Item 3 - MIPAA/RIS +20

SLIDE 1 - Report on the 4th cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS 2017-2022

This year marks the 20-year milestone in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action across the UNECE region. It also marks the 20th anniversary of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy which was adopted in Berlin in September 2002.

We are therefore today launching two reports. The regional synthesis of progress made over the past five years since the last Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon and a MIPAA +20 report that highlights progress in policy development and shifts in the way countries in this region have been adapting to population ageing and worked towards improving the situation of older persons over the past 20 years. You will find both of these reports online on the UNECE Conference webpage.

These reviews help us take stock of how far we have come and guide the policy priorities for the next 5 years.

SLIDE2 – MIPAA implementation in the UNECE region

With this 5th UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing we complete the 4th cycle of review and appraisal of the implementation of MIPAA/RIS and celebrate 20 years of regional cooperation on ageing. The establishment of the Working Group on Ageing in 2008 was an important milestone as it put in place an institutional mechanism for regional dialogue and cooperation. The growing relevance and the importance of working together to address the challenges and realize the opportunities

of population ageing in the region was acknowledged in Lisbon leading to the transformation of the *ad-hoc* working group to a Standing Working Group on Ageing in 2020 giving us a long-term mandate for our joint work. It is an important joint achievement for regional cooperation.

SLIDE3 – Context of MIPAA/RIS Implementation 2002-2022

The context in which MIPAA implementation has taken place was distinct from cycle to cycle.

From the demographic point of view, the ageing trend in the region has been steady and accelerating over the last decade: the numbers speak for themselves.

Longevity rise was an important factor: on average a man born in 2020 could expect to live 5.6 years longer than one born in 2000.

The other trend that is worth to mention is the increasing heterogeneity of our populations. In Europe, for example, in 2020, 44 million Europeans were residing in another European country than the one in which they were born: it was an increase by nearly nearly 13 million between 2000 and 2020.

From the socio-economic development perspective, MIPAA/RIS commitments were endorsed in a period of economic growth. The second implementation cycle started with the financial crisis and social instability in its aftermath.

Recovery followed but rather slow and uneven during the 3rd cycle.

As we all know, the second part of the 4th cycle was strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with its far-reaching health, social and economic implications.

SLIDE 4 – Population pyramid

The rising proportion of 65+ is not the only aspect that matters in the field of population ageing.

The population pyramid clearly shows it: significantly smaller cohorts of children will be entering into the labour market over the next decade, median age of working-age population will rise noticeably, and numbers of older olds in particular among women will be calling for solutions relating to long-term care provision, for instance.

SLIDE 5 – LE and HALE at age 60

Rising longevity will not always be matched by healthy life years. **Nevertheless** the improvement over the last 20 years for both, life expectancy at 60 (light and dark orange dots respective years) and the part of it lived in a relatively good health (marked in dark and light green) are on the rise across the region with very few exceptions.

Healthy life expectancy at age 60 was 16 years for men and 18.1 years for women in 2019, representing an additional 1.9 healthy life years for men and 1.5 years for women since 2000.

SLIDE 6 - Changing attitudes and policy orientation over time

Looking at the past 20 years since the adoption of MIPAA/RIS, attitudes towards ageing and older persons have evolved and policy orientations changed.

Ageing-related policies have become a core element of government policy across the region. 35 countries in the region have developed national ageing strategies since 2002.

Since 2012, there has been a strong focus on Active and Healthy Ageing, shifting policy focus from addressing vulnerability to realizing potential

Another important trend has been the growing focus on the human rights of older persons which underpin MIPAA with a shift from meeting needs to fulfilling rights.

With regard to health and care services for older persons we have seen increasing emphasis on not only enhancing access to services but also providing **choice** and improving **quality.**

Solidarity and equity between the generations have been promoted through support for the reconciliation of work and care, and social protection of informal carers, among others.

Progress in advancing gender equality has been recorded too. Data over the past decade show reductions in the gender pay in 35 countries and pensions gaps in 24 UNECE countries for which data was available.

Important steps have been made towards achieving harmony with demographic change – through reforms to ensure the sustainability of pensions systems, enhanced efforts for lifelong learning and enable longer working lives.

I encourage you to have a look at the MIPAA+20 report for more details.

Let me now turn to the five-year review and our regional synthesis.

SLIDE 7 – MIPAA/RIS 4ᵗʰ cycle review and appraisal

40 countries submitted national reports to the current review.

SLIDE 8 – MIPAA/RIS 4ᵗʰ cycle review and appraisal

As in previous rounds, countries were encouraged to c

SLIDE 9 – Lisbon Declaration – 3 priority goals

In Lisbon, 3 broad policy goals were agreed for the 4ᵗʰ cycle implementation. These were

- Recognizing the potential of older persons
- Encouraging longer working lives and the ability to work
- And Ensuring ageing with dignity

SLIDE 10 – Findings – Potential of older persons

- Enhanced mainstreaming ageing - better coordination, integration of ageing into national development strategies

- Improved involvement of older persons and their representatives in policy-making

- Opportunities for social and cultural participation, volunteering and physical exercise created

- Loneliness and social isolation addressed

- Actions to combat ageism and promote a positive image of ageing (information campaigns, intergenerational contact and dialogue)

SLIDE 11 – Findings – Longer working life

- Tailored support to older jobseekers provided

- Age-management and age-friendly workplaces promoted

- Lifelong learning - Digital skills and literacy training

- Pension systems further adjusted

- Financial sustainability and pensions adequacy

SLIDE 12 – Findings – Ageing with dignity

- Advanced deinstitutionalization

- Integrated care and support infrastructures at local level

- Leveraging technologies and digitalization

- Support for research and development of assisted-living tech.

- Alternative living arrangements expanded, increasing choice

- Prevention/protection of abuse and violence enhanced

- Enhanced attention to care workforce and informal carers

- Further dementia strategies and plans developed

SLIDE 13 – COVID-19 response and older persons

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on governments, health and care systems and societies over the past 2 years. And, as we all know, COVID-19 has had a particularly grave impact on older persons.

The pandemic has highlighted and aggravated several structural deficits in national health and social care systems. We have learnt by experience that the restrictive measures taken to contain the spread of the virus and save lives, such as physical distancing and lockdowns, also aggravated feelings of loneliness and diminished opportunities for social participation, with negative impacts on both physical and mental health.

Key lessons learned from the pandemic are that we need a clear commitment to dignity and the right to health of older persons in difficult health-care decisions, the need for enhanced information sharing and participation of older persons in decision-making.

SLIDE 14 – Achievements and challenges

Key areas of progress that countries reported where in the areas of

- Employment and Pensions
- Health and social Care
- Inclusion

Challenges and areas that need particular attention going forward are

- Long-term care

- Housing

- Inequalities and Poverty

- Discrimination and increased vulnerability

SLIDE 15 – Outlook for the future

Countries identified the promotion of active and healthy ageing across the life course, enhanced choice and access to long-term care and support for carers as well as mainstreaming ageing as priorities going forward. This has shaped the priority themes for this conference.

At 20 years of MIPAA/RIS implementation, it is clear that significant progress has been made but much remains to be achieved. Anticipating the deepening impact of population ageing, it is important to plan and take actions early in all sectors.

Good initiatives and policies should be scaled up and replicated to ensure that the progress achieved by some becomes a reality for all. .

Thank you for your attention.