

Economic Commission for Europe

Working Group on Ageing

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2017

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Review of subprogramme performance and programme planning

Biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017

Summary

This document provides an overview of the performance assessment of the population component of Subprogramme 8: Housing, Land Management and Population. It also summarizes the implementation of the Population component's programme of work for 2016-2017 (ECE/WG.1/2015/5) based on actual outputs and activities during the biennium.

The Working Group on Ageing is invited to endorse the assessment.

I. Subprogramme 8: Population component

A. Expected accomplishment

1. Enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, to meet the challenges of demographic change.

B. Indicators of achievement

2. Increased number of countries that have adjusted policies or introduced new measures to implement the ECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Performance measures:

Baseline	2012-2013:	30 countries
	2014-2015:	33 countries
Target	2016-2017:	36 countries (implemented 36)

C. Statement of accomplishments

3. Recognizing the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing, the ECE member States in 2002 endorsed a Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). This strategy outlines ten commitments for changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels and in all areas of society so that the potential of ageing in the twenty-first century may be fulfilled. The implementation of MIPAA/RIS is reviewed and appraised every five years. The 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration "Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting quality of life

and active ageing” outlined achievements over the second MIPAA/RIS implementation cycle and identified priority areas for the period of 2013-2017.

4. During 2016-2017, at least three more ECE member States introduced comprehensive new policy strategies or action plans on ageing in compliance with the regional implementation strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Norway, the Republic of Moldova, and Slovenia. In 2016, the Norwegian Government adopted a strategy for an age-friendly society “More Years – More Opportunities” which addresses opportunities in the labour market, participation in society, health and independent living. In the same year, the Republic of Moldova introduced a new plan of action for the Road Map on Ageing implementation in 2016-2020. In 2017, Slovenia’s Government adopted a comprehensive strategy for a long-lived society. The strategy focuses on the areas of employment, independent, healthy and safe living for all generations, inclusion, and environments that foster active ageing throughout the life course. All three mentioned countries reported on the respective policy documents during the annual sessions of the Working Group on Ageing. In addition, during the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon (September 2017), a number of member States reported on recent policy measures and programmes in some specific ageing-related areas (dementia, long-term and palliative care, etc.).

5. The peer evaluation of implementing the Road Map for Armenia conducted in 2016 provided additional recommendations on mainstreaming ageing in the country. Three new issues of the Policy Brief on Ageing series were published in 2016-2017. They promoted the exchange of good practices related to migration and older age, ageing in rural and remote areas and the potentials of living longer. The results from the Active Ageing Index project and data from the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) offered useful evidence base for policymaking on ageing.

D. Lessons learned

6. Further national capacity development through workshops and peer review exercises as well as road maps for mainstreaming ageing is needed in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The evidence base for policymaking could be expanded by developing necessary statistical data for indicators of the Active Ageing Index. This can be done through a wider use of surveys, including GGP, provided countries can raise the required funds.

II. Outputs/activities delivered in the 2016-2017 biennium

7. The objective of the Population component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme is to promote the evidence-based formulation and implementation of sustainable population and social cohesion policies in the region.

A. Implemented outputs/activities

1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies: Working Group on Ageing

(a) Planned:

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings

8. The eighth and ninth meetings of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing were held respectively in May 2016 (hosted by Norway) and in April 2017 (hosted by Austria).

9. The ninth and tenth annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing took place in Geneva on 21-22 November 2016 and on 23-24 November 2017, respectively.

10. The fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” was held on 20-22 September 2017 in Lisbon, hosted by Portugal.

(ii) Parliamentary documentation

11. Reports of the two annual meetings of the Working Group on Ageing were issued and disseminated (ECE/WG.1/2016/2 and ECE/WG.1/2017/2 (forthcoming)).

12. Two reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Working Group on Ageing were issued and disseminated (ECE/WG.1/2016/3 and ECE/WG.1/2017/3).

13. Five reports on specific topics related to the population component were produced and disseminated as planned via the official document system of the United Nations (ECE/WG.1/2016/4; ECE/WG.1/2016/5; ECE/WG.1/2017/4, ECE/WG.1/2017/5, ECE/AC.30/2017/3).

14. The Report of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer” including the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration was issued and disseminated (ECE/AC.30/2017/2).

(b) Additional:

15. Regional Meeting: Enhancing Capacity for the Integration of the ICPD Agenda into SDG Adaptation and Review Processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2-4 November 2016, Geneva, jointly organized by UNFPA and ECE.

16. Lunch panel discussion “Active Ageing Index: Ways to realize the potential of living longer”, 21 September 2017, Lisbon (side event of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing).

B. Other substantive activities

(a) Planned:

(i) Non-recurrent publications

17. Two policy briefs on ageing were published: No. 17 “Migration and older age” (July 2016) and No. 18 “Older persons in rural and remote areas” (March 2017).

18. The “Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing in Armenia: Evaluation Report” was published electronically in May 2016. It was launched at the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Ageing in November 2016.¹

19. The proceedings of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing (Lisbon, 2017), including the Synthesis Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the ECE region between 2012 and 2017 (forthcoming, e-publication).

(ii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits

20. A booklet of the Working Group on Ageing was not published this biennium.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/WG9/Documents/Road-map-Armenia-Report-final.pdf>

(iii) Press releases, press conferences

21. Planned press releases were issued on the occasion of the launch of Policy Brief No. 17 on migration and older age (07 September 2016) and in relation to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (press releases were issued on 21 September 2017 on the launch of the regional Synthesis Report assessing trends and progress in countries' actions in response to the challenges and potential linked to ageing populations, and on 22 September 2017, on the adoption of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration). In addition to press releases 10 articles on the occasion of meetings, events and the issuance of publications were published in the UNECE Weekly newsletter in 2016-2017.

(iv) Technical material

22. Maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to population activities: the Population Unit maintained its website throughout the biennium. A special wiki dedicated to the Active Ageing Index was maintained. It provides information on the related events, AAI conceptual framework, methodology and results as well as with access to an excel file with a data set for simulation.

(b) Additional:

(i) Policy Brief No. 19 "Realizing the potential of living longer" was published in September 2017.

(ii) Two half-day seminars on the ECE work on population issues were held for the University of Geneva students (4 May 2016 and 3 May 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva).

(iii) Two half-day Geneva-based inter-agency meetings on Ageing were hosted by ECE Population Unit in April 2016 and March 2017.

(iv) A poster exhibition 'A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer' was held at the Lisbon Congress Centre, 20-22 November 2017. It was organized on the occasion of the fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in collaboration with the Portuguese Government and included over 40 posters in print and digital format, showcasing good practice initiatives by governments, civil society and academia in 20 ECE member States.

(v) Four issues of an electronic newsletter on the preparations for the Ministerial Conference were published between June and September 2017. Information on the Working Group on Ageing and the MIPAA review and appraisal process was disseminated through UNECE social media and the Population Unit Twitter account. The conference hashtag #mipaalisbon2017 was used in 468 tweets, reaching out to an audience of over 1.5 million Twitter users.

C. Technical cooperation

(a) Planned:

(i) Advisory services

23. Fact-finding and advisory mission to Armenia was organized on 25-29 April 2016 as part of the peer review exercise to evaluate the implementation of the Road Map recommendations and plan of action on ageing. Government representatives of the Republic of Moldova and Sweden and a consultant engaged by ECE took part in this advisory mission.

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops

24. A workshop on addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators took place in Minsk, Belarus on 23-24 June 2016. The workshop was targeted at the national focal points on ageing and representatives from the national statistical offices of ECE member States outside the Eurostat statistical system.

(iii) Field projects

25. Support was provided to national teams conducting Generations and Gender Surveys (GGS) in several countries and in coordinating the GGP Council of Partners (national team representatives) meetings and information exchange (August 2016, Mainz, Germany and July 2017, Berlin, Germany). Information and help on administrative/procedural issues of GGP were delivered to Belarus and Kazakhstan that joined GGP recently. Belarus started fielding the Generations and Gender Survey in spring 2017.

26. The web page providing access to information and documents related to GGP and to the historic data from Family and Fertility Surveys was maintained. Activities related to clearing and granting access to the harmonized microdata of the Generation and Gender Surveys (GGS) were carried out through the GGP hub website (<http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>). Currently harmonized data for the first GGS wave are available for 19 countries and for the second GGS wave for 12 countries.

27. The Internet-accessible GGP research bibliography is continuously updated and currently exceeds 1,200 entries on articles, books, conference proceedings, etc.

(b) Additional:

28. A national seminar on the Active Ageing Index was organized in Ancona, Italy, on 11 May 2017 in cooperation with the Italian National Research Institute of Health and Science on Ageing (INRCA). It addressed a broad audience of stakeholders: regional and local policymakers, researchers, civil society and social partners (some 100 participants).