



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
21 December 2015

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Working Group on Ageing

#### **Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 19 and 20 November 2015

## **Report of the Working Group on Ageing on its Eighth Meeting**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Attendance**

1. The eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing (WGA) was held on 19 and 20 November 2015 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
2. Representatives of the following 35 member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) participated: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, the United States of America, and Uzbekistan. The Holy See participated as an observer State.
3. Representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) participated. Representatives of the European Commission, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (ECV) and the Webster Vienna Private University also took part in the meeting. The following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting: Age Platform Europe, Ardager, Beauty of Help, Central-Asia Gerontology Center, European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG), HelpAge International, International Federation of University Women, International Longevity Centre – Global Alliance, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), Red Cross of Serbia and Turkish Association for the Retired (TÜED). The European Union (EU) Resident Expert Coordinator on the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project participated in the meeting at the invitation of the Secretariat.



4. The total number of participants was 73. A full list of participants is available on the meeting website.<sup>1</sup> In addition, a group of 30 Master programme students of Pierre Mendès-France University in Grenoble attended the morning session of the Working Group meeting on 20 November as observers.

## **B. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

5. The Working Group adopted the meeting's agenda as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2015/1 without changes.

## **II. Election of a new Bureau**

6. The Working Group decided to enlarge the Bureau from 8 to 10 member States' representatives for the next two years. Following the call for nominations issued in September 2015, seven current Bureau members expressed their interest to continue serving in the Bureau. Three other member States proposed their candidates. The Working Group unanimously agreed on the proposed Bureau composition. Subsequently, the present Bureau is comprised of representatives from the following 10 member States: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey; Dirk Jarré (NGO representative) and Bernd Marin (research community representative) continue to collaborate with the Bureau as standing observers.

7. The Working Group thanked the outgoing representative of Poland for her dedicated work for the WGA.

8. Based on the suggestion of the Bureau, the WGA decided to extend the Chairmanship of Erika Winkler for the third two-year period (an amendment to the rules). Representatives of Germany and Turkey will serve as Vice-Chairs.

9. The Chair of the WGA reported on the major activities and key achievements of the ECE Working Group on Ageing since 2010, highlighting as major achievements the changed perception of older persons, with their potential and contribution to the society having become more visible; the strengthened role of the civil society and the fact that the active ageing has become a central concept for national and regional ageing policies. She stressed that as a result the Active Ageing Index was developed to monitor the active ageing policies; and that the active ageing approach has been mainstreamed and taken up in all policy fields. The Chair thanked all WGA members and the ECE Secretariat for their contributions that led to these results.

## **III. Work of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing and briefing on the outcomes of ageing-related events during 2015**

10. The outgoing representative of Poland reported on the seventh Bureau meeting that took place in Gdańsk (Poland) on 7 and 8 May 2015, referring to the meeting report (ECE/WG.1/2015/3).

11. The Chair reported on the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) which took place in New York in February 2015. A resolution on Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38245#/>

was agreed by the Commission and subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council in July 2015 (E/RES/2015/5). This resolution provides a strong mandate to the Regional commissions, including ECE, requesting them to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level. The CSocD members decided not to have a global theme for this review leaving it to each region to decide on its own. The global review of the MIPAA will conclude in 2018. Member States are encouraged to set up coordination groups to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise. A bottom-up approach – in which the role of the civil society is emphasized – is recommended. A report by the Secretary General including an analysis of the preliminary findings of the third review and appraisal exercise, together with an identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options should be presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> CSocD session in February 2017. Therefore at the ECE regional level, the national reports should be submitted to the Secretariat before the deadline of 31 October 2016.

12. The Secretariat presented a brief overview of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Population and Development which was held at the United Nations in New York in April 2015. The draft resolution under discussion was in the end withdrawn by the Chair of the Commission as a consensus could not be reached. The next session in 2016 will address the methods of work of the Commission.

13. The Secretariat reported that during the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Economic Commission for Europe, the high-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region was endorsed (see document: E/ECE/1475). It contains references to future generations and statistics on demographic change. The Charter on Sustainable Housing was approved, in which substantial elements such as age-friendly environment relate to the work of the WGA.

14. The Secretariat also informed that on 25 September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprising 169 targets. The majority of SDGs (15 out of 17) directly or indirectly relate to population issues. At the same time, the Interagency Expert Group on SDG Indicators developed a list of 225 indicators to measure the SDGs, of which agreement is reached for 160 indicators and on 65 indicators methodological and conceptual issues still need to be clarified. The aim is for all population-related indicators to be disaggregated by age groups including older people. The list will be approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016.

15. The representative of Sweden briefed the WGA on the latest meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) in New York which took place in July 2015. Four overarching topics were discussed in panels, namely recent policy developments, legal developments and best practices concerning human rights of older persons as well as human rights of older persons connected to the 2030 development agenda. It was emphasized that older persons should not be considered as passive subjects, but rather as active subjects that should be able to fully exercise their human rights. There are different views on the way forward. Mostly Latin American countries, some African countries and almost all NGOs advocated a new legal binding instrument, whereas the EU, Canada, Japan and Switzerland, and the United States, amongst others remained sceptical to the argument that there are normative gaps and instead advocated for a better implementation of existing human rights instruments. The representative of the International Longevity Centre – Global Alliance made an intervention providing updates on the current work of the OEWGA.

#### **IV. New international initiatives in the area of ageing**

16. The ‘World Report on Ageing and Health’ (2015) was presented by a representative of the World Health Organization. The report suggests that current older generations have become older by age but not healthier than the previous generations. Healthy ageing can be fostered by aligning health systems to the needs of the older population, developing long-term care systems, creating an age-friendly environment and by improving the measurement, monitoring and understanding of healthy ageing.

17. The representative of the ILO presented the study ‘Long-term care protection for older persons – A review of coverage deficits in 46 countries’ (2015). Nearly 50 per cent of the global population aged 65 or older live in countries with no right to long-term care. The workforce shortage of 13.6 million long-term care workers worldwide and a lack of public funding lead to care coverage deficits. To reduce these deficits, it is advised to develop universal legislations that include financing based on a solidarity principle, to ensure the availability of quality services (by increasing public funding, addressing workforce shortages and developing adequate infrastructure), to emphasize the role of informal workers and to ensure a better coordination between health and other social protection schemes.

18. The representative of the World Bank presented the report ‘Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia’ (2015), highlighting that active, healthy and prosperous ageing is a realistic goal if actions are taken to adapt societies to the new demographic realities.

#### **V. Report on the activities of the Task Force on Ageing-Related Statistics<sup>2</sup>**

19. The Secretary of the Task Force on Ageing-Related Statistics gave an overview of the Report on Ageing-Related Statistics that is expected to be published in April 2016. The report is structured according to the four policy goals of the Vienna Declaration and analyses availability, quality and comparability of relevant data and indicators, identifying data gaps and ways to address them. In the report, national statistical offices are advised among others to produce the indicators identified in the report, to use a single entry portal for ageing-related statistics and to include the measurement of the institutional population in their surveys.

#### **VI. Third cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS**

20. Invited by the Chair, representatives of Austria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, and Uzbekistan briefly shared their experiences on the implementation of active ageing policies, including the involvement of various stakeholders. In all countries, active ageing is integrated in the governmental policies to a certain extent. In some countries, working groups with various stakeholders have been established for the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and/or for reporting on the national follow-up to MIPAA/RIS.

---

<sup>2</sup> This agenda item was discussed on the second day of the meeting at the request of the Task Force Secretary.

21. The title and structure of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in 2017, as proposed by Turkey with inputs from the WGA Bureau, were discussed in four discussion groups. Due to the absence of the representative of Turkey, the Chair presented the concept note. Different proposals for a conference theme were put up for discussion in groups. With regard to the structure of the Ministerial Conference, it was proposed to have four topics that take up the four main topics of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration. Additional topics on older consumers and on refugees were suggested. In connection with the topic on older consumers, the representative of Italy reported on the G20 Principles on Silver Economy and Active Ageing. After the discussion, the leaders/rapporteurs of each group gave a summary of the deliberations to the plenary.

### **Work in discussion groups**

22. The following conference titles were proposed by the discussion groups: (1) (Strengthening) a society for all ages: Realizing our potential as we live longer; (2) Potential of ageing societies; (3) Sustainable society for all ages: Realizing the potential of living longer; and (4) (Strengthening a society for all ages:) Realizing our potential as we live longer. There was an overall agreement on including 'potential' in the title and a high support for 'living longer' instead of 'ageing' in the title.

23. Three discussion groups suggested to include theme 5 'Strengthening the role of older consumers and producers' in theme 2 'New working opportunities at advanced age through adequate conditions'. Theme 6 'Meeting the special needs of older refugees' was perceived as a difficult and political issue by two groups. It was suggested to have an expert panel on this topic. One discussion group proposed to add 'combat financial inequality' to the theme on working opportunities, 'dementia' to the theme on health and active ageing, 'the role of informal carers and support to informal carers' and 'impact of migration on carers' to the theme on intergenerational relations and images of older persons. Another group suggested to add to this theme 'intragenerational solidarity', 'mutual skills transfer' and 'innovative examples of active life styles during the life course'. One discussion group advised to use the following themes: 'promoting social inclusion and intergenerational relations', 'participation of older persons in the society', 'health and well-being' and 'impact of migration on older persons'. According to the representative of Switzerland, the last theme should have a wider scope, e.g. the impact of migration on ageing societies.

24. It was decided to have a political declaration as an outcome document and to link the conference topics to the main declaration items. There was a wide support for the idea to state in the preamble the progress made since the 2012 Vienna Declaration and to structure the achievements along the lines of the four main goals of the declaration. The Bureau will work in two groups on a revised proposal: the first addressing the conference structure and the second drafting the concept of a declaration. The draft of the conference programme and of the concept of the political declaration have to be decided at the ninth meeting of the WGA in November 2016.

## **VII. Implementation of the WGA work programme in 2015**

25. The Working Group reviewed the implementation of its work programme during 2015 as contained in document ECE/WG.1/2015/4. The report on successful implementation of the main elements of the WGA work programme in 2015 was approved.

### **A. Policy Briefs**

26. The Secretariat informed the WGA that the Policy Brief on 'Dignity and non-discrimination of persons with dementia' was published and launched on 1 October 2015.

27. The outline of the new Policy Brief on ‘Migration and old age’ was presented by the Secretariat. The Policy Brief will develop strategies to recognize and meet the needs of older migrants and migrant carers in four core areas: providing equal rights and access to health- and social care services, improving access to social protection and the portability of pensions, encouraging formal employment and legislation and promoting inclusion and participation in the community life. Countries were encouraged to submit good practice examples. During the discussion that followed, the representative of Norway advocated the use of the life-course approach and taking into account the differences between countries in the Policy Brief. The representative of Age Platform Europe emphasized the need to include the question of cultural sensitivity in providing care; issues around older women such as gender pension gaps, elder abuse and violence should also be addressed. The WGA members approved the outline of the Policy Brief.

## **B. Capacity-building**

28. The representative of Georgia informed the WGA on the follow-up activities to the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Georgia. The Road Map was prepared by the ECE in 2014. Based on its recommendations, a multisectoral working group under the leadership of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia was established to develop an action plan. The ECE and the UNFPA agreed to provide technical assistance. The first draft of the Action Plan will be finalized in December 2015, the final draft – in April 2016, and the approval of the action plan by the Parliament is foreseen later in 2016.

29. The Secretariat gave an update on the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia. An evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Road Map and the national Plan of Action is planned for the first half of 2016 with a field mission to Armenia in April 2016 (as suggested by the national focal point of Armenia). A consultant was hired for this evaluation exercise and the participation of Working Group experts in the field mission in April 2016 is encouraged. Comments on the note for evaluation can be send in writing.

30. The WGA members were briefed by the Secretariat about the workshop ‘Addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators’ held by ECE on 18 November 2015. According to the guidelines for national reporting on MIPAA implementation issued in June 2015, the national report should include a statistical annex containing 22 suggested indicators of active ageing. The main objectives of the workshop were to identify data gaps, to find possible alternative data sources and point to alternative variables (proxies) in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, and Western Balkans. Three research experts were invited to provide consultations on the matter. A number of proxies and data sources were suggested at the workshop by the experts and within the group discussions. Also, participants were encouraged to look at some international / regional surveys / polls in their search for the data. The importance of cooperation between statistical offices and ministries was stressed especially in view of preparation of national reports on MIPAA implementation.

## **C. Active Ageing Index project**

31. The Secretariat provided a summary on the progress and achievements of the AAI project during its second phase. This phase started in October 2013 and was extended through April 2016 in order to carry out a pilot study at a subnational (municipal) level in Germany. The key directions of activities in this phase were research, outreach to stakeholders and communication. The activities have been implemented as planned. Final reports on AAI for Canada, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, as well as on the pilot studies run for Serbia and Turkey will be finalized by the end of 2015. The third phase of the project (AAI-III) is being negotiated with the European Commission. It is planned to

start in 2016 and continue for three years. Some of the suggested activities are the extension of the AAI geographical coverage to more ECE countries, index calculations for the most recent years, further fine-tuning of the methodology and pilot studies at national and subnational level including the development of guidelines for proxy usage. The representative of the European Commission expressed strong support in continuation of the work on AAI.

#### **D. Gender and Generations Programme**

32. The Secretariat provided an overview about its recent activities with regards to the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), about GGP joining the Synergies for Europe's Research Infrastructures in the Social Sciences (SERISS) project, the new bibliography and research dissemination activities. The WGA was informed that the third GGP Users conference and the Council of Partners meeting would take place in December 2015.

### **VIII. Country experiences**

33. The representative of the Czech Republic presented the latest revisions to their National Action Plan Promoting Positive Ageing for 2013-2017, highlighting that population ageing is one of the priorities of the Czech government. The representative of the Czech foundation Beauty of Help presented its work which aims to prevent the institutionalization of older people by providing financial, material, humanitarian, legal, professional, personal and educational support.

34. On behalf of the Tajikistan's national focal point, the representative of the Central-Asia Gerontology Center made a statement about national ageing policies of Tajikistan, reporting on measures taken to assist older people and plans to change the social security system to an insurance-based system. Also, following the decision by the Board of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, gerontology groups are being established within the medical centres aiming to provide better quality of medical service to older persons.

35. The representative of the Republic of Moldova gave an update on the action plan for the implementation of the Road Map on Mainstreaming Ageing (2014-2016), focusing in particular on the methodology for the integration of the ageing issues in policies.

36. The representative of Slovenia informed the WGA about the conference on the human rights of older persons that will take place in Slovenia in April 2016. He addressed the deficits in many countries with regard to the rights of older persons and stressed the need for further work in this area.

### **IX. Main elements of the WGA work programme for 2016**

37. The Executive Secretary of ECE addressed the WGA and emphasized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals for the upcoming work of the WGA and the Population Unit. He stressed that the needs of older people should be adequately reflected in the set of indicators for measuring the SDGs.

#### **A. Preparation of synthesis report for the third review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS**

38. The Secretariat announced that for the ninth WGA meeting they will prepare a brief preliminary summary of findings based on the received national reports and asked member States to submit them before the deadline, if possible by the beginning of October 2016. The full Synthesis report will be prepared in the first half of 2017.

## **B. Policy Briefs**

39. The Secretariat informed that the Policy Brief on migration and old age is expected to be finalized before the Bureau meeting in May 2016.

40. The WGA agreed on the topic of the next Policy Brief to be 'Older people in rural areas', to be issued later in 2016. The representative of Canada suggested to broaden the scope of the Policy Brief to include rural and remote areas. The topic of the 2017 issue of the Policy Brief should be linked to the theme of the Ministerial Conference. The topic 'Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age' will be taken up afterwards.

## **C. Capacity-building activities**

41. The Secretariat informed the WGA that there are currently no new expressions of interest for a Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing. The member States are invited to send a request in writing to the Secretariat should they be interested in a Road Map for their country.

42. The Secretariat notified the WGA that another workshop on the active ageing indicators for national reporting on MIPAA implementation could be held in May/June 2016 provided there are funds available.

## **D. Other programme elements**

43. The Secretariat welcomed the interest in development of surveys modelled on the GGS in Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Turkey as an important step to increase the data on intergenerational and gender relations.

## **X. Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning**

44. The WGA adopted the draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2016-2017 (ECE/WG.1/2015/5), the Draft Strategic Framework 2018-2019 for the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme (ECE/WG.1/Room Document 1), and approved the Programme Performance report for the biennium 2014-2015 (ECE/WG.1/2015/Room Document 2). The Working Group took into account the ECOSOC resolution on Modalities for the third review and appraisal of MIPAA and stressed that it is an important mandate for the Population unit's work in 2016-2017.

## **XI. Financing of the work programme**

45. The Secretariat informed that 98.4 per cent of the total regular budget for non-staff items of the Population Unit for 2014-2015 has been spent for consultancy, expert and staff travel (residual balance is \$300).

46. The Secretariat acknowledged contributions made by member States in the past years, in particular the contributions to the Ageing Fund received from Germany in December 2013 (€43,000), from Norway in 2014 (\$3,000) and from Sweden in May 2015 (€50,000), as well as in-kind contributions received from Malta (2014) and Poland (2015) in the form of hosting the Bureau meetings, and from Austria, Spain and Switzerland for translating Policy Briefs. The contributions to the Ageing Fund were spent on financing participants for the AAI Workshop, interpretation/translation and for a consultant for the

Policy Brief on 'Dignity and non-discrimination for persons with dementia'. For 2016 and 2017, it is estimated that extrabudgetary funds of \$163,850 will be needed for the WGA Work Programme. Of this amount, \$70,400 will be covered by the existing resources in the Ageing Fund.

47. The Secretariat received a verbal pledge for a contribution to the Ageing Fund from the Czech Republic in 2016.

48. The Secretariat reminded that the EU funded the second phase of the AAI. The European Commission is committed to sign a new agreement for three years. A project proposal for it is submitted to the ECE Executive Committee for approval on 23 November 2015 (approved).

49. WGA members from countries with Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes were asked to encourage their governments to finance a JPO position in the ECE Population Unit.

## **XII. Other business, summary and conclusion of the annual session**

50. The EU Resident Expert Coordinator on the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project reported on the main challenges for the policy design and implementation for social assistance in China. The Chinese population is ageing fast, with an increase in social assistance recipients and spending as a consequence. The main goal of the Social Protection Reform Project is to exchange the best practices in the social assistance between the EU and China, to share knowledge and to include Chinese stakeholders in relevant activities in Europe.

51. The Chair summarized the main items discussed and decisions taken at the eighth annual session of the WGA. The summary points as listed in Annex I of this report were projected on the screen for input/approval by the WGA members.

52. The next Bureau meeting will be held on 19-20 May 2016 in Oslo, Norway.

53. The ninth meeting of the WGA will be held on 21-22 November 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

54. The Chair thanked the participants and the Secretariat and closed the meeting.

## Annex I

### Conclusions and decisions taken at the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing — Chair's summary

#### Agenda items 1–2

- The WGA adopted the agenda without changes.
- The WGA agreed to extend the Bureau from 8 to 10 member States for the next two years.
- The WGA took note that nine member States proposed their candidates to the Bureau following the call for nominations issued in September 2015. NGOs representative and representative from the research community will remain standing observers to the Bureau.
- The WGA posed no objections to the interest of the representative of Belarus to join the Bureau (confirmed by the respective Ministry in December 2015).
- The Bureau consists of representatives of Austria (Chair), Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Germany (Vice-Chair), Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey (Vice-Chair).
- The WGA decided to extend the Chairmanship of Erika Winkler for the third two-year period (an amendment to the rules) until November 2017.

#### Agenda items 3–4

- The WGA took note of the resolution on Modalities for the third Review and Appraisal of MIPAA adopted by ECOSOC. This resolution requests Regional commissions to carry out the review exercise and Regional meetings on ageing in 2016-2017.
- The WGA took note of the reference (direct or indirect) to older people in 15 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda. The statistical indicators with a breakdown by age groups if possible have to be agreed in order to measure the implementation of the goals and targets.
- The WGA took note of the new international initiatives in the area of ageing: the WHO World Report on Ageing and Health, the ILO Study on long-term care protection (both launched in October 2015) and the World Bank report on Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in Europe and Central Asia (June 2015).
- The WGA acknowledged the Secretariat's lead in holding Geneva interagency meetings on ageing to share work agendas and possibilities for cooperation.

#### Agenda item 5

- The WGA took note of the report on the activities of the Task Force on Ageing-Related Statistics.

#### Agenda item 6

- The WGA took note of the proposals for the title of the fourth Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Istanbul in 2017. The suggested titles of the four groups are: (1) (Strengthening) a society for all ages: Realizing our potential as we live longer; (2) Potential of ageing societies; (3) Sustainable society for all ages: Realizing the potential of living longer; and (4) (Strengthening a society for all ages:) Realizing our potential as we live longer.
- The WGA took note of the discussion groups' outcome to integrate the topic on older consumers in the topic on working opportunities for older persons and to address the refugee topic in an expert panel of the conference.
- The WGA decided to negotiate a political declaration, the main items of which should be interlinked with the conference themes.

#### Agenda item 7

- The WGA supported the Policy Brief outline ‘Migration and old age’. Member States are encouraged to submit good practice examples.
- The WGA took note of the development of the Plan of Action for Georgia under the leadership of the Parliament Commission.
- The WGA supported the evaluation plan of the implementation of the Road Map for Armenia to be carried out in the first half of 2016. Participation of the Working Group experts in the evaluation is encouraged.
- The WGA confirmed the inclusion of the 22 active ageing indicators into a statistical annex to national reports.
- The WGA agreed that the Active Ageing Index is a useful tool for monitoring the implementation of active ageing-related policies at national and subnational levels. The WGA supports further work in this area. The European Commission confirmed their ongoing commitment to the project.
- The WGA took note of the GGP developments.

#### Agenda item 8

- The WGA took note of the presentation of the representative of the Czech Republic regarding the revisions of the National Plan.
- The representative of the Central-Asia Gerontology Center from Tajikistan presented national ageing policies.

#### Agenda item 9

- The WGA agreed on the topic of the next Policy Brief to be ‘Older people in rural areas’ (2016), followed by a Policy Brief topic linked to the theme of the Ministerial Conference in 2017, and a Policy Brief on ‘Innovative social services and supportive measures for independent living in advanced age’ afterwards.

#### Agenda item 10

- The WGA adopted the draft programme of work of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme for 2016-2017.
- The WGA agreed on the draft Strategic Framework 2018-2019 for the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme.
- The WGA approved the Programme Performance report for the biennium 2014-2015.

#### Agenda item 11

- The WGA took note of the Financing of the work programme.

#### Agenda item 12

- The WGA took note of the EU-China social protection reform project.
-