

GREECE

Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

Guidelines

For Reporting on National Follow-up to the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy(RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing(MIPAA)

RIS Commitment 1.Mainstreaming ageing

As a short introduction we would like to point out that in Greece the percentage of people above 65 years is rapidly increasing.

Ageing is not manifested in its biological dimensions but it has acquired dimensions of social phenomena.

These phenomena have as result that people live longer and better remaining active members of society.

The Elders constitute an asset for the Greek society and the attitude towards them is considered as a basic measure of our social civilization. Also we have to add that during the second half of the 20th century,the fertility rate in Greece dropped from 2.57 to 1.28 children per female in 2003 ,down by 50%.A drop in the fertility rate is recorded starting from 1970 and up until2002 From 2002 there have been signs of recovery in the fertility rate and this trend is expected to continue.But in that time a higher elderly population(65+years old)and a shrinking population of a productive age(15-64 years).There has been an impressive drop in mortality rates with life expectancy at birthof 76.61 years for males and 81.42 years for females in 2005.According to the demographic projections in 2050 the population above 65(as a percentage of the 14-64 years population)will increase from 26.75% in 2005 to 55.76%in 2050.

a)What are the areas in which ageing is mainstreamed and to what extent is this done?

Answer:Ageing Mainstreaming covers all the policies of the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity which has developed and implemented a network of Services and Programs towards mainstreaming direction.I can shortly refer to :The assurance of their

autonomous way of life, Their staying in their familiar environment with dignity and personal and economic-financial independence and the maintenance of their psychosomatic balance.

b)To what extent do the different policies related to ageing pursue a holistic approach and are coordinated and applied consistently?

Answer:The Greek Ministry has organized Services with the mainstreaming spirit which ensure the empowerment of Elderly and their promotion to various social activities. I am referring to the Program-areas such as :Centers of Daily Care , Program-Social Help in the House, Programs of Camping and Water-Therapy all over the country. These Programs help the spirit of mainstreaming because they empower the Aged people.

c)What initiatives has your country taken to tackle age discrimination? Which results have these initiatives achieved?

Answer:Create new laws which are friendly and at the same time open opportunities for Elderly to actively participate in society.

I am referring to the law 3454/April 7/2006.

d)What is the participation of older persons in the development of policies and strategies and in their implementation?

Answer:Old persons actively participate in the Boards of Institutions and Organizations which implement policies for Elderly Persons. Also they participate as partners in Councils that are planning policies for promoting the mainstreaming agenda. I name the <National Council of Families and Population>,the <Institute of Social Demography and Research>.Also many persons appointed by the Greek Government in the Decision Making Centers are above 65 years.

e)To what extent are NGOand the private sector involved in policy development and to what is their role in the implementation of policy programs?

Answer:NGOs were pioneers in solving Elderly persons problems and promoting their ideas and issues. They started as Philanthropic organizations and right now they have become Civil Society

Organizations for development and promoting the <Society for All Ages>,according to Madrid Declaration/2002

The Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity promotes the Volontarism and the cooperation between the Governmental Agencies

and the NGOs There are NGOs registered in the National Register-Book of the Ministry and they work in Ageing issues.

Also the NGOs are undertaking common programs with the Private Sector for establishing up-to-date Health Centers such as (GAC=Geriatric Assessment Centers).

In Greece except of the traditional system of the Nursery Homes operated by the Government, there is a considerable number of them which belong to private sector.

RIS Commitment 2: Integration and participation of older persons

a)What measures has your country undertaken to recognise, encourage and support the contributions of older people to society(media,ca,paigns, school curricula)

Answer:

The Greek Government celebrates the International Day of Elderly and promotes it through the Media. In that Domain the NGOs play a considerable and positive role.NGOs Members are building a new inter generations solidarity with new infrastructures :Harmony between the Generations.

b)What mechanisms has your country put in place to take into account the views of older persons on the services provided to them?

Answer:Greece has created mechanisms against the isolation of the Aged persons such as Networks of Social Solidarity: Sevices which ensure also the up-lifting of the role of the Municipal and Regional Government.

c)How has your country encouraged the participation of older persons in society,culture and economy?

Answer:In Greece they have been voted laws of Equality Against any Discrimination concerning gender and age. Many Members of the Greek Parliament and few members of the Government are persons above 65 years. And respective persons in the domains of Culture and Economy are also above 65 years. It does exist a worth mentioned <civil encouragement>

d)What activities have you undertaken to promote the political participation of older persons and in particular of older women?

Answer:In Greece does not exist dangerous segregation between young

and old. According to family Laws of 1983 there is in society a gender equality between Men and Women Also many laws have been voted and UN/CEDAW laws against any discrimination of Women young or old have been ratified by the Greek Parliament.

e)What mechanisms and organizations exist in your country to provide a political voice for older persons and how have they been promoted?

Answer:They have been established two new Institutes as Governmental Agencies which promote policies for Aged people and encourage the Elderly to have a voice in many issues such as the Human Rights of vulnerable persons and their encouragement for active social participation.

Also it has been established a Council of Third Age Persons in order their voice been heard and their opinion been respected.

f)Have you set up a national advisory body.....?

Answer: YES It has been mentioned

g)Have you adopted policies and programmes to improve the housing and living environmentof older persons especially in rural areas?

Answer: Yes. There is an extension of the program Social-Help in the House extended to the rural mountain and island areas too, which offers considerable services to Elders ,to Disabled Persons, to Lonely Persons and offers vital forces to persons who do not get enough services and their income does not allow them to afford Public Services or to reach the Decisions Centers.

a)What steps has your country taken to promote age-integrated communities.....?

Answer:The Greek society is integrated and the role of the Elderly in the families of the younger generation is considerable ,valuable and very important.

b)Has your country promoted volunteer activities.....?

Answer:YES

a)What steps has your country taken to promote a positive image.....?

Answer: The Greek Law 3106/2003 is a positive step for the promotion of the image of ageing because it encourages them to claim for their Human Rights following the Madrid Declaration <A Society for All

Ages>.

b)What actions (in particular in cooperation with the mass media)have been taken to encourage older persons.....?

Answer:Programs through TV stations promoting ageing issues and many old persons are encouraging to take initiative presenting their aspects to the public.

RIS Commitment 3:Promotion of equitable and sustainable economic growth in response to population ageing.

a)What strategies has your country adopted to transformyour economies with a view to eradicating povertyespecially among older persons.

Answer: Pension to old persons without Social Security: To 1.101 persons an extra -pay of 244 Euros monthly is offered.

The Greek Government has made contracts with Units for Elderly Care which have non-profit character focused on economically weak elder persons. And this Bill is covered from the Budget of Regions.

Also they exist Civil Services in the Municipalities which help vulnerable Groups of population with emphasis in the Old Persons.

b)What measures has your country taken to review and adjustthe macroeconomic policies to adress the needs of a growing ageing population?

Answer:Program of Tele-Assistance: From 2000 the application of the pilot program <House Tele-Assistance>has started in the district of the Municipalities The main goal of this program is the possibility of direct communication of the Elders and lonely persons with their relatives, with the Social Services and also to work in their own house.

RIS Commitment 4:Adjustment of social protection systems in response to demographic changes and their social and economic consequences.

a)How has your country adapted social protection systems to societal and demographic changes?

Answer: Greece has started the Dialogue for adapting some necessary changes of our current social protection system.

Greek Government has established the following new Istitutions for

**facilitating the situation: The National Council of family and population
The Institute of Demography and Research and the EKKKA=National
Center of Social Solidarity.**

**b)What steps your country taken to achieve a sufficient income for all
old persons?**

Answer:A for life pension to Mothers with more than two children

**Pension to any person who is looking after an old person without
any income**

**Permanent housing Helper-Assistant , offered by the State to any old
person without sufficient income**

Pension offered to any old person without sufficient income.

Offering shelter to any homeless old person

**c) What policies has it adopted to address on time the needs of old
persons for a variety of social and health services,including
sheltered housing and long-term care?**

**Answer:The Government has made special contracts with Non
profit Institutions for offering care to old persons who are without
Social security.**

Shelter Policy as a step against <Asylopoiissis>

**d) How has your country promoted standards of living for persons
with disability and for fragile old persons that allow them to
maintain their independence and dignity?**

**Answer: With the Program: Social-help in the House all over the
country And for the efficient function and support of the program
612 cars with many facilities have been given by the Ministry of
Health and Social Solidarity to the Greek Municipalities and 46
cars have been given from the Olympic Establishments for the
amelioration of the life conditions of fragile old persons and
persons with disabilities.**

**Also establishing special Tourist programs for old persons. This
ambitious initiative covers their needs in culture and also it
promotes their standards of living and it is a considerable step for
beating social seclusion**

**a)What steps has your country taken to establish or further develop
a regulatory framework for occupational and private pension provision?**

Answer:No major or decisive steps have been taken,concerning the old persons. The private pension is a major concern for the younger generation.

b)Which changes have been implemented to the laws regulating mandatory retirement?

Answer :Not decisive changes for the time being

a)What policies has your country adopted.....?

Answer:As I have already mentioned there is a law in our Constitution which guarantee the gender equality.But the Greek Government has voted additional laws for ensuring the equal treatment of men and women and in social protection system.

b)What policies has your country.....?

Answer:The reconciliation of work and family life is a whole chapter that our Ministry of Work and Employment has been dealt as well as the General Secretariat of Equality of Women and KETHI=Center of Research for Equality issues. All this new Legislation can be found in the Last Rapport for Women submitted in the U.N. Committee for CEDAW during Feb./2007 in U.N.NY ,also in the new Law of 2006 and as well as , this Chapter of Reconciliation is promoted on a continuous base through the EU Initiative/Equal.

RIS Commitment 5

In the whole Chapter of Opportunities for Employment and offering opportunities to the Old persons

I have to mention that on account of high rate of Unemployment in Greece we lack of new initiatives for Old persons taking into account that the Elderly are already retired persons.

RIS Commitment 6: Promotion of Long life Learning

This Chapter is the responsibility of the Municipalities and of the Regional Government, though the Ministry of Education has promoted the System of the Long Life-Learning with the two Secretariats focused on this Chapter of the Long -Life learning.

The Municipalites of the country have organised specific

Administrations focused on the promotion of learning Methods adapted to the skills of old persons for teaching them the use of of new technologies.

Concerning the key-Chapter of Employability I can mention that the private Sector has been dealt with thoroughly enough.

RIS Commitment 7:Striving to ensure quality of life

In Greece there are Medical Centers all over the country very friendly and approachable to the old persons ,where first and second degree medical care can be offered to them.

All the old persons have free medicare all over the country .The State Hospitals and the daily medical Centers offer free services to all the citizens of our country,preponderately to the old persons.

RIS 8 and RIS 9

Greece has created new laws for supporting the family and laws for the care givers in prepoderance of the people who offer care to old persons with permanent health problems. Also they have been created Services in the frame of the Administration of the Municipalities which offer help and assistance to the vulnerable families with old persons.

TheGreek Government has organised special Service called:EKKA=National Center of Social Solidarity focused on the needs of vulnerable old persons and their families who support them.

RIS 10:Promotion of the Implementation.....

Greece is a permanent Member of UNECE and participates in all the regular Meetings as well as the European Meetings and Congresses

Conclusions and Outlook for the Future.

a)Answer:Greece as member of the EU has accepted the challenge of the Zero deaths and the rapidly increasing in numbers of the population of old persons all over the country.The Government is aware of the vitality that this population has developed and their inner zele for life, but also this Ageing society has to face various problems of health,mobility and

vulnerability.

Greece as a society is fully adopting the MIPAA/RIS since 2002 and we have tried to align our legislation and towards these new social challenges.

c)Answer:In the field of ageing our strength as a coherent society is in the Values of family.In the frames of an extended family the old persons as members of the family offer services with great value and they have the opportunity to develop their personality as active members of society.These old persons are encouraged to obtain education and accurate information through Long Life learning.Greece is strongly believing in the Harmony between the Generations and in their inter-coupling.

In Greece the weak points related to ageing are focused on State 's Institutions and founding structures. Also we need an up-to-date infrastructure for facing chronic health problems of the old persons.

f)It has to be done more extensive research and development for the new problems of ageing and also their new challenging priorities

i)The Intrenational Organizations with their global spirit have done good work and have succeeded to unite our efforts under a universal goal :facing with success the new problems of ageing in our evolving society.

Annex

**1.a)Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity
General Direction
Ms A. Papadia/General Director**

**b)Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity
Committee for Ageing Issues
President
Ms Litsa Gyftopoulou**

**c)NGO /SOCIAL AID OF HELLAS
Vicepresident and Expert in Geriatrics:
Ms.Kallirroï Nicolis**

**2 .a)Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity
Direction of Family Care
Director : Ms Vassiliki Zaronikou
b)NGO /SOCIAL AID OF HELLAS
Vicepresident and Expert in Geriatrics
Ms.Kallirroï Nicolis**

Relevant Laws on Ageing:

a)General Law 3528/9of Feb.2007

b)Law3454/7of April/2006

c)Two General Directives of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

a) P1g/D.Y./2006

b) 2006

3.During the works of the Segovia Meeting Greece had presented the National Plan of the country for Ageing and Ms Kallirroï Nicolis who was the Presenter had been submitted it to the Secretariat of the Meeting.If you need an extra copy we can send it to You.

We are in your disposition for any further information and anything you may need.