# Economic and Social Council

## Economic Commission for Europe

**Working Group on Ageing**

**Fourth meeting**
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda
**Implementation of work programme in 2011**

# Implementation of the Work Programme of the Working Group on Ageing in 2011

### Note by the secretariat

## Contents

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[1]  United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

## I.  Introduction

1.      The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Executive Committee decided at its twenty-fourth meeting to establish the Working Group on Ageing (ECE/EX/2008/L.11) as a mechanism to ensure follow-up activities to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (León, Spain, 6-8 November 2007). The purpose of the Working Group on Ageing is to reinforce and continue implementation of the UNECE Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (RIS/MIPAA) and the León Ministerial Declaration.

2.      At its third meeting (22-23 November 2010), the Working Group reviewed the implementation of its programme of work in 2009-2010 and decided on a programme of future activities for 2011 (ECE/WG.1/2010/4).

3.      In order to harmonize the planning process of the Working Group on Ageing with the United Nations biennial planning cycle and the UNECE subprogramme planning process, it was agreed at the third meeting of the Working Group that a future work programme for only the single-year period of 2011 would be considered and approved. Furthermore it was agreed that at the fourth meeting in 2011, a proposed work plan for the biennium 2012-13 should be presented and approved (ECE/WG.1/2010.4 paragraph 37).

4.      The first mandate of the Working Group was set to expire at the end of 2010. Following a request to made by the Chair of the Working Group (ECE/EX/2010/L.6), the UNECE Executive Committee agreed at its fortieth meeting in March 2011 to renew the Working Group's mandate, under identical terms of reference, for the three-year period 2011-2013, bringing the Working Group into line with the planning cycles referred to above (EXCOM/CONCLU/40).

5.      This document has been prepared for the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in order to assist the Working Group in its deliberations. The note describes the implementation of the programme of work in 2011, covering the Working Group's four main areas of activity: (a) preparation of policy briefs with good practice examples; (b) monitoring implementation of RIS/MIPAA, including work on indicators of achievement; (c) capacity development; and (d) analysis of intergenerational relationships.

6.      The description of activities is followed by an evaluation of programme performance and a set of conclusions.

## II.  Implementation of the work programme for 2011

### A.  Policy briefs with good practice examples

7.      The Working Group on Ageing has issued a series of policy briefs that provide information on progressive and innovative policy discourse in order to foster the exchange of good policy practice amongst member States. The policy briefs provide examples of successful policies and programmes aimed at implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA. The secretariat has compiled the policy briefs based on contributions from member States.

8.      Since the third meeting of the Work Group on Ageing in November 2010, two additional policy briefs on the topics 'Age-friendly employment policies and practices' and 'Tapping the potential of volunteering' have been finalized and published. A draft of a further policy brief on the topic 'Cooperation on ageing policies in the UNECE region' was presented to the Bureau of the Working Group in Madrid, Spain at its third meeting in March 2011. Based on the input and comments provided by the Bureau's members, the

secretariat updated and finalized the policy brief. A draft of the policy brief on 'Images of older persons' will be presented to the Working Group under item 6 of the present agenda. All finalized policy briefs are available electronically on the UNECE website.[2]

9.	In addition to the existing English and Russian versions, the policy briefs on 'Lifelong learning', on 'Health Promotion and Disease Prevention', and on 'Towards community long-term care' were translated into Serbian in June and July 2011. In August 2011, Spain provided Spanish translations of the first ten policy briefs. All translated policy briefs will eventually be published on the UNECE website.

10.	In February 2011, the secretariat requested the Working Group members to submit good practice examples on the topics of the policy briefs under preparation. As a result, relevant material from international and national sources and reports continue to be collected and systematized. The secretariat has chosen to include brief examples of successful policy implementation and programmes in various countries of the region. The good practice examples continue to be organized in a database which currently includes 171 entries. The examples of good practice continue to be available to the members of the Working Group on a protected webpage3 for which access is limited..

11.	Several topics have been considered for further policy briefs such as quality of services and active ageing. A policy brief on active aging may be beneficial for member States, since the European year of Active Ageing will be observed in 2012.

## B.	Monitoring of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

### 1.	Indicators

*(a)	Monitoring Indicators: the second cycle and review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS*

12.	A suggested list of indicators to be used in preparing the national reports was presented by The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna (ECV) at the WGA Bureau's third meeting in Madrid in March 2011. The list was finalized based on feedback from Bureau members. This list, with suggested data sources for each indicator, was referred to and a website link to it was provided in the guidelines for national reporting (see paragraph 16). Preparation of an annex with empirical data for the UNECE regional synthesis report is currently underway and a draft version will be presented for review by the WGA under item 5 of the present agenda.

*(b)	Analysis of the regional situation eight years after the implementation of MIPAA*

13.	The European Centre participated in this project, financed and conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and HelpAge International, as a regional consultant responsible for gathering information on the status and availability of national data, research, policies and institutional arrangements implemented on ageing in countries of the UNECE region since 2002. The European Centre has also prepared a regional report with country case studies which reviews progress, identifies gaps, and provides recommendations. The review was carried out with the support of regional and national consultants and experts. The results were compiled into a global report that was recently published by UNFPA.

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[2] Available from live.unece.org/index.php?id=21726.
[3] Internet address available upon request.

*(c)    Facts & Figures on Long-Term Care – the 2012 Edition*

14.    As in previous years, long-term care continues to be a key part of the research work carried out under ECV's MA:IMI (Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation) project. ECV is currently working on an updated and extended edition of the book entitled 'Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care: Europe and North America', which will be completed at the beginning of 2012. Following the format of the first edition, the content of the publication will have a strong focus on cross-nationally comparable indicators of demographic ageing; the health, social situation and well-being of older people; informal and formal care provision; financing of long-term care; and outcomes of long-term care.

**2.    Second cycle of review and appraisal of RIS/MIPAA**

15.    Following the decisions of the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development (E/2010/26, E/CN.5/2010/9), and taking into account the experience gained during the first cycle of review and appraisal of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA in 2007, the modalities for the second review and appraisal exercise were outlined for the consideration of the Working Group on Ageing at its third meeting in conjunction with the document 'Preparations for the second review and appraisal of implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing' (ECE/WG.1/2010/5). This cycle includes national, regional and global phases of review and appraisal.

16.    The national phase of the second review and appraisal has commenced in 2011. Guidelines on the national reporting[4] are available in English and Russian. They were prepared by the secretariat together with WGA Bureau and sent out to national focal points on ageing in May 2011. The review and appraisal information collected at the local and national levels will be analyzed and submitted to the UNECE secretariat by the end of October 2011 for it to prepare a regional assessment of progress in implementing UNECE RIS/MIPAA. The national findings will be summarized at the UNECE regional level during 2012 and presented at a Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2012.

17.    During the concluding phase of the review and appraisal exercise, UNECE will submit the conclusions of the review and appraisal conference and individual national reports to the Commission for Social Development in 2013.

**3.    Ministerial Conference on Ageing**

18.    To conclude the second cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS and to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing[5] (VIPAA) which was adopted at the first World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna in 1982, the Government of Austria has offered to host a Ministerial Conference on Ageing on 19-20 September 2012. The venue of this conference will be the 'Aula der Wissenschaften' of the University of Vienna, Austria.[6] On 18 September 2012 there will be a non-governmental organizations (NGO) forum and a research forum at the same venue.

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[4] Available from live.unece.org/population-unit-home/areas-of-work/ageing/ageing/mipaaris/guidelines.html.

[5] Available from www.un.org/es/globalissues/ageing/docs/vipaa.pdf

[6] More information on the ministerial conference is available from live.unece.org/index.php?id=23448; information on the venue is available from www.aula-wien.at.

19.     The UNECE secretariat and the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection have agreed on the content of a host country agreement, which is expected to be signed in November 2011.

20.     The Bureau of the Working Group has advanced a draft programme for the Ministerial Conference, including suggestions for potential speakers, which will be discussed by the Working Group at its fourth meeting.

21.     Representatives from Germany, Malta, Georgia, Belgium and Austria, with the assistance of the NGO representative, have formed a declaration drafting group to draft an outline structure of the main elements of a ministerial declaration for the conference. Austria, as the chair of this drafting group, will present a first concept note on the proposed main elements of the envisaged declaration at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in November 2011.

## C.    Capacity development

### 1.    Road maps for mainstreaming ageing

22.     The development of Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing was an integral part of the initial programme of work adopted by the Working Group on Ageing at its establishment during its first meeting in November 2008 (ECE/WG.1/2008/3, paragraphs 28-33).  These Road Maps, developed in collaboration with member States at their request, provide a guide through which the country in question can uphold the commitments of RIS/MIPAA within the context of an ageing population, coupled with the challenges of an economy in transition and other specificities of the country.

*(a)    Armenia*

23.     The report of the Road Map project for Armenia was completed during 2010 and approved by the Working Group at its third meeting.  The finished document was published in print and online in 2011 and a press release was issued[7] to launch the document in conjunction with the completed documentary film piece produced by United Nations Television (UNTV).  The video was published on the UNECE YouTube channel[8].  Further UNTV documentaries on the same topic, for the series 'UN in Action' and '21st Century' are pending.

*(b)    Republic of Moldova*

24.     Following a formal request to participate in the Road Map exercise by the representative of the Republic of Moldova[9] at the second meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in 2009, the project was initiated in Moldova at the beginning of 2010.  A desk review and two field missions were undertaken in 2010 by the UNECE secretariat in conjunction with consultants and local experts.  Three consultants were engaged to prepare input for several sections. The remaining sections were drafted during 2010 and 2011 by the UNECE secretariat.

25.     Given the limited financial means available to the UNECE Population unit, and in the absence of member State pledges to the ageing trust fund, funding requests were submitted to various organizations.  A request submitted to the UNECE Regular

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[7] Available from www.unece.org/press/pr2011/11stats_p02e.htm.
[8] Available from www.youtube.com/user/UNECE#p/c/B739F250ACD360F1/0/bhe3iBdR0-k.
[9] Referred to hereafter as Moldova.

Programme for Technical Cooperation in May 2011 was successful and a sum of 15,000 United States dollars was received for completion of the project.

26.     Following completion of the full draft report of the Road Map, the secretariat undertook a mission to Moldova in June 2011 to discuss the report in detail with the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) and other major stakeholder groups.   Negotiations took place to agree on the way forward, including the means by which the Road Map's recommendations will be incorporated into Moldovan national policy.   It was agreed that the Road Map should be treated as a complementary element to Moldova's National Strategy on Demographic Security, which does not focus explicitly on mainstreaming ageing.

27.     In the light of new developments in the arena of national development planning by both the Government of Moldova and the United Nations in Moldova, the chapter of the Road Map covering the institutional framework for ageing policies was fully redrafted in August 2011.

28.     Following the example of the Armenian Road Map, an action plan annexed to the report will provide a structured way forward, illustrating goals, actions and timelines; assigning responsibility for implementation of each goal; and identifying indicators for monitoring progress.   Initial drafting of this action plan was undertaken by the MLSPF, ensuring a sense of national ownership of the plan and keeping the proposed actions within the realms of feasibility for the Moldovan context.   The secretariat then expanded upon elements of the plan and incorporated it into the full Road Map report.

29.     Upon completion and agreement of the content of the action plan, the Road Map document will be finalized, to be published in English by UNECE in 2012.

### 2.   Workshops

*(a)     Workshop on community services for the elderly, Haifa, Israel, 20 February-3 March 2011*

30.     Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV, in collaboration with UNECE, held a capacity-building training workshop entitled 'Community services for the elderly', which took place in Haifa, Israel from 20 February to 3 March 2011. The workshop was conducted in English, and the participants included a panel of experts and representatives from governments, civil society and academia from Albania, Armenia, Austria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Nepal, Serbia, Ukraine and the United States of America. The workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn from various academic lectures, presented by Israeli experts and by a representative of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (a UNECE-affiliated research institute) on a wide range of topics.

*(b)     Workshop on Addressing Current Social and Health Issues in Ageing, Prague, Czech Republic, 3-7 October 2011*

31.     A regional capacity-building training workshop on the topic 'Addressing Current Social and Health Issues in Ageing', hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, organized in cooperation with the United Nations International Institute on Ageing– Malta and the UNECE Population unit was scheduled for 3 to 7 October, 2011 in Prague. The workshop has been designed for policymakers, representatives of civil society and practitioners working in the field of ageing in the UNECE region.  The aim is to support sound policymaking through innovative insights into how changing social contexts affect social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

## D.    Knowledge base for policy action on ageing

32.    The secretariat has continued to act as a clearinghouse for administration of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), which is emerging as one of the leading data sources for policy-relevant research on demographic trends and processes in the UNECE region.  For those countries which participate in the GGP, the survey and contextual data constitute a rich source of evidence for the evaluation of implementation of RIS/MIPAA, both in terms of impact on the lives of older persons and with respect to instrumental change (i.e. the existence of relevant policies).  The data also provide empirical evidence for use in the Working Group's other outputs such as the policy briefs on ageing.

33.    Currently the first wave survey micro data of 11 countries can be accessed online by approved researchers[10] and a further seven countries have collected first wave data.  Nine countries have collected second wave data, which is now beginning to be harmonized.  Planning for wave three is ongoing in several countries (Russia, Georgia and France), with data collection already complete in the Netherlands and Hungary.  The GGP Consortium and the programme co-ordinators at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute have met and communicated during 2011 to make plans for continuation of the programme beyond the third wave.

34.    The UNECE secretariat has maintained and enhanced its involvement in the GGP in several ways during 2011.  It has continued to manage the GGP International Working Group, made up of focal points from country teams, and organized a meeting of this group in May 2011.  As the co-ordinators of this group, which forms a key bridge between those responsible for programme management and development and those responsible for implementation in countries, the secretariat has played an important role during 2011.  New contracts have been signed to secure data transfer from countries; liaison with the contextual database team and country representatives has ensured timely collection and transfer of data for this database; assistance has been provided for the collection of essential survey meta data; and countries have been assisted in their ongoing search for funding and political support.  Communications with the members of the GGP International Working Group about programme progress have been collated and relayed to other groups involved in the coordination of the GGP.

35.    The secretariat has also maintained, updated and improved the functionality of a bibliography of GGP-based research.[11] increased dissemination activities such as press releases and newsletter articles; redesigned the data application process and renegotiated contracts with country GGP teams accordingly; improved the content of the UNECE Population unit's website pages devoted to the GGP; participated in meetings of the GGP Consortium Board and Advisory Board; and attended and presented material at the first GGP users' conference in Budapest.

36.    Following the successful publication in 2010 of the report on 'Intergenerational family relationships in ageing societies' that arose from the Working Group's 2009 in-depth discussion on the same topic, preparatory work has taken place in 2011 for a similar in-depth discussion and written report.  The topic is 'Quality of life and active ageing'.  A consultant has been engaged to prepare a background paper on this topic, making use of the GGP survey and contextual data where relevant.

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[10] Data can be accessed by registered users at www.ggp-i.org.
[11] Available from live.unece.org/population-unit-home/areas-of-work/generations-and-gender/generations-and-gender/ggp-research-bibliography.html

## III.  Evaluation of programme performance

37.     The UNECE member States have, since 2004, been requested by the Commission to conduct biennial evaluations of their respective subprogrammes and to take into account the results of these evaluations in determining their work programmes (E/ECE/1416 para. 28 (c) and E/ECE/1415/Add.1). These biennial evaluations give the members of the WGA an opportunity to review and reaffirm the relevance of the achieved activities and outputs with respect to the objectives of the subprogramme.

38.     Biennial evaluations comprise two phases: (a) a planning phase, prior to each reporting cycle; and (b) an evaluation phase, towards the end of the cycle, drawing up an accomplishment account for each expected accomplishment, including lessons learned and recommendations for possible programmatic adjustments.

39.     The planning phase was completed at the third meeting of the WGA when the Working Group approved a biennial assessment logical framework (logframe) outlining the criteria for measuring performance.

40.     To comply with the evaluation phase, the WGA is requested to endorse the draft biennial performance evaluation for 2010–2011 (ECE/WG.1/2011/ RD1), which will be presented under the item 9 of the agenda.

## IV.  Conclusions

41.     In the three years since its foundation, the WGA has established itself as a valuable asset for facilitating the implementation of RIS/MIPAA, both as a productive source of substantive outputs and as an effective networking resource for national focal points to exchange information and share experiences.

42.     The renewal of the mandate of the WGA for three additional years (2011-2013) by the UNECE Executive Committee, and the decision taken by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-fourth session to approve the proposal to organize a Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2012, both clearly signal a recognition of the increasing importance of the Working Group.  As the WGA takes the lead in coordinating the regional element of the second cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA and RIS, and as it fulfils its role as the preparatory committee for the 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing, this recognition will be further cemented in the coming biennium.

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