Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics

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7th meeting of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing
Geneva, 20-21 November 2014
Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics

- Conference of European Statisticians in-depth review of ageing-related statistics in November 2012
- February 2013: terms of reference approved
- Statisticians, policymakers, researchers
- Objective: to improve the availability, accessibility and comparability of statistical data in support of ageing-related policymaking in the framework of the MIPAA/RIS
Membership

- 14 national statistical offices:
  - Azerbaijan
  - Belgium
  - Canada
  - Hungary
  - Israel
  - Italy
  - Mexico
  - New Zealand
  - Poland
  - Slovakia
  - Switzerland
  - Tajikistan
  - United Kingdom
  - United States
- Eurostat, UNECE

- 8 government agencies dealing with ageing:
  - Austria
  - Belgium
  - Czech Republic
  - Georgia
  - Italy
  - Portugal
  - Serbia
  - United States

- Academic:
  - University of Southampton
  - European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Chair: Emma Wright, UK Office for National Statistics
Topics

- Topics mapped onto four policy goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration:
  - Longer working life
  - Social inclusion
  - Health, independence
  - Intergenerational solidarity

- Demographic measures - standalone topic
Topics and Policy Goals

- Demographic measures of ageing
- Longer working life
  - Education, training and labour market participation
  - Health risks and health behaviours
- Social inclusion
  - Financial security
  - Social inclusion/exclusion
- Health and independence
  - Health status
  - Health and social care needs and access to services
  - Subjective well-being
- Intergenerational solidarity
  - Caring, transfers
Existing Indicators and Data

- Review of existing frameworks:
  - UNECE MIPAA Synthesis Report
  - MA:IMI
  - Active Ageing Index
  - Eurostat database
  - OECD reports and databases

- 84 indicators

- Availability, use by policymakers, dissemination, source, periodicity, available breakdowns and inclusion of institutional populations

- Replies from 18 countries represented in the task force

Available statistics shape the way we think about ageing.
First Meeting in November 2013

- Discussion of the collected information on the indicators and their policy use
- Good practice examples from countries in compiling and disseminating ageing-related statistics and indicators
- Decisions on next steps
- Formation of 5 teams: 4 Vienna domains + Demography
Teams

- Using online workspace (wiki)
- Analysis of indicators and data
  - Relevance to policy needs
  - Availability. Identifying gaps:
    - Conceptual
    - Data collection
    - Tabulation
  - International comparability
- Drafting recommendations
- Proposals for further methodological work
Second Meeting 18-19 Nov 2014

- Discuss concept notes by teams
- Principles for revising and streamlining
- Separate chapters:
  - Communication and dissemination
  - Institutional population
- Timetable: full report in January
Examples of Recommendations

- Use modules in existing regular surveys
- Combine data across several instances of the same survey (data pooling) to get sufficient statistical power for estimates for older age-groups
- Harmonized 5 or 10 year age-groups, not just 65+
- Include institutional population in estimates, otherwise potentially severe underestimation of e.g. health problems
- Better use of administrative sources, e.g. for measuring formal care provision, and health and social care needs
Concluding remarks

- Uniting producers and users in one task force ⇒ challenging organizationally, potential positive effect on outcome

- Practical guidance to statisticians

- More and better accessible data for policymaking