

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY ON THE MADRID INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

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SUMMARY

Adopting the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* and *The Political Declaration from April 2002* has produced significant changes regarding the status of elderly worldwide.

The Government of Moldova established a state policy concept to protect elderly, in order to increase their inclusion in social assistance programs and social services at large.

During the five years of implementing the action plan, Moldova has focused on the following priorities:

1. *Creating the most favorable conditions for an active ageing, effective participation to political, social, economic and cultural life and the possibility to work and study as long as elderly people are capable of, excluding all signs of stigmatization and discrimination;*
2. *Creating specific measures and political actions, national programs due to ensure the quality of life by offering the most minimum support to elderly, respect for their rights, responsibilities and an active role in the society;*
3. *Promoting and supporting social partnership in providing social communitarian services for elderly;*
4. *Encourage the solidarity between generations as fundamental values of a society;*
5. *Mobilizing the national resources in order to achieve and implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.*

In preparing the current report sectorial reports were used from different areas such as social protection (family and children) health, education and youth, economy and commerce. Also used were reports of the Science Academy and of the National Statistics Bureau as well as NGO's reports.

In order to evaluate the current status of the ageing issue, a number of national conferences, round tables, seminars, were organized, in which the demographic situation and appropriate measures were debated.

The process of ageing was analyzed, taking into account the latest global initiatives of United Nations Organization.

The content of the report includes national measures of achieving the 10 priorities of the Regional Strategy for implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Moldova promotes social policies in order to ensure a positive and stable boost of the population. Currently, the creation of the social integrated system will contribute to the achievement of the pledges made within the national policy context, including the Millennium Development Goals, National Development Plan 2008-2012, Action Plan Moldova – EU, National Strategy for protecting the children and the family, National Strategy on residential system of child support 2007-2012, national Plan of Actions on Human Rights, National Plan of Actions „Education for all” (2004-2015) and others.

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND, ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES CONCERNING AGEING

a) national background regarding population ageing

In the last decade (1995-2005) the demographic situation in Moldova has been through a lot of changes. The number of the population has slowly decreased and in the year 2005 reached 3,6 million inhabitants (without Transnistria region), thus on a yearly basis the population of Moldova has decreased from 7 to 10 000 persons. Also it has been registered a slow population ageing. The number of persons aged over 60 years old has increased from 13,1 to 13,6 persons. The birth rate has been significantly reduced from 1,74 to 1,26 and, as a result, the proportion of children under 15 years old decreased from 28,6% in 1995 to 19,0% in the year 2005.

A severe problem for Moldova will remain the low level of life expectancy and high mortality rates of men.

According to the official data, between the years 2003-2005, the length of life expectancy for men has reached 64,4-64,8 and for women 71,6-71,7. Thus on an average, the women from Moldova live 7-8 years more than men, a typical situation occurred in many countries of CSI. See **table 1 (Appendices)**.

The age structure of the population has the specific characteristic of an ageing demographic process, caused first of all by decrease of the birth rate, that has determined the absolute and relative reduction of the young population (0-14 years old).

Comparing with 1st of January 1997, in 2007 it has been noticed the reduction of the young population rate (0-14 years old) from 25,6% to 18,1% and the increase of elderly population (65 years old and over), from 9,3% to 10,2%, see table 2 (**Appendixes**).

Social and economic implications of a rapid growth, especially of the „very old” (over 80 years old) population, are very important. If the „younger” groups of the elderly population are still active from an economic point of view, being capable of self sustainability, the „very old”, especially the women, are more dependent on the others, by needing social and special medical support.

Almost 12% from the rural population has reached 65 and over, from the total of women population in rural areas the rate of elderly women being of 14%.

The age and regional structure of the population confirms the process of demographic ageing as being more severe in rural regions. In rural districts the rate of elderly population is 1,4 times bigger than in urban areas.

Dissimilarities in the age structure of the population are more frequent from a territorial aspect, determined by the territorial variation of demographic phenomena and migration of the population.

The average age of the population reached from 32,9 years old (1998) to 35,6 years old (2007). The female population, with the average age of 37,0 years old is even now in 2007 more aged with 3 years comparing to the male population. In urban areas, the average age of the female population is with 2,9 years older than that of the male population, and in the rural area 3,3 years older.

Starting with 2007 the situation is determined, on one side, by the small number of new born babies in the first half of the 90's, and on the other side by the numerous retirement of the working generation. As a result the older working generation is being reduced.

The migration of the population has a huge impact on the decrease of Moldovan population. The contribution of the migration phenomena to this process was estimated, over the years, within the limits of 50% to 70%. The biggest number of emigrants was registered in 2000 and it reached 9128 persons. During the last three years this indicator had a decreasing trend and combined with the migration growth, has allowed the loss of the negative sold between the emigrants and immigrants from 7807 persons in 2000 to 4771 persons in 2005.

The evolution of the average life expectancy rate is conditioned by a series of factors, a special importance being given to the life style, health state, level of hygienic education but also to the economic social conditions. The various programs on raising awareness for a healthy life style and the multitude of information on the subject influenced a positive evolution. In 2005 the life expectancy rate was of 67,9 years old, rising with 1,2 years since in 1997. In the same time, it is important to mention that the life expectancy at birth in Moldova is approximately 12 times smaller than in other countries (Japan, Australia, Italy, Sweden, Spain, France – each 81-79 years).
Diagram 1(Appendices).

A very important role in the economy of Moldova was played by the income of the migrant labour force that reached from 13,8% in the GDP in 2000 to 33,5% from the GDP in 2006. On a short run the migration of labour force and the incomes can bring certain benefits to the country, facilitating the consumption and boosting the production. In the same time, the remittances are also producing negative effects, the annual flux compared with the one of GDP exceeds the cash flow in MLD, and the labour resources are thus being reduced.

b) Evaluation of the normative framework

The legislative reforms, accomplished in Moldova in the last years, are aimed to harmonize the national legislation with the international and EU standards and to the implementation of basic principles, including the equity standard regarding pensions.

In the context of the constitutional right to social protection given by the Constitution of Republic of Moldova, all citizens (regardless of their sex) are *entitled to pensions*.

Social reforms promoted in Moldova are focused on ensuring the continuous development of constitutional regulations by applying them to national norms. To prove this, is the Strategy of reforming the pension system adopted by the Parliament in 1998 September 23rd, the Law on social insurance from 14 October 1998, and the Law on the public system of social insurance dated from July 8, 1999.

The changes occurred in the society over the last years are having an influence on all aspects of people's life, including the life of elderly the most vulnerable category that should be given special attention.

Elderly are in general more depended on medical and social services, and the solitary (isolated) once represent a very vulnerable category.

Thus, the social assistance services are aimed to support the most disadvantaged groups of elderly, the ones that cannot afford a decent living.

Social services given to the elderly are accordingly to the law of social assistance, adopted in December 2003.

Elderly issue is being assigned to the category of population with special needs concerning living conditions, given that with the years the physical state is getting worse and the limit of daily activities becomes more and more evident.

The current generation of old people generally speaking, consists of people who own their apartments/ houses. Because of various reasons (change of family members, changes of interests, health issues, income diminution) these old people would like to modify their current home with a cheaper and smaller one, placed in a more accessible and convenient area.

In the cities approximately 80% of elderly are living in block of flats, inadequate for elderly, especially for the ones who have problems moving.

The problem of an adequate place of living needs to be solved, especially in rural areas. According to the 2004 Population Census from the total of people living in rural areas 90,9% are still using gas stoves, only 10% have aqueduct (water conduit) and 6,6% have sewer system. The elderly living in rural areas have no commodities whatsoever.

Moldovan public transportation is not adapted to the needs of elderly and especially to the needs of disabled persons.

According to art. 41 of law no. 821 - XII from 24.12.1991 „on the social protection of disabled people”, the sections (the directions) of family social and protection assistance are covering from the local budgets the public transportation costs for disabled persons grade I and II, disabled children until they reach 16 years old and for the companion persons (the one who is accompanying the invalid person).

According to the current legislation, the war veterans, citizens of Moldova, benefit of various traveling facilities within the train and auto transport.

Thus war veterans have the right to a yearly two-way trip (by train and auto transport), with a 50% reduction of the cost of the ticket or a free trip every two years.

War invalids have the right to a free two-way railway trip within the C.S.I. area. The companion of the Ist grade war invalid also benefits from this right.

The costs to provide services for elderly in residential social institutions maintained by the ministry are in total value of 50 230,1 thousands MLD/year. Thus, the average cost for taking care of a person is an average of 2000 MLD/month. The contribution of the beneficiary is of 75% from the pension. The number of personal units from these institutions are of 1133,5 persons.

The costs to maintain the shelters are preponderant covered by the local budgets. One beneficiary of the shelter services is costing the ministry between 1200-2000 MLD/month.

According to the Regulation approved by the Government Decision nr. 1083 from October 26, 2000 on the application of the republican fund law and local funds for population social support, a number of 204 800 retired persons have received financial assistance in total value of 56243,45 MLD on the year of 2006.

In order to intensify the effect of social protection, 2411 social workers that take care of 24824 beneficiaries. The services represent an alternative for „*care services in institutions*”. These social services are being provided according to the Regulation - the type regarding the social help sections provided directly at the residence of solitary (isolated) old people and citizens who are not able to work.

Following the administrative-territorial reform from 2003, according to the Government Decision no. 688 from June 10th, 2003 on the structure and the staff costs within villages or municipal city halls and the Government Decision nr. 689 from June 10, 2004 on the diagram and staff costs of the president of rayon, directions, divisions, sections, other existing subdivisions from the Rayonal Council”, the function of Chief of Social Service was changed- one chief of service for

30 social workers – and the set up of the social worker function depending on the number of beneficiaries – 10-12 persons / unit in urban areas and 8-10 persons/ unit in rural areas.

Also, currently, under the ministry's supervision a number of 3 social institutions are providing services for elderly, 1020 beneficiaries.

The social canteens are extremely important in providing social services. For the time being, a number of 5167 of people are the beneficiaries of the 99 canteens.

Regarding the social protection for elderly, it is important to mention that for the first time the Administration Council of the Republican Fund for population social support, by its decision from August 1st, 2007, has given via the local social aid funds a total of 5000 MDL to each person who reached 100 years of age and over.

The medical rehabilitation tickets are being given according to the Regulation on the evidence and distribution of medical rehabilitation tickets for elderly and disabled persons, Regulation approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection nr. 32 from 09.06.2003, free of charge covered by the state. The beneficiaries of the tickets are according to the mentioned Regulation, elderly and disabled persons from / starting with 18 years old age. All these people have to be included in the evidence of the divisions/social assistance sections.

c) National priorities

Getting the independence, Moldova started to walk on the democracy path, meaning respecting the human rights and fundamental freedom of its citizens, including the right to work. Therefore, already in its first years as an independent state Moldova has adhered to the basic international treaties, especially to the International Agreement on the political and civil rights, the International Agreement on economic, social and cultural rights and to OIM Convention against all forms of discrimination of women at work, equal chances for men and women who work, equal payment for an equal work. In 2001, Moldova has adhered to the European Charter (partially ratified) that demonstrates as well, the recognition of democratic fundamental values, among which the principle of *equality and oneness* resides.

The results and strategic directions of a national policy on social assistance targeted towards elderly have as a basis the Resolution no 46/91 from 16.12.1991, approved at the General Assembly of United Nations that includes the Principles of United Nations Organization favoring the elderly.

The Aim of the National Implementing Program of *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* is the creation and the development of social assistance services focusing on preventing, limitation or removal of temporary or permanent effects of risk situations for elderly that can generalize their social exclusion. Another aim of the national plan would be the involvement of elderly in the process of decision-making, the prevention of creating services dependence.

Moldova has adhered to the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* in order to reduce the vulnerability of elderly by developing and increasing the access to social assistance services, by guaranteeing a decent and secure living. The results and the strategically directions of a national policy on the social assistance for the elderly are based on the Resolution 46/91 from 16 December 1991, approved at the General Assembly of the United Nations Organizations.

The Ministry of Social Protection is in charged with the implementation process and national strategies and projects favoring the elderly, the accomplishment of the Country Report on carrying out the International Action Plan concerning population ageing.

Creating the national strategy concerning ageing issue represents a key element. The aim of this strategy is to create and develop social assistance services for preventing, limiting or

eliminating the temporary or permanent effects of the risk situations for elderly, situations, which can generalize social exclusion.

- **Strategic Objective:** *create and develop social assistance services for elderly at the level of the public local administration.*

- **Specific Objectives:**

2.*Strengthening and developing the social assistance services – communitarian type- that will allow elderly to stay home and thus ensure the well-being of the community.*

2.*Strengthening and developing the social assistance services – residential type – that will allow elderly to be taken care of on a continuous basis, ensuring thus the social inclusion.*

Social services are essential because they are meant to prevent or intervene in risk situation in the case of either a person or a community, diminishing the negative effects and creating conditions for over passing the dependence and the creation of the independence.

The development of communitarian social services for persons in risk situations represents a national priority. The creation of daily centers or shelters for disadvantaged persons, in each locality of the country will contribute to the decrease of the number of people living in social institutions and maintaining them in the community, by offering care services.

Offering social assistance services (daily rehabilitation centers, shelters for disadvantaged persons) imposes professional participation: social and medical workers, which will contribute to the overwhelming increase of the quality of socio medical services.

In the last years, the number of solicitors as well as the costs for providing these kind of services are in an ongoing growth, the reason for this being linked with the following:

- Population income decreased, thus the poverty level has reached higher;
- The number of requests for these kind of services highly exceeds the offer;
- Opinion surveys do not entirely reflect the necessity of a person, a right that increases the accessibility rate to those;
- To categorize is inefficient from the cost effective point of view and from social reasons as well (stimulating the social dependence).

Local public authorities, solicited by the community that has a partnership relation with the civil society, initiate social communitarian services. See **Table 3 (Appendices)**.

One of the first steps in determining the rules on the social services market is the minimum quality standards that are meant to adjust the provided service to the necessity of the beneficiary, as well as to improve the monitoring and evaluation skills of the ones who are the providers of such services, the state among them.

2. METHODOLOGY OF MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ON THE ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES

The multilateral evaluation process, like any other area, it is based on using a series of methods used to study the ageing issue in all its complexity.

One of the main aspects of contemporary life is the science, given the objective relations of historical growth. To study the ageing issue, it is used the *historical method* of research, that in analyzing the economic, social, political conditions, of past events evolution and regularities on their continuous sequence.

With the help of the *comparative method* were established identical and diverging elements between two phenomena (for example between *mortality and birth rate*), the ageing issue status in Moldova and other countries.

Via the *sociological method* the public opinion was studied and evaluated, the social efficiency of various activities of different bodies active in ageing issue, and the statistical method served as a base for the general evaluation of priorities.

3. NATIONAL CAPACITIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MADRID PLAN

By participating at the Reunion organized in Madrid in 2002, Moldova has entered the responsibility of solving the issue of population ageing at the national level. The Regional Strategy from Berlin is focusing on the necessity of extending the participation of elderly in social life, their integration and participation to a fair and continuous economic growth, the strengthening of proper social protection for current and future generations, encourage the labour force tackling more the population ageing issue.

The partnership has represented an essential element in the implementation of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing*, the joint efforts of the institutions, agencies and NGO's representing a sign of common actions undertake by the social partners existent both in public and private sector.

The Ministry of Social Protection determines the priorities and elaborates development strategies, action plans and various incentives tools for a more efficient social protection system, by ensuring a full and complex approach of all the issues of social protection for elderly and by increasing the level of the quality of life, having as a goal the creation of a fair and just social protection system, social efficient and financial stable.

4. REVISION AND EVALUATION OF TOPICS

Commitment no. 1. Ensure the organic indication of the ageing issue in all political areas in order to harmonize the society and the economy with the demographic changes and to create an accessible society for all ages.

The length of life is a major accomplishment of mankind, determined by a significant number of positive changes occurred in important fields. Positive changes include existing opportunities for the families to take fully aware decisions regarding the number of children they want to have. These processes are changing rapidly the demographic structure of many countries, thus increasing the number of elderly.

For this purpose, the main objective is the creation and strengthening of the society with equal opportunities for all people, based on an active ageing principle. Therefore, having appropriate conditions for a decent living it is a must, which will allow the integration of elderly in the society.

Currently, in Moldova, the NGO's are the main providers of communitarian social services for risk groups and, they represent as well alternatives to the state services. Establishing a national network of NGO's active in providing support for elderly has facilitated the access of aged people to these services. The support groups are associations who provide volunteer help to elderly by assisting and monitoring their reintegration in the community.

In the twelve areas where this project is implemented, over 250 people volunteered to become members of support groups for elderly and over 1000 persons received proper training and participate to conferences regarding:

- Communitarian models of providing social services for elderly.
- Development of current resources, being informed and give assistance to elderly.
- Fund raising models at the local level for self-sustainability.
- Public relation models and exchange of information and experience between organizations.

Commitment no. 2: *Ensure the complete integration and participation to social life of elderly.*

The social protection institutional framework is reforming, the financial constraints creating gaps in providing social assistance services. The gaps are being bridged by the communitarian organizations and the NGO's who have the possibility of carrying out the work of the study visits, resources development. Partnership capacities were strengthened through various methods: training sessions, conferences, study field visits, development of resources. Apart of the support and appreciation of the community towards the elderly, all these methods contributed significantly to raising awareness on the needs of elderly.

Each year, the state budget is financing cultural projects, art programs meant to encourage elderly or NGO's created by aged persons to take part in creative activities. The state is also financing cultural regional projects for increasing the access of cultural services especially within the rural areas.

The cultural centers offer conditions for elderly to be part for free in various art groups for amateurs: choirs, orchestras, drama classes. Also they are offered the possibility to make use of public libraries services, opened to the members of the community no matter their age, studies or social statute.

Commitment no. 3: *Contribute to a equitable and stable economy appropriate to the ageing issues*

Moldova implements the socio economic model of well-being of European Union, characterized by a low rate of unemployment, high cost of work force, secure social guarantees, minimum number of needy families, high level of social cohesion and minimum regional differences.

Taking into account the group of elderly, applying a flexible work schedule, creating work environments suitable to their needs, it's easier to notice the specific security and health needs of this particular category of people.

The equal opportunity principle is being implemented in a consistent manner. The elderly are competing with young persons on the job market, their salaries being determined by their professional abilities and not by their age.

The necessary income for the well-being of elderly is ensured by assurance system and social assistance services that cover all the social risks.

Commitment no. 4. *Adjusting the social protection system, taking into account the demographic changes and its social and economic subsequent.*

Each fifth inhabitant of Moldova is a retirement fund or social allowance beneficiary. See **Table 3, 4 (Appendices)**.

Between 2002-2006, the number of economic active people on the job market decreased with 16,7% and the total number of pensioned persons reduced with 2,1%. This situation led to the increase of financial pressure upon the working force. If in 2002 the balance between those retired and those still working was of 1:2,4, in the year 2006 the rate is of 1:2,0. See **table 5 (Appendices)**.

The retirement rate in Moldova is extremely high and in the near future no significant enhancement is estimated, because of the demographic processes that in fact will lead to the growing number of aged people.

Same goes in the situation created within the labour force and on the job market, where no hope is being giving to rapid development of the economy and job opportunities, and as a follow up to increasing the number of working people who contribute to the state budget.

The social assistance system is based on providing social services.

At the present time a special focus is being placed on ensuring a monthly minimum allowance guaranteed by the state for the families with a low income by providing a monthly social support. A special attention is being given as well to the development of an integrated social services system, ensuring the quality of the services, endorsement and assessment of social services in general.

Commitment no. 5: *Ensure the adjustment of the work force to the social and economic changes when concerning ageing*

The rapid employment changes affect the status of elderly on the job market. Taking into account the demographic of the country and its economic development, Moldova has adopted on April 11 2007 „National Strategy on employment policies in Republic of Moldova between 2006-2020”, that includes the following measures:

- Medium Term Actions (2006-2010) for reducing the number of anticipate retirements and extending the retirement period for those still working;
- Flexible incentives for employers;
- Ongoing professional training programs for persons in a prior-retirement situation;
- Annual Job Market Events for persons in a prior-retirement situation;

- Increase the rate of persons in a prior-retirement situation that receive professional training.
- Long Term Actions (2011-2020) include:
 - Promote policies for improving work conditions, in order to prolong the work period for the aged persons;
 - Establish and promote incentives programs for active elderly and avoidance of employment discrimination.

This Strategy is according to the aims established by the European Union, and its implementation will create possibilities for elderly active population to continue to stay on the job market as much as possible.

Commitment no. 6. *Contribute to continuous changes and adaptations of the educational system to the economic, social and demographic conditions*

The development of the national education system is a policy priority in Moldova. In 2002 the Government approved the Strategy of using the work force (2002) that stipulates measures for extended studies for those who seek a job.

The Code of Labor in Republic of Moldova stipulates the rights and the responsibilities of the employees and employers to professional training and for the first time, is mentioning the term „ongoing training”.

In November 2004 the National Council for Ongoing Professional Training was constituted – a consultative body whose aim is to elaborate proposals on the strategy of developing the national system of ongoing professional training. Another important aim of this consultative body is to advertise the state policy regarding employees continuous qualification according with the market economy, European development trends in ongoing professional training in the context of the Memorandum Lifelong Learning, Brussels, 30.10.2002 SEC (2000) 1832/ on permanent learning.

Creating an infrastructure of the future national system of professional qualification continuous to be necessary. This system will be the institutional basis of competences standards in all areas of the economy, at all levels of instruction and it will be made available for all citizens.

Commitment no. 7: *Achieve quality of life at any age and preservation of independence, including of health and well-being*

In the implementation of the state social policy, a special attention is given to the level of need for long-term nurture, problem solving approach and necessary resources.

The costs for long-term socio-medical nurture and assistance are in the present one of the highest, comparing with the prices for other social services, and the clients, in most of the cases, cannot afford these services.

For the time being, in cases when internal resources cannot cover the basic costs for more advanced interventions according to EU health standards, the financial assistance of external donors is a precondition for the accomplishment of the established goals in improving the quality of life for elderly.

As a result of negotiations with the World Bank experts in June 3rd, 2007 was signed the Funding Agreement between Republic of Moldova and the International Association for

Development (the project Health Services and Social Assistance), being approved by the Parliament one month later (25.07.2007).

Develop the partnership in providing socio-medical services is a key element in ensuring the quality of life, imposing for the responsible institutions such as the Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Local Administration to take necessary actions in developing long lasting and efficient social policies.

Commitment no. 8: Take into account the gender dimension of ageing

Social protection, based on multilateral solidarity responsibility, offers equal opportunities for all people, no matter the sex, social status, ethnic or cultural origin.

During the last years Moldova has achieved important legislative reforms in order to connect the national legislation with the international standards, especially those imposed by EU.

At the beginning of 2006 the „Law on Equality of Chances between Women and Men” was adopted. The goal of this law is to ensure equal rights of both women and men in the political, economic, social and cultural life; all these rights being guaranteed by the Constitution of Republic of Moldova, in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender discrimination.

In order to implement this law, a national plan was approved, for „promoting the gender equality in society for the period of 2006-2009”, a national plan that sets the priorities of the Government in supporting gender equality and promoting the participation of women in socio-economic life.

In 2006 was established a Governmental Commission for equality between women and men, a commission whose members are the representatives of ministries, other public central authorities, civil society, unions and owners associations.

Commitment no. 9. Encourage the families who provide support to elderly and consolidate the solidarity between different generations and not only

Social assistance services for elderly is part of the national social protection system, a framework in which the state and civil society is accountable to prevent, limit or remove the temporary or permanent effects of social risks events, possible generators of social exclusion of this category.

Social indemnities funded from the state budget for families caring for children and adults with severe disabilities originating in childhood, as well as blind people that have been recognized as having a handicap of first degree, are among the measures for supporting families to care for their vulnerable members.

In the context of supporting the couples in their parental and professional roles, the National Plan „Promoting the Gender Equality in society for the period 2006-2009”, tackles via a general objective the subject of „Strengthening the family – the pillar of society” and aims to promote family values and by ensuring legal conditions for both women and men to combine professional and personal obligations, encourage the partnership relations within the family, develop communitarian services to prevent the abandonment.

Moldova ensures a favorable framework for social protection development. Also of relevant importance is the celebration of the „International Day of Older Persons” on the 1st of October and on the third Sunday of September the „National Granny Day” it’s being celebrated.

Commitment no. 10. Contribute to the implementation of the regional strategy within the regional cooperation

In February 2007 the Government has created with the support of UNFPA Moldova a National Commission for Population and Development (NCPD). The Commission is coordinated by one of the deputy ministries under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, having full power of decision-making.

Considering this initiative as being one of the first positive steps, it is necessary to continue by creating a proper institutional infrastructure in order to support the analytical activity or any related actions on population issue, thus UNFPA Moldova solicited the assistance of Bratislava Country Support Team.

The preliminary condition for an effective and efficient functioning of the National Commission for Population and Development (NCPD) is the establishment of a Secretariat working as a support body. Also worthwhile to include in the strategy would be the establishment of working groups specialized on various interest areas. These groups could include both members of NCPD as well as researchers and external experts, who will be asked to set up recommendations and suggestions for the work of the Commission.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As soon as Madrid International Plan of Action Ageing was adopted in Moldova, significant changes took place in the life of older persons, such as:

- Creation of optimal employment conditions on the job market;
- Improving the quality of socio-medical services;
- Increase of communitarian models for providing social services;
- Raising the level of initiatives of older persons participation in social, economic and cultural life;
- Developing the information and support resources;
- Creating a positive image of older persons and strengthening the relations between generations.

Currently, the intention of the Government is to establish a fair concept of the state policy concerning the protection of older person. The future activities in population ageing issue are:

- the removal of the institutional fragmentation (the division into fragments) and a more active takeover of social services by the local public authorities and nongovernmental organizations;
- mobilizing the efforts and the efficiency of the existing resources that are more focused on prevention rather than on intervention;
- human resources and financial management in order to provide services in line with the real needs of the population;
- creating a monitoring system to evaluate the quality of the services provided by various providers, as well as their endorsement;
- financial backing of social assistance for family and community;
- reforming the retirement system.

Referring to the population issue, the institutional capacity is still under developed. Moldova does not have a specialized study division on the subject and the educational institutions do not ensure systematic specialized training on demographic matters. A very important aspect is the creation of the National Commission for Population and Development, whose role is to ensure an institutional framework necessary to solve the demographic and development at the governmental level. What is missing at the current stage is the infrastructure on research and analysis of data.

Given that the national capacities are not very well developed, when it comes to population and development issue, a special premises is represented by a staff well trained.

National homologues and other partners:

Ministry of Social Protection

Ministry of Economy and Commerce

Ministry of Health

National Statistics Bureau

Science Academy of Moldova

National Social Assurance House

UNFPA Moldova

Appendices:

Table 1 Older persons ranking on age categories and residential areas, January 1st, 2007

Age group, years	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Persons	în %	persons	in %	persons	in %
60-64	22384	24,9	48512	28,2	73872	23,2
65-69	26378	25,7	47166	27,4	79212	24,8
70-74	01582	20,7	32520	18,9	69062	21,6
75-79	7967	15,9	24454	14,2	53513	16,8
80-84	2503	8,7	13444	7,8	29059	9,1
85 și peste	0185	4,1	5899	3,5	14286	4,5
Total	90999	100,0	171995	100,0	319004	100,0

Diagram no. 1

Birth Life expectancy divided by sex and areas, in 1997-2005

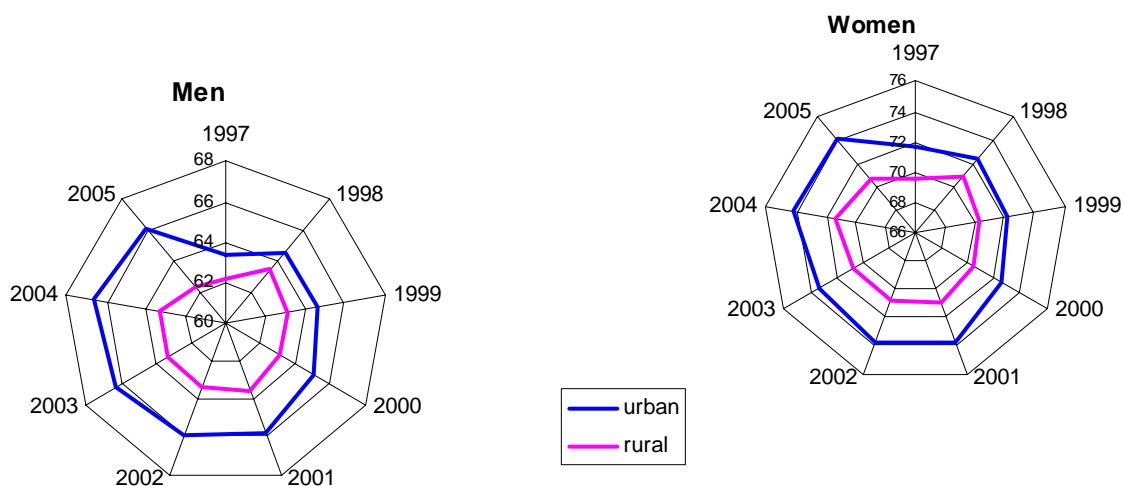


Table no. 2 *The dynamic of alternative social services, supported by the local public administration*

Social services	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003	2004	2005	2006
	No. institutions				No. beneficiaries			
Shelters for older persons and persons with disabilities	9	12	19	21	193	326	408	481
Rehabilitation centers for children and adults in difficult situations	17	24	33	31	630	870	1623	1705
Total beneficiaries					823	1196	2031	2186

Table no. 3 *The dynamic of population and beneficiaries of pensions and allowance at 01.01. 07*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of population *	3617,7	3606,8	3599,8	3389,3	3581,1
Total number of beneficiaries, from which:	657,7	670,1	664,9	663,6	667,6
Retired people	634,5	627,6	620,7	618,3	621,4
Allowance beneficiaries	23,2	42,5	44,2	45,3	46,2

*excluding Transnistria and Tighina regions

Table no. 4 *Social allowance beneficiaries*

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total beneficiaries	25446	25551	24683	18583	17690
including:					
War invalids	5773	5725	5766	4693	4665
War participants and former political convicted dissidents	11931	11932	10875	7962	6907
Free citizens employed in the army service	174	188	183	118	107
People who've been awarded medals / who've received medals and other awards	1929	1990	2022	1368	1468
Participants at the Leningrad blockade	133	129	131	68	70
Families of victims of war	5506	5587	5706	4374	4473

Table no. 5 The balance between population and beneficiaries, as of 01.01.07

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Active population, thousands of persons	1 615,0	1 473,6	1 432,5	1 422, 3	1 346,0*
Working force population, thousands of persons	1 505,1	1 356,5	1 316, 0	1 318, 7	1271,0*
Total no. of retired persons, thousands of persons	634,5	627,6	620,7	618,3	621,4
The balance between active population and the no. of retired persons.	2,5	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,2
The balance between working population and the no. of retired people.	2,4	2,2	2,1	2,1	2,0