field missions and respective roadmaps, in particular, are very helpful	7/22/2020 6:29 PM
10	Road maps have been designed for countries in the region. Also the active ageing keeps a monitoring that is absent in other regions.	7/22/2020 4:57 PM
11	The subject tends to be forgotten or ignored. The endless efforts to keep it on the agenda is to a large extend the success of UNECE, especially linked to economic and social issues. To have UNECE POP Unit institutionalized the subject, which is very important.	7/20/2020 9:47 AM
12	The Population Unit in general and the WGA in particular provide the information, consultations and necessary support in case of need. It is also important to note that the Ukrainian government is obliged to follow the rules and to fulfil the commitments made. This has a a disciplining effect.	7/19/2020 11:46 AM
13	Because the engagement of the Population Unit has been helpful in moving things forward in this regard.	7/17/2020 3:56 PM
14	Often quoted and refered to	7/17/2020 12:31 PM
15	The work of the Population Unit in support to the WGA greatly contributed to the exchange of practices among Member States and nourished the political and technical discussion, especially during last 5 years. It also helped the WGA to look beyond the Region and to present its own experience at global level, for example participating in the Open Ended Working Group On Ageing meetings.	7/17/2020 12:19 PM
16	the group consists of competent, knowledgeable specialists. They have information about problems and try to solve it	7/17/2020 6:38 AM
17	Integrated World Best experience can help to develop proper state policy for older generstions	7/17/2020 6:30 AM
18	The UNECE Population Unit is a regional focal point on ageing responsible for monitoring the implementation of RIS/MIPAA	7/16/2020 10:37 PM
19	Coordinates overall work on ageing of the member states	7/16/2020 9:57 PM

Q41 Do you have any recommendations regarding the work of the UNECE Population Unit to help increase their relevance, impact, and effectiveness in addressing ageing issues?

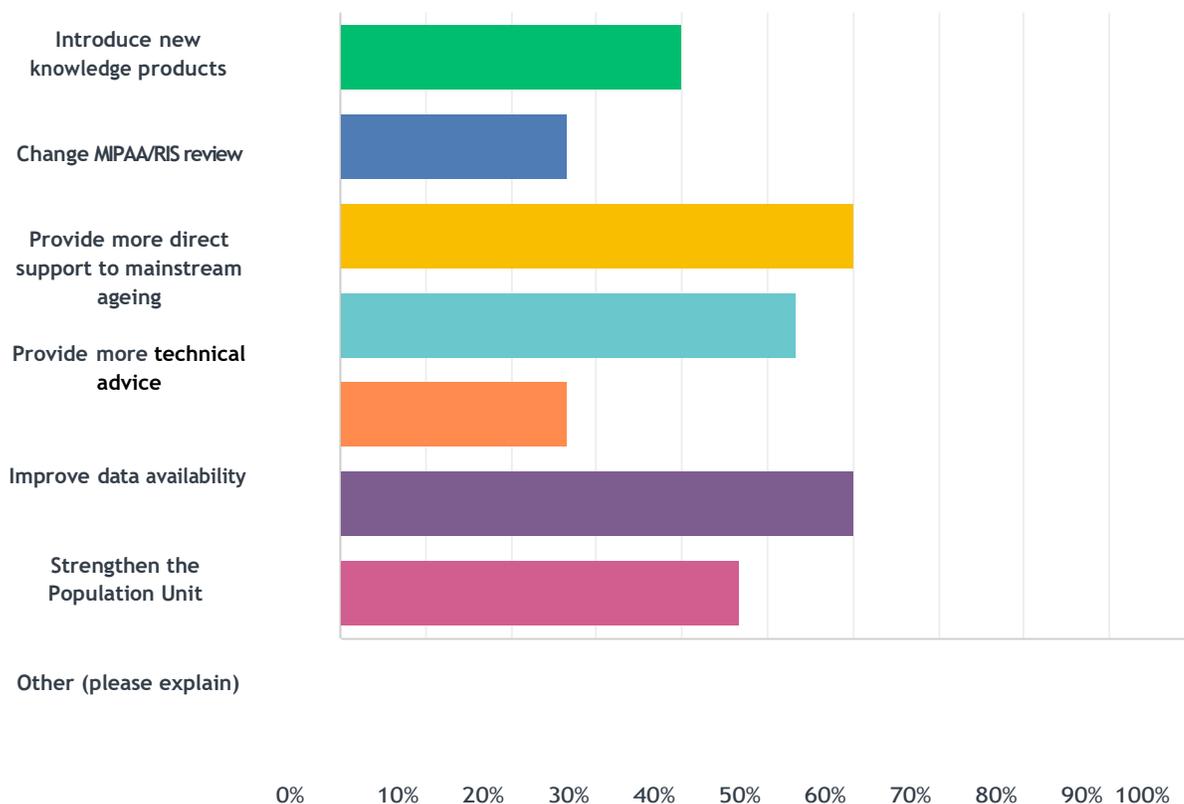
Answered: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	72.73%
	16
No	27.27%
	6
TOTAL	22

Q42 If you do have some recommendation, please tell us in which specific areas/aspects? (tick all that applies)

Answered: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Introduce new products to generate knowledge	40.00%	6
Change the methods and processes for MIPAA/RIS monitoring and review	26.67%	4
Provide more direct support to countries to mainstream ageing in policies	60.00%	9
Provide more direct technical advice to countries	53.33%	8
Improve data availability and accessibility	26.67%	4
Strengthen financially and with human resources the Population Unit	60.00%	9
Other (please explain)	46.67%	7

Total Respondents: 15

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Expand the focus of PU - not only on aging but on demographic shifts. This will provide a holistic approach to aging in the context of demographic shifts Europe is facing.	8/10/2020 1:34 PM
2	UNECE Pop Unit is ahead of the curve in undertaking the review and appraisal of MIPAA, in their analysis of linkages between MIPAA and Agenda 2030, in their work on ageing related statistics as well as their guidelines on mainstreaming older persons and ageing. We hope to help disseminate that work and expertise to other regions and better showcase it in the work at the UNHQ in NY as well as in the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data.	8/3/2020 2:00 PM
3	In MIPAA/RIS, there are several references to the need for life-course approach since health at older ages is highly dependent on choices / constraints / opportunities at earlier ages. Consequently a closer collaboration between those working on ageing issues and those working on the earlier stages of the life-course (young adults, childbearing years) would enrich the reflection and empirical evidence. Unfortunately, the budgets and activities for these two domains (young vs. old) are often disjoint.	7/27/2020 1:09 PM
4	Strengthen coordination and collaboration with Regional UNDCO to link UNECE work with operational activities of the UN country teams in the region	7/25/2020 6:27 PM
5	They need more people and more financial help.	7/24/2020 8:13 PM
6	First the Population Unit should be strengthened. Demographic Shifts are one of the 5 UN75 megatrends and a huge priority in the ECE region. UNECEs Population Unit which does high quality work should be strengthened to provide better country support in cooperation with UN agencies like UNFPA.	7/22/2020 8:27 PM
7	Coordinate work with other institutions dealing with ageing issues	7/22/2020 6:32 PM
8	Strengthen focus on the socio-economic benefits of applying human rights based approach when addressing ageing issues in the region	7/22/2020 1:07 PM
9	Ageing is not just an issue in Europe and the next set of countries to face the challenge is less well prepared compared to Europe. This is why all economic commissions should have a population Unit. The same is true for partnering agencies. Cooperation should happen much more at the country level, there could be more joint publications. But overall it is clearly the work of UNECE POP Unit that the topic is high on the agenda of the UN:	7/20/2020 9:51 AM
10	Focus on priority issues in specific countries	7/17/2020 8:44 AM

Annex 5. Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation criteria	Evaluation Question	Collection method(s) and sources	Evaluation Challenges
Relevance	1. Is the work of the UNECE Population subprogramme relevant for advancing intergovernmental efforts 2. Is the Programme of Work relevant to attaining the 2030 Agenda? 3. How to make the intergovernmental process on ageing more relevant?	1. Desk review of programme documents and of 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration and MIPAA/RIS commitments, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Review of substantive results (reports, policy briefs). Reports of annual meetings to ascertain the preparatory work, Chair's Reports, document on implementation of the work programme 2. Interviews with members of the WGA and partner agencies. 3. Survey	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
	2. How relevant are the activities with regards to gender equality and empowerment of women?	1. Desk review of programme documents, outcomes/outputs and SDG's targets and indicators. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA and partner agencies.	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	3. How does the Population subprogramme incorporate the perspective of vulnerable groups in its work? Is disability inclusion mainstreamed in the activities of the subprogramme?	1. Desk review of programme documents, outcomes/outputs.; 2. Interviews key informants 3. Survey	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
Coherence	4. How coherent is the collaboration with other entities (United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, academia, etc.) in delivering on expected accomplishment and mandated outputs?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports) 2. Survey with relevant partners 3. Interviews with select representatives of partner organizations (UNFPA, EC, WHO, etc).	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
	5. How coherent are the methods/processes of regional cooperation between member States through the WGA to advancing the implementation of the Lisbon Declaration and MIPAA/RIS?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations

	6. What outcomes have been achieved through the collaboration with partners (expected/unexpected, positive/negative), in the activities of the sub-programme? Could this engagement with partners and various stakeholder groups be improved?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Survey with relevant partners	Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
Effectiveness	8. Does the subprogramme contribute to member States' attainment of their commitments under the MIPAA/RIS and 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with members of the WGA	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	9. To what extent did the undertaken activities contribute to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with UNECE staff and members of the WGA	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	10. To what extent did the work on the Active Ageing Index and support for the Generations and Gender Programme contribute to evidence building for policymaking in the area of ageing?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with UNECE staff, EC and select country representatives.	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	11. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the objectives and expected accomplishments set forth?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with UNECE staff and members of the WGA	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
Efficiency	12. Were there sufficient resources to achieve the intended outcomes, including in a timely manner?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interview with UNECE staff	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	13. Have the available resources been used efficiently to deliver expected outputs?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with UNECE staff	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
Sustainability	14. What is the likelihood that the benefits of the Population subprogramme's activities will persist over time?	1. Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports). 2. Interviews with members of the WGA,	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations

	15. To what extent do member States and broader stakeholder groups engage with the population subprogramme's work in an enduring way?	1.Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	16. Has the Population subprogramme work led to an increased number of member States adopting comprehensive policies on ageing and/or adjusting existing programmes to align with the MIPAA/RIS, 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, and 2030 Agenda? How to make the intergovernmental process on ageing more sustainable?	1.Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA 3. Survey	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
	17. Has the national capacity for monitoring and assessment of such policy measures improved as a result?	1.Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA and AFP in select countries	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations
	18. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to enhancement of gender equality and empowerment of (older) women and men in all dimensions of development?	1.Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA; 3. Survey	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations
	19. Did the activities of the subprogramme contribute to substantial and meaningful changes in the situation of the most vulnerable groups?	1.Desk review of documents (programmes, reports, activity reports, monitoring reports. 2. Interviews with members of the WGA 3. Survey	1. Availability of key informants for interview due to summer vacations. 2. Possible low response rate to the survey due to summer vacations

Annex 6. Policy Priorities and objectives of the MIPAA/RIS and the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration

Table 3. Summary of MIPAA priorities, issues, and objectives

Priority Direction	Issues	Objectives
I. Older persons and development	1: Active participation in society and development	1. Recognition of the social, cultural, economic and political contribution of older persons.
		2: Participation of older persons in decision-making processes at all levels.
	2: Work and the ageing labour force	1: Employment opportunities for all older persons who want to work.
	3: Rural development, migration and urbanization	1: Improvement of living conditions and infrastructure in rural areas.
		2: Alleviation of the marginalization of older persons in rural areas.
		3: Integration of older migrants within their new communities.
	4: Access to knowledge, education and training	1: Equality of opportunity throughout life with respect to continuing education, training and retraining as well as vocational guidance and placement services.
		2: Full utilization of the potential and expertise of persons of all ages, recognizing the benefits of increased experience with age.
	5: Intergenerational solidarity	1: Strengthening of solidarity through equity and reciprocity between generations.
	6: Eradication of poverty	1: Reduction of poverty among older persons.
	7: Income security, social protection/social security and poverty prevention	1: Promotion of programmes to enable all workers to acquire basic social protection/social security, including where applicable, pensions, disability insurance and health benefits.
		2: Sufficient minimum income for all older persons, paying particular attention to socially and economically disadvantaged groups.
	8: Emergency situations	1: Equal access by older persons to food, shelter and medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.
		2: Enhanced contributions of older persons to the reestablishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies.

II: Advancing health and well-being into old age	1: Health promotion and well-being throughout life	1: Reduction of the cumulative effects of factors that increase the risk of disease and consequently potential dependence in older age.
		2: Development of policies to prevent ill-health among older persons.
		3: Access to food and adequate nutrition for all older persons.
	2: Universal and equal access to health-care services	1: Elimination of social and economic inequalities based on age, gender or any other ground, including linguistic barriers, to ensure that older persons have universal and equal access to health care
		2: Development and strengthening of primary health-care services to meet the needs of older persons and promote their inclusion in the process.
		3: Development of a continuum of health care to meet the needs of older persons.
		4: Involvement of older persons in the development and strengthening of primary and long-term care services.
	3: Older persons and HIV/AIDS	1: Improvement in the assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the health of older persons, both for those who are infected and those who are caregivers for infected or surviving family members
		2: Provision of adequate information, training in caregiving skills, treatment, medical care and social support to older persons living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.
		3: Enhancement and recognition of the contribution of older persons to development in their role as caregivers for children with chronic diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and as surrogate parents.
4: Training of care providers and health professionals	1: Provision of improved information and training for health professionals and para-professionals on the needs of older persons.	

	5: Mental health needs of older persons	1: Development of comprehensive mental health-care services ranging from prevention to early intervention, the provision of treatment services and the management of mental health problems in older persons.
	6: Older persons and disabilities	1: Maintenance of maximum functional capacity throughout the life course and promotion of the full participation of older persons with disabilities.
III: Priority direction Ensuring enabling and supportive environments	1: Housing and the living environment	1: Promotion of “ageing in place” in the community with due regard to individual preferences and affordable housing options for older persons.
		2: Improvement in housing and environmental design to promote independent living by taking into account the needs of older persons in particular those with disabilities.
		3: Improved availability of accessible and affordable transportation for older persons.
	2: Care and support for caregivers	1: Provision of a continuum of care and services for older persons from various sources and support for caregivers.
		2: Support the caregiving role of older persons, particularly older women.
	3: Neglect, abuse and violence	1: Elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence of older persons.
		2: Creation of support services to address elder abuse.
	4: Images of ageing	1: Enhancement of public recognition of the authority, wisdom, productivity and other important contributions of older persons.

Table 5. Summary of RIS/Lisbon Declaration policy goals and objectives

RIS Commitments	RIS Policy Objectives	Lisbon Policy Goal	Lisbon Policy Objectives
To mainstream ageing in all policy fields		Recognizing the potential of older persons	Empower individuals to participate and contribute to the society; Develop socially responsible economies, valuing the potential of older persons. Foster participation of older persons in decision-making on policies affecting their lives; Promote positive image of older persons; Fostering voluntary work. Involve older persons as consumers in planning goods and services; Develop age-friendly environments, housing, health and social care systems;
To ensure full integration and participation of older persons in society	Enhance socio-economic and cultural participation; Promote active involvement in community	Encouraging longer working life and ability to work	Promote maximum employment opportunities for older persons; Foster access to life-long learning; Develop employment strategies to reduce age discrimination and inequalities, including the gender pay gap; Promote flexible and age adapted working conditions. Provide incentives for longer working life; Plan/implement pension reforms to respond to the increasing longevity. Facilitate reconciliation of employment and care work.
	Promote positive image of ageing	Ensuring ageing with dignity	Protect old persons human rights and dignity; Prevent abuse and violence against older persons; Foster new technologies/services to ensure affordable and accessible care for older persons; Raise quality standards for integrated social and long-term care; Support ageing research, particularly on the situation of persons with dementia/mental disorders. Ensure patient-centered medical and social care for older persons.
To promote equitable and sustainable economic growth in response to population ageing	Aim to accelerate growth rate		
To adjust social protection systems in response to demographic changes	Strengthen social protection; Establish regulatory framework for private pension; Adapt social protection systems to the needs of women and men throughout the life cycle;		

To enable labour markets to respond to population ageing	Seek reduction in unemployment rates; including older persons; Raise participation rates for all women and men; Raise the average effective age for retirement, make it more flexible and gradual		
To promote life-long learning and adapt	Facilitate life-long learning; Ensure educational system achieves better employability of all persons;		
To ensure quality of life at all ages and maintain independent living	Promote health and well-being over the entire life course; Ensure equal access to health and social services including long-term care; Ensure appropriate financing of health and social services; Enable people to make healthy choices.		
To mainstream a gender approach in an ageing society	Achieve full gender equality; Realize gender equality in the economy; Ensure gender equality of access to social protection and social security systems; Promote shared responsibilities of women and men within their families		
To support families that provide care for older persons	Strengthen intergenerational and intra-generational solidarity; Support families in coping with the consequences of demographic change		
To promote the implementation and follow-up of the regional implementation strategy through regional co-operation			