

Report of the Republic of Moldova
Assessment of the implementation of the Madrid
International Plan of Action for Aging and the
Regional Strategy (MIPPA/RIS)
2018-2022

Chisinau, 2021

The Assessment Report of the Action Plan for Active Aging 2018-2021 and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (MIPPA) was prepared at the request of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection with the support of UNFPA.

This Report does not necessarily provide for the views of UNFPA, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIPA	Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture
NAE	National Agency for Employment
AOPD	Alliance of Organizations for People with Disabilities of the Republic of Moldova
CPA	Central Public Administration
LPA	Local Public Administration
TAE	Territorial Agency for Employment
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
CEDA	Center for Entrepreneurial Education and Business Support
GGs	Gender & Generation Study (2020).
AAI	Active Aging Index
MARDE	The Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment
MECR	The Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
MEI	The Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure
MF	The Ministry of Finance
MLSP	The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection
MHLSP	The Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection
SDO	Sustainable Development Objectives
WHO	World Health Organization
UN	United Nations
LMO	Labor Market Observatory
NAP 2017	National action plan for 2017 for the implementation of the National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021
NNASM	National Network of Active Seniors from Moldova
NES	National Employment Strategy for 2017-2021 AAI Active Aging Index
UNDESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Executive summary

This report is an analysis of public policies on the older people of the Republic of Moldova and an assessment of the progress registered in the country after the adoption of MIPAA / RIS during the implementation of the fourth cycle.

The assessment is based on the:

- analysis of quantitative and qualitative data obtained during assessing national policies in the field of aging;
- secondary analysis of reports and studies on aging;
- qualitative research results - an integral part of the “top-down” assessment process (25 interviews with various actors: relevant national and local stakeholders; representatives of civil society involved in working with older people and promoting active aging, members of senior citizen initiative groups, older volunteers, the (including beneficiaries of implemented projects).

The report uses instrumental and final indicators, based on data provided by all stakeholders (national government bodies, local government, non-governmental organizations) on the actions taken to achieve the objectives of the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration (2017) and the implementation of MIPAA / RIS in the Republic Moldova during the years 2018-2021.

Based on official statistical data and the results of nationally representative sociological research, the Active Aging Index for the Republic of Moldova was calculated.

Public policies developed at central and local level have contributed to the improvement of the Active Aging Index, which has increased by 5.6% in 2020 compared to 2016. According to the estimates, the AAI scored 28.7 points in 2020, having increased compared to 2016 (the value of AAI is 27.1 points). Compared to the EU average of 36.8 points, the Republic of Moldova has a negative gap of 8 points. In the context of changes and progress in adjusting policies to the active aging principle, increasing the AAI by 25% in 2021, as a target result included in the objectives of the Action Plan on implementing the principle of active aging for 2018-2021 (which means that the AAI would reach 33.9 points), still has a low probability of achievement given the current economic development of the country and the socio-economic shock as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova allocated financial resources in order to apply the Action Plan on the implementation of the active aging principle for the years 2018-2021, which are reflected in the approved budget. The perspective of aging was integrated in several policy documents, including the "Moldova-2030" National Development Strategy.

Particular attention was paid to the integration of the aging perspective at the local level, with several local public authorities developing action plans in the field of aging. Small grants were awarded to 5 organizations, the total budget of the program amounted to MDL 132 thousand. The small grants program focused on integrating aging into policies, developing services for the older people, participation of older people and promoting volunteering and civic activism.

An important contribution to promoting the interests of the older people and implementing the MIPAA / RIS and the Aging Roadmap was the creation of the Active Aging Platform, which effectively cooperates with the MHLSP and civil society organizations. There is also an increase in the number of NGOs working with the older people in coordination with the Help Age International Moldova.

In order to develop mechanisms to stimulate population participation in decision-making, the concept of consulting the older people at the local level on integrating aging into development strategies, supporting volunteer initiatives and creating mutual support organizations for the older people was developed, the network of community mobilizers, aiming to provide support for the older people was created.

Upon assessing the implementation process of the Program for the integration of aging issues into policies and the related Action Plan (2018–2021), notwithstanding some progress achieved on all

reference commitments, the effort intensification of all involved stakeholders is still necessary through actions and financial resources allocated to meet the set objectives.

Recommendations:

- Developing a next action plan and (1) allocating a greater amount of financial resources to ensure action sustainability, (2) increasing institutions' liability on its implementation, given its multisector nature.
- Increasing the information level of the older people on existing programs in the field of active aging. Expanding the participation of the older people in volunteer activities.
- Excluding discriminatory provisions, particularly based on age, gender and retiree status from the legislation and implementing measures to encourage pre-retirees and retirees to remain active in the labor market.
- Digital literacy of the older people , development of training and education programs for the older people, free of charge or through some grants, including within ODIMM, creation of territorial employment agencies for obtaining entrepreneurial skills and competences.
- Promoting actions related to healthy aging, development and diversification of social, socio-medical and care services, ensuring the general coverage of the older people with health care, including by reducing discrepancies in access to health care by residence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has undermined, to some extent, the principles of active aging, and some measures violate the rights of the older people. Policies targeting the older people will return to the approach of active aging, being rethought based on the lessons taught by the COVID-19 pandemic. Anti-epidemic measures have to be correlated with the social adaptation measures for this age group.

Introduction

The older people population (aged 60 and older) constitutes more than 1/5 of the total population of the Republic of Moldova, and demographic forecasts¹ show that their share will increase in the coming years. The attention to the population aging and the need to develop policies resilient to this process is increasing. The assessment of the MIPAA / RIS implementation process during 2018-2021 and identification of successes and weaknesses is an important aspect in finalizing the measures to be taken in the next period, especially the implementation of the Decade for Healthy Aging (2021-2030), approved at the UN level² to which the Republic of Moldova should align.

General information

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National aging policy documents:

The program for integrating aging issues into policies, approved by Government Decision 406 of 02.06.2014

The action plan on the implementation of the active aging principle (2018-2021), approved by Government Decision no. 1147din 20.12.2017

1. National aging situation

The social, economic and demographic context of the Republic of Moldova has an important impact on the situation of the older people and the opportunities to use their potential. Economic, social and demographic dynamics, the well-being of the population, the functionality of state institutions and political stability largely determine the progress of the MIPAA / RIS implementation process.

The demographic context. *A continuous demographic trend of declining population and demographic aging persists in the Republic of Moldova*, which is determined by the negative natural increase and the high level of international migration. According to official data, the population with habitual residence decreased from 2.869 million in 2014 to 2.597 million in 2021 (Annexes, Table 1). *The demographic decline in the Republic of Moldova will continue at a fast pace.* According to

¹ Prepared by Demographic Research Center, 2021.

² The UN Resolution no.75/131. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/decade-of-healthy-ageing/decade-development/process-overview>; https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/decade-of-healthy-ageing/final-decade-proposal/decade-proposal-final-apr2020-en.pdf?sfvrsn=b4b75ebc_5

demographic forecasts for 2019-2040³ of the Demographic Research Center, the annual population decline will increase from 1.6% to 2.3% in the coming decades. Under the low scenario the population will decrease by 34.5% to 1754.6 thousand people by 2040. Only given the substantial reduction of migration, improved population health indicators and increased fertility, the size of the demographic decline can be reduced. Under the average scenario, the population will decrease by 1924.9 thousand (28.2%) and under the high scenario - by 2094.5 thousand (by 21.5%).

The Republic of Moldova is in the group of countries with a relatively low life expectancy. Life expectancy for men is 66.8 years old, and for women 75.1 years old (2019)⁴, which shows a discrepancy of 12 years and 9 years respectively compared to the longevity of life in the EU countries (men - 78.5 years and women 84.0 years⁵). There is a significant gap in the life expectancy of men and women, which is 8.3 years in favor of women (in the EU -5.5 years). It should be mentioned that life expectancy values are lower in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (65.9 years for men and 73.9 years for women)⁶.

The demographic aging rate is constantly increasing. The share of people aged over 65 increased between 2014 and 2020 from 10.9% to 14.4%. According to DRC forecasts, this phenomenon will have a magnitude in the coming decades; the share of this class will increase to 23-24% by 2040. The share of people aged 70 and over will increase from 8% to 17.2%.

The social and economic context. Although the main macroeconomic indicators have recently shown an upward trend, they are much lower compared to other countries (Annexes. Table 2).

GDP per capita, given the purchasing power parity, was about USD 13,000 in 2020, representing about 29% of the EU average and about 39% of the average in the Central European countries. Labor productivity in the national economy is low compared to other European countries in the region, which causes major discrepancies in household incomes. In 2019, over 25% of the total population is below the poverty line, and the extreme poverty rate is 10.7%. The rural population is at much higher risk of poverty than the urban population. The poverty rate in rural areas is 34.5% compared to 11.2% in urban areas.⁷

The political and institutional context. The development and implementation of demographic policies in 2007-2017, including those related to demographic aging, were coordinated by the National Committee for Population and Development, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, and the secretariat was facilitated by the Department of Demographic Policy of the Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family. After the liquidation of the position of Deputy Prime Minister for social issues due to Government reorganization, the Committee did not ever meet again in 2018-2021.

The main institutional actors involved in the decision-making process and the implementation of policies in demographic aging are the central and local public authorities. The Demographic Policy Division within the MHSP is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Program for the integration of aging issues into policies.

The MHLSP submits an annual report to the Government on applying the Action Plan on the implementation of the active aging principle, in accordance with the progress indicators set out in the plan. The Ministries do not currently have dedicated divisions / experts responsible for integration into aging into policies.

The policy-making process and the implementation of various actions are coordinated with stakeholders - other central and local public authorities, civil society - the Active Aging Platform (established in 2016, currently including 18 member entities, mostly public associations and continues

³ Developed based on NBS data on habitual residence population

⁴ Data provided by the National Bureau of Statistics, www.statistica.gov.md

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/main/data/database>

⁶ Average life expectancy in 2020. NBS press release. <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=7063>

⁷ Poverty level in the Republic of Moldova in 2019 <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=6865>

to operate as an independent, informal, apolitical entity⁸), HelpAge International Moldova, the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova, UNFPA, the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova and the National Confederation of Employers of Moldova and other partners. At the same time, each normative act developed is subject to public discussions.

2. Methodology

This report was developed based on the participatory “bottom-up” approach, pursuant to the recommendations and methodology proposed by UNDESA „Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging. Bottom-up participatory approach”⁹ and UNECE Guidelines for National Reports on MIPAA / RIS¹⁰.

The effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact, leadership and institutional management and human rights approach and some cross-cutting issues related to the implementation by the Republic of Moldova of the Roadmap on Aging and its action plan on integrating the aging principle in sectoral policies 2018-2021, approved by the Government¹¹, were also subject to assessment. The obtained results and the factors that facilitated / prevented the achievements were analyzed; the good practices and the lessons learned were documented. Recommendations were provided for the development of the new action plan.

Both the quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to assess the impact of policy actions. Within the limits of resources and data availability, a combination of data collection tools was applied in assessing the implementation of the MIPAA:

- analysis of the main documents (annual reports on the implementation of the aging roadmap and its action plan presented to the government, reports of the national authorities responsible for implementing the strategy);
- primary analysis of official statistical data and secondary analysis of various national studies on aging issues;
- carrying out the “the bottom up” qualitative study on assessing the implementation of the active aging principle¹²

As part of this assessment report, a qualitative research has been conducted, involving a participatory approach, which ensures the reflection of the perspectives of all partners and actors involved in the implementation of the Action Plan on applying the active aging principle (2018-2021). Thus, to ensure data triangulation, 25 semi-structured interviews were conducted with relevant actors at national and local level: representatives of ministries, local authorities, NGOs, organizations representing the interests of the older people population, members of senior initiative groups, the older people, including beneficiaries of programs / projects implemented by the MHLSP and donor partners. To conduct the qualitative study, key informants were selected in collaboration with representatives of MHLSP and UNFPA Moldova. Some of the older people beneficiaries were selected by recommendation during the interview process.

The main research questions of the qualitative study were structured in the context of reflecting the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the implemented actions and highlights their successes and failures, but also the priority areas and policies / programs that should be the strategic focus of the Government of Moldova within the „bottom-up” approach.

⁸ HelpAge International. Informative note, July 2021.

⁹ https://unece.org/DAM/pau/images/MIPAA_Review_guidelines_global.pdf

¹⁰ https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Review_and_appraisal/Guidelines_for_National_Reports-final_EN.pdf

¹¹ <https://msmps.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Raport-Plan-imbattranire-2020-final.pdf>

¹² The study was conducted by the Demographic Research Center, July-August, 2021.

3. 20 YEARS OF MIPAA/RIS

3.1. Recognizing the older people potential

Public policies developed at the central and local level have contributed to the improvement of the Active Aging Index, which for 2020 has increased by 5.6% compared to 2016. According to the estimates, the AAI scored of 28.7 points in 2020, registering an increase compared to 2016 (the AAI value was 27.1 points). Compared to the average in the EU countries where the value of the AAI is 36.8 points, the Republic of Moldova has a negative gap of 8 points. In the context of changes and progress in adjusting policies to the active aging principle, the 25% increase in the AAI as a result set for 2021 (which means that the AAI will reach 33.9 points) still has a low probability of achievement in the current economic development of country and social and economic shock as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The action plan on the implementation of the active aging principle for the years 2018-2021, a basic inter-sector document, aims to create and strengthen society with equal opportunities for people of all generations, based on the active aging principle. The objectives of the Plan are focused on: Integration, Participation, Sustainable Economic Development, Social Protection, Labor Market, Education and Lifelong Learning, Independent Living.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova was the first in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia to benefit from high-level technical advice and expertise of the International Population and Development Advisory Group. As a result, a new conceptual vision on population and development was formed with the support of UNFPA and validated by the National Committee for Population and Development, with a political mix of proactive and adaptive policy interventions, including in population aging.

For the implementation of the Action Plan for 2018-2021, the Government of the Republic of Moldova provided a budget in the amount of MDL 3790.0 thousand, 48.5% of which were from the state budget and 51.5% financed by social partners.

The Government allocated financial means in the amount of about USD 500.0 thousand from the state budget in 2018, for the implementation of the Generations and Gender Program, aiming at developing of a new policy framework relevant in addressing demographic challenges, including in the field of aging¹³.

The aging perspective has been integrated in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the National Employment Strategy, 2017-2021; in the Action Plan on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of the Youth Sector 2020; Draft Law for the approval of the National Development Strategy "Moldova-2030"¹⁴; in Government Decision no. 381/2019 on the approval of the National Program in Research and Innovation for 2020-2023 and the Action Plan on its implementation, which includes the strategic direction *Migration, diaspora and socio-demographic changes*, including research in the field of aging¹⁵.

With the support of development partners, the National Program for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Moldova was developed, including an Action Plan for the development of social entrepreneurship in the years 2021-2025.

The application of these normative acts will allow the older people to realize their potential in terms of physical, mental and social well-being throughout their lives, participating in and contributing to the community according to their abilities and needs¹⁶.

¹³ <https://msmps.gov.md/ro/content/consolidarea-capacitatilor-functionarilor-publici-privind-integrarea-imbatranirii-elaborarea>

¹⁴ https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/intr40_12_0.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=124073&lang=ro#

¹⁶ <https://mei.gov.md/ro/content/antreprenoriat-social>

With the support of UNFPA and UNDESA, a set of concepts was developed, which aimed to stimulate active aging programs at the local and private sector, as follows: The concept of age-appropriate jobs; The concept of the competency guarantee program; The concept of integrating aging and consulting the older people at the local level; The concept of the national training program for community mobilizers; The concept of the volunteer program for the older people.

During the policy-making process, public authorities consulted the Active Aging Platform. The platform currently brings together 18 public organizations involved at the national level in defending the interests of the older people, the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova, UNFPA, the Confederation of Trade Unions and Employers and other partners. At the same time, public consultations are organized when any normative act is developed. The good practices of involving the older people in the decision-making process at local level consist in the activity of the Older people Clubs; constructive dialogue between the organization of older people women and LPAs, etc.

Issues identified within the „bottom-up” study

Despite complex actions to adjust the national legislative framework and integrate the aging aspect into various policy documents, including at the sectoral level, the issue of implementation remains a weakness both due to lack of financial resources and weak coordination mechanism of cross-sectoral activities, and activities between the CPA and the LPA.

In order to encourage productive consultation with older people and their representatives, as well as their involvement at national, regional and local level in policy-making, the Concept of local consultation of older people was developed on integrating aging into development strategies, support in voluntary initiatives and creation of organizations for the mutual support of the older people. Pursuant to this Concept, 5 training sessions were organized for LPA in 2018, attended by about 100 people¹⁷. 30 good LPA practices of active involvement and consultation of the older people were documented, the total number of participants amounted to 160, including 116 women and 44 men. Expected result - the capacities of 160 LPA representatives on consultation with the older people were strengthened.

Law no.105 of 14.06.2018 on the employment promotion and unemployment insurance¹⁸ provides for diversified employment measures, given the situation in the labor market of the Republic of Moldova. The NAE, through the territorial subdivisions for employment, offers both information, intermediation, pre-dismissal, vocational rehabilitation services and services related to vocational training; subsidized employment or business start-up support. The call and communication center provides information to persons aged 50 and over regarding the vacancies, the registration procedure at TAEs, the protection measures in case of unemployment, vacancy filling terms, etc.

The Concept of the national program for community mobilizers was developed, which was consulted with HelpAge International and the non-governmental organizations of the Active Aging Platform. Comments were taken into account in the process of finalizing the concept. Responsible persons for community mobilization within 85 LPAs were appointed.

Methodological support for community mobilizers was provided in the process of setting up older people support groups. The network of older people community mobilizers was created and trainings were conducted in 2018 to discuss positive international and national models on community mobilization, to exchange experience on organized activities, collaboration with LPA. In 2020, through the network of community support organizations and groups, HelpAge International provided methodological support and technical assistance to maintain and ensure the continuity of activities, including outside projects in over 30 localities in the country.

¹⁷ <http://www.demografie.md/index.php?pag=news&opa=view&id=688&tip=noutate&start=110&l=>

¹⁸ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105474&lang=ro

Non-governmental organizations and the Government acknowledged the need for an Older people National Council and the MHLSP organized public consultations in this regard in 2019¹⁹. A Council concept was developed by HelpAge International and consulted with the MHLSP, followed by the support of the Austrian Embassy in Chisinau (project carried out by HelpAge International in May 2020 - July 2021). The members of the Council were identified and the first two meetings took place. Meanwhile, the next stage requires the establishment through a Government decision of a Government Council with exact duties in older people rights protection.

In order to form a positive image of the older people and recognize their contribution in the society, the MHLSP managed to launch a subsidiary program (in 5 editions) for NGOs, focused on the participation of the older people, promoting volunteering and civic activism, developing services for the older people, creating economic opportunities for the older people and supporting entrepreneurship among the older people. Out of 78 NGOs participating in the competition, small grants were awarded to 26 organizations involved in promoting active aging. In 2020, approximately 90 seniors were involved in volunteering actions within the activities implemented by the Small Grant-winning organizations in the field of active aging²⁰. The total budget of the Small Grants Program in the field of aging for the years 2018-2021 amounted to MDL 1 million.

HelpAge International, together with other partners, through the “Age of Action” campaign, annually supported the older people in the process of monitoring the implementation of national policies and claiming their rights. Three key events take place on an annual basis during the campaign in partnership with the MHLSP: April 7 - World Health Day; June 15 - World Day for Elder Abuse Awareness and October 1 - International Older people Day. Special activities are carried out, presenting a platform for older people, civil society, the media and other social actors to address issues related to aging, analyze the progress of integrating aging into policies and identify future directions of activity. The campaigns are carried out with the involvement of older volunteers, local volunteer networks. Thirteen local NGOs carried out several activities at local and national level within the campaign in 2019 with the support of HelpAge International. At the same time, with the participation of the MHLSP, at national level, the *Global AgeWatch Insights* report was launched as a general analysis of the progress in achieving the right to health of the older people.

Several state institutions participated in activities related to raising public awareness about age and discrimination against the older people, with the involvement of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (a total of 155 persons from 5 communities in Orhei district²¹), and with the participation of the Police Inspectorate in the event conducted in Soldanesti (a total of 70 persons from 5 communities in Soldanesti and Rezina districts). For a wider public coverage, a series of 3 TV spots²² produced by HelpAge International were broadcast on regional and national TV channels between 2018-2019, to inform the older people and their family members on how to recognize domestic abuse and violence, where to receive support and how to be better informed and protected.

At the regional and local level there is the development and wider involvement of senior community groups and specific NGOs in promoting active life in old age, including promoting the positive image of the older people through various cultural events, exhibitions, competitions, etc. (for

¹⁹ <http://www.demografie.md/index.php?pag=news&opa=view&id=692&tip=noutate&start=70&l>

²⁰ <http://demografie.md/index.php?pag=news&opa=view&id=744&tip=anunt&start=&l=>

²¹ <https://bit.ly/30nquPC>

²² Spot 1 <https://cutt.ly/3wsr7Lw>; Spot 2 <https://cutt.ly/4wstwijn>; Spot 3 <https://cutt.ly/Uwstrqt>

example Grandmother& Grandfather Fest, 4 editions²³). The consolidation of the community groups of seniors in the National Network of Active Seniors from Moldova²⁴ should also be mentioned.

Through the initiative of the General Inspectorate of Police, the "Careful Grandparents" Project was launched (since 2018), which uses the potential of the older people and promotes their volunteering through various activities (as pedestrian crossing attendants and traffic police trainees / trainers).

In order to encourage the volunteering of young people and the older people and ensure the dialogue between the generations, the concept of the Volunteer Program was developed, active seniors were selected, in collaboration with LPA and NGOs, who were trained and acquainted within 4 trainings with positive international and national models of organizing volunteer activities. A total of 111 persons were trained (18 men and 93 women).

The action *Promoting Volunteering and Intergenerational Dialogue* was included in 2020 in the National Strategy for the Development of the Youth Sector 2020 and the Action Plan on its implementation²⁵.

In order to implement the action plan, the MHLSP with the technical and financial support of UNDESA and UNFPA and in partnership with the National Council for Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination, launched the initiative to create the National Platform of Senior Volunteers. In December 4-16, 2019, public events were organized to present the volunteer program in 5 localities in the Republic of Moldova, training was organized for 426 seniors, and opportunities were presented for active involvement of seniors in volunteer programs, personal development, as well as partnerships with organizations and institutions dedicated to promoting the rights of the older people.

The National Network of Active Seniors of Moldova (NNASM) was created on December 20, 2019 as a non-state and apolitical organization, based on the voluntary participation and community of interests of its members, the older people, a communication platform and exchange of experience on active and healthy aging among the older people. The founders of the NNASM are 12 community groups of seniors from the northern and central region of the country in the 6 districts that had been developed²⁶.

3.2. **Encouraging longer working life and ability to work.** According to the Active Aging Index, a quarter of the population aged 55 and over is employed. In this field, the Republic of Moldova accumulated 24.4 points in 2020, with a slight increase compared to 2016 (24.2 points). At the same time, there is a slight increase in the share of economically active older people after retirement - 23% in 2020.

The Concept of Older people Friendly Jobs has been developed, which provides for a new approach to working conditions, productivity and work organization, stimulating and increasing the motivation of employment among the older people, measures to prevent age-based discrimination. Pursuant to this Concept, the capacities of 5 companies regarding the creation of older people -friendly jobs were strengthened.

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/BunicaBunelulFest/>

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/senioriactivi.md>

²⁵ Approved by the Government Decision no.1 / 2020 for the amendment of annex no.2 to the Government Decision no.1006 / 2014

²⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/senioriactivi.md>

The testing of older people - friendly work practices was organized in 30 companies / institutions from the Republic of Moldova in 2019. Upon the testing, it was found that despite some progress, 2/3 of the organizations tested did not meet the needs of the older people at all or almost not at all and only a third was characterized by an older people - friendly environment. The findings of this test are reflected in *the Voluntary National Assessment Report of the Program on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*²⁷, which also includes recommendations on improving the situation in ensuring an older people - friendly work environment.

In order to combat unemployment at any age, reduce financial inequality and poverty, take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, employment support measures have been taken for jobseekers, the unemployed and other categories of people, requiring additional support in the labor market. Law no. 105/2018 on the promotion of employment was adopted (effective since 10.02.2019) which provides for new services and diversified employment measures for the mentioned categories²⁸. According to art. 23 of this Law, the unemployed and other categories subject to the risk of social exclusion, including persons aged 50, may benefit from services and employment measures offered by NAE. Persons aged 50 and over are granted monthly allowances in the amount of 30% of the average monthly salary in the economy for the previous year, for a period of 6 months, for each unemployed person that has been employed.

According to data of 2020, the NAE together with the TAE provided services to 79.2 thousand people looking for a job without unemployment status, 19.4% of which (or 15.4 thousand) were people aged 55 -63 years²⁹. An increase in this share has been registered in the recent years (in 2019, according to the indicator available for the older people (55-65 years), the share was 17%)³⁰.

The older people are mainly engaged in agricultural activities - every third declaring the peasant household or agricultural land as the main place of work and every fourth person specifying social services, particularly rendered by the state.

The subsidies provided by the Agency for Intervention and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA) are older people -friendly. AIPA received 7505 applications for financial support for 4476 unique agricultural producers in 2019, and the amount of subsidies requested exceeded MDL 1183.0 million. Out of the total grant applicants, 28.4% were people aged 51-65 years (14.9% of which were women) and 7.5% were people aged 66 and over (28.5% of which were women).

In order to promote the development of lifelong learning opportunities, the Concept of the Adult Competence Guarantee Program was developed and the NAE support was provided in its testing.

The increase in the share of adults involved in lifelong learning activities has been recently registered. It was 2%³¹ for the population aged 55 and over in 2020. The indicator amounted to only 0.3%³² in 2016.

²⁷ https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/vnr_2020_ro.pdf, p.70-71

²⁸ https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105474&lang=ro

²⁹ Activity report of the National Agency for Employment for 2020. https://www.anofm.md/view_document?nid=19608; <https://www.anofm.md/ro/node/74>

³⁰ Activity report of the National Agency for Employment for 2019 https://www.anofm.md/view_document?nid=19387

³¹ *Generation and Gender Study (2020). The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics (sample development), UNFPA, NIDI-GGP (partner and data distributor)*

³² The Active Aging Index 2016. Policy Paper. (Buciuceanu-Vrabie M.). INCE, UNFPA, 2016

During 2019, HelpAge International provided the MECR with support in developing the public policy document on adult education through lifelong learning and adapting the education system to the aging process. In this regard, the Ministry created a working group in April 2019, which developed the draft Concept of Adult Education, to be submitted for public consultation.

The Partnership Center for Development drafted the report “The uncertain path to adult qualification (analysis of lifelong learning inequalities in the Republic of Moldova) within the project “Civil society contributes to the social and economic development of the country” in 2020. The project is implemented by the Eastern European Foundation in partnership with the Partnership Center for Development, the European Business Association, HelpAge International and the Center for Innovation and Social Development, funded by the European Union and co-financed by Sweden³³.

Five Continuous Education Centers for the Older people were created, conducting trainings for the older people on using modern information technologies and information activities on the rights of the older people, craft workshops were created, seminars were organized on employment and self-employment opportunities for the older people. Volunteer activities and activities to promote a healthy lifestyle among the older people were also organized.

The purpose of the centers is the importance of promoting continuous education (accumulation of knowledge for the older people) which would provide them with additional income. 138 people were trained in various fields within the project in these Centers. About 30 older people actively participate in activities and are officially employed in the Centers.

For more coherence in attitudes and actions, in terms of lifelong learning, HelpAge International and Twinning Project, in collaboration with external partners in the projects, developed the public policy document “The program on adult education within lifelong learning” which was an obligation assumed by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The draft Program has been finalized and is to be approved.

Persistent issues:

The underdeveloped labor market of the Republic of Moldova, insufficiency / lack of jobs, especially in rural areas is a major barrier for extension of the economic activity of the population having reached the retirement age, and for preventing early retirement.

Although the Concept of Adult Education was developed, it was not approved, so there is no regulatory framework for organizing the education of adults and the older people, which would ensure the conditions for continuous education, including in the workplace, which helps workers to adapt quickly to ever-changing environment. The benefits of adult education, especially for the older people, are not fully acknowledged. Although various actions in older people education are being planned, especially at the local level, they are not ever implemented.

3.3. Ensuring aging with dignity

Based on the composite indicators of the Active Aging Index 2020, every second person among the population aged 55 and over has an independent, healthy and safe life. However, as a component of the AAI, this area accumulated a more modest score (53.6 points) compared to 2016 (55.6 points) (Annex 1: Active Aging Indicators).

Within the Active Aging Index 2020, the progress achieved in terms of Capacity and favorable environment for active aging in recent years is noticeable, the country accumulating about 51 points compared to 45.4 points estimated for the AAI in 2016 (Annex 1: Active Aging Indicators 2020).

³³ https://eef.md/media/files/files/raport_educatia_adultilor_2020-cpd_8175375.pdf

Based on the results of the GGS study, 66.3% of the population aged 55 and over have access to *health and dental care*. Given the pandemic, we could assume an underestimation of the indicator, but compared to 2016, the situation does not register significant changes in terms of older people access to health care.

A quarter of the population aged 55 and over (24.1%) in 2020 practiced *activities related to sports* (walking and walking, running, gymnastics, fitness and other physical exercises)³⁴ on a daily basis. This indicator increased compared to 2016 when it was 14.7%³⁵.

Pursuant to Law on Compulsory Health Insurance no. 1585/1998, the older people (retired and disabled) are part of the Government insured categories.

The unified compulsory health insurance program (GD no. 1378/2016) provides for the complex annual assessment of the health status of the older people for the early detection of diseases requiring integrated care, in order to promote a healthy aging, and for organization of community and home health care and community mental health care provided by community mental health centers.

Since 2010, a standardized geriatric assessment, a form for assessing older people patients, updated regulations for the activities of the National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, Geriatrics and Internal Medicine with geriatric beds, indications and contraindications for hospitalization, job descriptions of all participants in the provision of geriatric medical services have been introduced in the activities of the geriatric service in the country.

HelpAge International and the member organizations of the Active Aging Platform, carried out during the reported period, within several projects activities to raise public awareness about the importance of preventing cardiovascular disease and promoting a healthy lifestyle (public lessons conducted by experts, free blood pressure measurement activities, distribution of information materials), including on the occasion of World Heart Day and also outside the thematic events. For example, in the project "Promoting healthy and active aging in old age", implemented by HelpAge International in Moldova funded by World Jewish Relief, between 29.11.2019-2.12.2019, health clubs on the diagnosis and care of cardiovascular diseases specific to the older people were conducted.

The MHLSP with the support of the „Healthy Living” project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, has achieved a relevant progressive result in piloting a Practical Integrated Care Concept for improved management of non-communicable diseases, the development of a Regulation for Integrated Community Care and rights for the Community Nursing Activity (CNA) regulatory framework, including the Occupational Profile and the standard for qualification as basic / pre-employment training. Given the health care needs, the PEN protocols focused on the management of non-communicable priority diseases were developed and implemented in 10 pilot districts.

In close collaboration with the social partners and based on an in-depth analysis of the PHC system and community care services in the social sector, a concept of integrated care has been developed, in line with the WHO patient-centered approach to integrated care. The concept and preliminary health profiles developed were used to support 3 multidisciplinary rational teams to develop integrated care plans. They generated two models of integrated care led by the health or social sectors with the contribution of existing resources in PHC, social services, NGOs and LPA facilities to provide a wider range of services required by people with NTB. The coordination and monitoring of the implementation were assumed by the District Public Health Councils.

The draft Regulation for Integrated Community Assistance was proposed for approval to 3 District Councils involved in piloting the integrated care model. The Regulation of activity of integrated services was approved by the Decision of the District Council in one of the three pilot districts (Falesti district) till the end of 2020. In order to develop the capacities of those involved in

³⁴ Based on the results of the GGS 2020

³⁵ Active Aging Index 2016. Policy Paper.

the process and to establish an efficient management in the field of integrated care, seminars are organized on basic elements of integrated care, organizational culture and individual-centered approach, involving experts from the International Foundation for Integrated Care.

4. HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

4.1. Contribution of aging policies to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Objectives

The nationalization stage of the 2030 Agenda took place in the Republic of Moldova between July 2016 and February 2017³⁶. In 2019, the nationalized SDO indicators were revised to assess their availability and the level of their compliance with the global list of SDO indicators³⁷. We mention that 34% of the indicators are fully available, 30% - partially available, 18% - are missing, the rest of them are calculated internationally.

The Republic of Moldova presented the National Voluntary Assessment Report for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda³⁸, to the United Nations High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in July 2020 according to Provision no. 235-d / 2019 of the Government of the Republic of Moldova³⁹. According to the report, the Republic of Moldova has made significant progress in achieving SDOs 1, 8, 13 and 17, but the expected results of achieving SDOs 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are moderate. Despite efforts to develop all areas of society, the impact on SDOs 4, 6, 10, 12, 15 and 16 is still insignificant.

Under the assessment exercise we can see the challenges related to monitoring the implementation of the active aging principle and correlation to SDOs: data availability, including insufficient data disaggregated by demographic and socio-economic characteristics to identify "those left behind" and those vulnerable to multiple depravity (about 19% of all nationalized SDO indicators are disaggregated by age and over 21% by gender and place of residence); the lack of detailed data on poverty and its forms hinders effective policy analysis and evidence-based decision-making; inequalities and issues in accessing health care, mainly caused by informal payments, for the population, vulnerable groups, including the older people, and the rural population (SDO 3); Challenges are reported regarding gender disparities in ensuring a decent life, both labor market integration and income inequality (SDOs 4, 5, 8).

In line with the 2030 Agenda⁴⁰, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has developed an inclusive and comprehensive national framework for the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030". It highlights the commitment to create the necessary conditions for using the potential of each person, regardless of age, place of residence, sex, ethnicity, disability, religion or other differences.

In the context of the demographic changes that the Republic of Moldova is going through and of the forecasts until 2030, the direct impact of improving the quality of life of the people on the capitalization of the second demographic dividend⁴¹ is accentuated. Practically all the ten strategic dimensions⁴² and the priorities outlined in the Strategy emphasize the vulnerability of older people citizens.

³⁶ Adapting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to the context of the Republic of Moldova. Government of the Republic of Moldova, UN Moldova, 2017.

<https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/library/sdg/nationalizarea-agendei-de-dezvoltare-durabil-in-contextul-republ/adaptarea-agendei-2030-de-dezvoltarea-durabil-la-contextul-repub/>

³⁷ <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=6306&idc=605>

³⁸ REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW Progress Report 2020.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26344VNR_2020_Moldova_Report_English.pdf

³⁹ http://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118400&lang=ro

⁴⁰ *National Development Strategy „Moldova 2030”*.

https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/strategia_moldova_2030_redactata_parl.pdf

⁴¹ Demographics matter. What is the impact of population dynamics on the economy of the Republic of Moldova? UNFPA and Expert-Grup, 2017.

⁴² income level; living conditions; working conditions; level of education; health status; social climate; use of time; quality of governance; public safety and security; environmental quality.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova developed a new Action Plan in 2017 on the implementation of the active aging principle (2018-2021), in accordance with the Program for integrating aging issues into policies⁴³. Although the Program and the Plan do not refer to the 2030 Agenda, as they are a continuation of the commitments in the implementation of MIPAA / RIS, they still indirectly correlate with the established objectives of ensuring a society for all ages and prioritize the promotion of quality of life and enlargement measures for older people participation in social and economic life.

The National Health Strategy 2030 sets the importance of the objective - to ensure healthy aging and independent living, including for the older people. Aiming to develop the health care system in the long-run in accordance with SDO 2030, the MHLSP has launched public consultations on the draft Strategy in December 2020. Within the project "Integrating active aging in public policies in the Republic of Moldova"⁴⁴, HelpAge International Moldova and the Active Aging Platform analyzed the draft Strategy in terms of the specific needs of the older people ⁴⁵, identifying areas that could be improved in accordance with international policies (good governance, health public service delivery), emphasizing the importance of integrating the active and healthy aging principle in the set directions and the age criterion monitoring progress indicators.

Several contextual indicators of the Active Aging Index are relevant for eight of the 17 nationalized SDOs (Annex 2: Table 4.1) such as the objectives of eradicating poverty, good health, gender equality, growth and decent work, reducing inequalities and development of sustainable living environments.

The most obvious progress in achieving the nationalized SDOs reflected by the composite indicators of active aging are as follows: strengthening ICT skills (SDO 17) - by 2020, every second person aged 55 and over will use internet on a weekly basis; promoting lifelong learning opportunities (SDO 4) - the share of people aged 55-74 involved in lifelong learning activities is low (2%), but have been increasing for the last years; ensuring a healthy life and promoting the well-being of all people at all ages (SDO 3) - practically nine out of ten people aged 55 and over evoke good mental health, and 2/3 confirm access to health care when needed.

In the context of population aging, sustainable development is associated with the active participation of older generations in the economy, the labor market (SDO 8) and society in general (SDO 16), including through the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment (SDO 5). The connection to these SDOs is sporadic, the older people being disadvantaged in this respect: employment rates remain low, respectively income, and the standard of living is marked by poverty and physical insecurity. Gender inequality takes on a multilateral aspect in the case of older people women characterized by occupational, material, financial and physical vulnerability.

4.2. Lessons learned from managing the consequences and impact of emergencies on people: the COVID-19 pandemic

The national system has only been partially prepared for public health emergencies. The speed and effectiveness of COVID-19 infection prevention measures undertaken by state institutions were

⁴³ Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no.1147 of 20.12.2017 on completing the Program for the integration of aging issues in policies. [Monitorul Oficial al RM, 2018, nr.1-6, art.01, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102497&lang=ro](https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=102497&lang=ro)

⁴⁴ Implemented with the support of the Eastern European Foundation, in partnership with the "Partnership for Development" Center, from resources provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Sweden. https://eef.md/media/files/files/nota_analitica-proiectul_sns_2030_3536841.pdf

⁴⁵ Analytical note for a better integration of the needs of the older people in the project of the National Health Strategy 2030. HelpAge, Chisinau 2020

crucial. Some measures have had a positive effect and have helped to improve the situation of the older people, specifically: continuous provision of pensions and social benefits, including their distribution at home, providing medical consultations by phone, extending the term of disability ex officio, information campaigns on COVID-19, placement of information with contact details of key people in the locality. Other measures taken by the state were counterproductive and had the effect of worsening the situation and quality of life of the older people. To note some of them we can mention: the restriction to leave home for people aged 63 and over, disproportionately large fines for non-compliance with restrictions, reducing the time spent by social workers at the home of the older people⁴⁶.

During the action launched by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Moldova in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection, 300 women and men over the age of 65 from the Republic of Moldova received packages of basic hygiene and food products on the eve of the Easter holidays and also information materials on protection measures against COVID-19. These people also benefited from emotional support provided by a team of 15 young volunteers from the Youth Centers and the National Network of Local Youth Councils. The action was organized with the aim of stimulating social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and supported national efforts to protect the older people, including through the involvement of the younger generation.

Between March and December 2020, HelpAge International, through its network of local initiative organizations and groups, supported about 1555 older people at risk, 75% of whom almost were older people women. At the local level, 13 partner organizations were involved, which distributed the material support provided to the older people (hygiene packages, food packages and protection products, such as masks, gloves and disinfectants) and monitored the situation of the older people. Out of about 1555 older people - 16.4% received home care, over 93% received hot lunches or food packages, 56% received hygienic materials. More than 19,000 older people have been systematically and adequately informed, in order to prevent their misinformation, on health risks and protective measures against COVID-19.

Lessons learned from managing the consequences and impact of the emergency on the older people in the COVID-19 pandemic:

Even if all the resources of the health care system of the Republic of Moldova were diverted to fight the virus in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, they were not enough to cover all the needs that arose during the emergency. This highlights the need to increase investment in health care, including the strengthening of health services for the older people.

Differences in access to health services in the community exacerbate health inequalities in the population. The older people in rural areas and district centers had less access to medical services during the pandemic, even when infecting with COVID-19, and some difficulties / deficiencies were found in consulting doctors and treating the disease.

The resilience of the older people in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic was determined by individual / family resources, especially in case of infection and the need for special treatment. This indicates the need to develop support for families with the older people or caregivers of the older people.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are associated with a worsening of the health of the older people, especially those who have been infected with the virus, which implies the need to expand recovery and psychological care services for this category of population, mapping them and monitoring their health condition during the recovery period.

⁴⁶ Report on COVID-19 infection response measures (January-December 2020)]. <https://msmps.gov.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Raport-COVID.pdf> ; Qualitative study: Mitigation of the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on Family. CDR, Chisinau, 2021;

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the older people refer to an unfair and immature system of protection and social assistance in various crisis situations. There is a need to develop age-friendly social and economic policies, with an emphasis on developing a dialogue between generations.

4.3. Activities in preparing and implementing the WHO Decade for Healthy Aging 2020-2030

The commitments of the Republic of Moldova and the priority directions for the development of the health care system, including the organization of health care for the older people, are stipulated in the Health Care Law no. 411/1995 with subsequent amendments and completions, National Health Policy, Health System Development Strategy, “Moldova 2030” National Development Strategy. A reliable and well-prepared integrated care system will meet the individual health needs of Sustainable Development Objective 3 (ensuring a healthy life and promoting the well-being of all people at all ages).

All departmental and interdepartmental documents on health care provided to the population provide for the provision of the same range of services for the older people, at the same level of quality and standard of care, including adequate diagnostic and early intervention services and services designed to prevent the risk of other disabilities, based on the principles of non - discrimination, accessibility, equality between men and women, respect for the dignity and independence of persons.

In order to improve the quality of geriatric services provided to the older people population, the way of forming multidisciplinary medical teams is examined. The core of the geriatric team includes the geriatrician, the geriatric nurse, the social worker and, if necessary, the pharmacologist, the physiotherapist, the dietician, the psychiatrist and other specialists. As a result of the hospital reform, in about 30 district hospitals, geriatric wards of 30-40 beds of average length of stay (1-4 months) were opened for older people patients with chronic co-morbidities, dependent, fragile, solitary that require geriatric care.

At the same time, international experience and European standards for the promotion of geriatric recovery services are examined, such as: physical therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapy, social recovery, etc., including integration with home health care services.

In order to reduce the number of hospitalizations, including repeated ones, of older people patients, which entail significant financial costs, the implementation of standards for home care services was initiated (Order no. 851/2013 "On the approval of the National Standard of Home Health Care Services"), mainly for persons aged over 65. These activities promote joint actions in partnership with active NGOs in the field: Home Care, Help Age International, Caritas Moldova, Angelus Moldova, CasMed, etc.

Conclusions and recommendations for future

The implementation of the International Action Plan on Aging in the Republic of Moldova has had an important impact on the situation of the older people, such as: activating the potential of the older people in various areas of social, economic and cultural life; adjusting the legislative framework by integrating aging issues into sectoral policies; expanding activities related to promoting aging at the local level; creation of the Active Aging Platform and strengthening cooperation between the Government (the MLSP) and the associative sector; expanding community models of social service provision; strengthening inter and intra generational relations;

The issue of population aging and the promotion of active aging are on the political agenda of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the adoption and development of a relevant regulatory framework, creation of an institutional mechanism for managing demographic processes, including aging. The action plan regarding the implementation of the active aging principle for the years 2018-2021 represents a complex document with inter-sector connection, ensuring a basic legal framework for consolidating the process of integration of the older people in society. For the first time, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has allocated internal resources for its implementation, from the budgets of the institutions responsible for implementation, which are reflected in the approved budget. However, the precarious socio-economic situation, insufficient financial resources, as well as political instability during the reporting period and especially weak implementation mechanisms have undermined the 2018-2021 MIPAA / RIS implementation process at some extent.

The continuous support from UNFPA and UNDESA, other donors offered in the process of implementing various activities related to the promotion of active aging, information and empowerment of the older people have allowed the expansion of the number of projects for the older people. An important contribution to promoting the interests of older people and to the implementation of the MIPAA / RIS and the Aging Roadmap has led to the creation of the Platform for Active Aging, which effectively coordinates with the MHLSP and civil society organizations.

The main directions for improving public policies for the older people:

- Development of a next action plan and (1) allocation of several financial resources that would ensure the sustainability of the actions, (2) increasing accountability of several ministries and institutions for its implementation, given its multi-sector nature.
- Increasing the level of information of the older people regarding existing programs and grants in the field of active aging. Expanding the participation of the older people in volunteer activities.
- Elimination of discriminatory provisions, especially on the basis of age, gender and pensioner status, and implementation of measures to encourage pre-retirees and retirees to remain active in the labor market.
- Digital literacy of the older people population, development of training and education programs for the older, free of charge or through some subsidies, including within ODIMM, territorial employment agencies for obtaining entrepreneurial skills and competences.
- Promoting actions related to healthy aging, development and diversification of social, socio-medical and care services, ensuring the general coverage of the older people population with health care services, including by reducing discrepancies in accessing health care services by residence.

Annex 1: Active Aging Indexes 2020

	Active Aging Indexes 2020		
	Total	Men	Women
Employment rate (55-59 years), %	52.9	55.1	50.6
Employment rate (60-64 years), %	28.1	40.4	18.3
Employment rate (65-69 years), %	10.1	12.4	8.4
Employment rate (70-74 years), %	6.6	8.8	5.2
Domain 1_AAI: Employment (points/score)	24.4	29.2	20.6
	Total	Men	Women
Volunteering, %	2.8	3.1	2.6
Care of grandchildren (and children),%	22.1	17.9	25.3
Care of the older people ,%	15.5	13.1	17.3
Political participation, %	10.7	15.8	7
Domain 2_AAI: Participation in society (points / score)	13	12.3	13.6
	Total	Men	Women
Physical exercises, %	24.1	25.2	23.3
Access to health and dental care,%	66.3	72.2	62.03
Independent living,%	66.3	72.1	54.5
Relative median income,%	71.6	78.1	66.7
No risk of poverty,%	83.7	89.1	80.5
No material depravity,%	43.5	50.7	38.2
Physical security,%	47.6	56.7	38.9
Lifelong learning,%	2	2	2
Domain 3_AAI: Independent, healthy and safe life (points / score)	53.8	59	48.3
	Total	Men	Women
Life expectancy (LE) share remaining at age 55,%	41.7	36.54	46.92
Healthy life expectancy share at age 55 in the remaining LE,%	43.9	44.1	43.7
Mental well-being,%	88.6	91.6	86.5
Use of ICT,%	52.5	56.3	49.9
Social connection,%	27.1	31.8	23.7
Level of education, %	73.4	79.8	68.6
Domain 4_AAI: Capacity and favorable environment for active aging (points / score)	50.9	51.1	51.3

The evolution of the score of the Active Aging Index and its composite domains between 2016 and 2020

		Total	Men	Women
Domain 1_AAI: Employment (points/score)	2016	24.2	30.6	19.5
	2020	24.4	29.2	20.6
	Comparative evolution of the score for 2016 and 2020	0.3	-1.4	1.1
	2016	10.4	8.8	11.3
	2020	13.0	12.3	13.6

Domain 2_AAI: Participation in society (points / score)	Comparative evolution of the score for 2016 and 2020	2.6	3.6	2.3
Domain 3_AAI: Independent, healthy and safe life (points / score)	2016	55.6	58.9	53.8
	2020	53.8	59.0	48.3
	Comparative evolution of the score for 2016 and 2020	-1.9	0.1	-5.5
Domain 4_AAI: Capacity and favorable environment for active aging (points / score)	2016	45.4	44.8	46.3
	2020	50.9	51.1	51.3
	Comparative evolution of the score for 2016 and 2020	5.5	6.2	5.0
2016 AAI		27.1	29.2	25.7
2020 AAI		28.7	30.6	27.1

Annex 2

Table 4.1. Active aging indicators * relevant to the Sustainable Development Objectives

	<i>Active Aging Indicators that correlate with the SDOs</i>		
		2016	2020
SDO 1: Eradicating poverty in all its forms and in all contexts (1.2)	No risk of poverty	84.1	83.7
SDO 3: Ensuring a healthy life and promoting the well-being of all people at any age (3.4.1; 3.4.2; 3.5; 3.8)	Access to health and dental care (3.8)	72.6	66.3
	Life expectancy (LE) remaining at the age of 55 (3.4.1)	43.2	41.7
	Share of healthy life expectancy at the age of 55 in the remaining LE (3.5)	66.4	43.9
	Mental well-being (3.4.2)	62.1	88.6
SDO 4: Ensuring quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all people (4.3; 4.4)	Lifelong learning (4.3; 4.4)	0.3	2.0
	Level of education (4.3)	51.1	73.4
SDO 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (5.4; 5.5)	Caring for grandchildren (5.4)	31.0	22.1
	Caring for the older people (5.4)	3.8	15.5
	Political participation (5.5)	1.9	10.7
SDO 8: Promoting sustained, open and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all people (8.5)	Employment rate for the population aged 55-74 years (8.5)	55-59 years – 49%; 60-64 years – 27.6%; 65-69 years – 13.4%; 70-74 years – 6.6%	55-59 years – 52.9%; 60-64 years – 28.1%; 65-69 years – 10.1%; 70-74 years – 6.6%
SDO 10: Reducing inequalities within and across countries (10.2)	Relative median income (10.2)	56.2	71.6
	No material depravity (10.2)	57.4	43.5

SDO 11: Developing cities and human settlements so that they are open to all, safe, resilient and sustainable (11.7)	Physical safety	53.2	47.6
SDO 16: Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and the creation of efficient, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (16.1; 16.7)	Physical safety (16.1); Political participation (16.7)		
SDO 17: Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (17.8.1)	Use of ICT (17.8.1)	3.7	52.5

* reported to population aged 55 and over

Source: compiled from AAI: Linkages with SDGs. UNECE 2018. (Kharitonova O.) and Adapting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the context of the Republic of Moldova. Government of the Republic of Moldova, UN Moldova, 2017

Annex 3

Table 1: Demographic indicators, 2017-2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of population with habitual residence, thousands (as of January 1)	2780.0	2730.4	2681.7	2640.4
Total fertility rate, children per woman of childbearing age	1.87	1.82	1.77	1.78
Life expectancy at birth, men, years	66.7	66.3	66.8	65.9
Life expectancy at birth, women, years	75.0	75.0	75.1	73.9
Demographic aging rate, 60% +	19.2	20	21.8	22,5
Demographic burden	66.5	69.4	67.5	69.3
Net migration, thousands	-49,4	-47.3	-38,2	-36,8

Source: NBS, data are presented without Transnistria and Bender municipality

Table 2: The main macroeconomic indicators, 2017-2020

	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP, current prices, billions of MDL	178,9	192,5	210,4	206,4
GDP per capita, USD *	3511,4	4230,4	4494,6	4512,7 ¹
Consumer price index,% average	106,6	103,0	104,8	103,8
Remittances, million USD **	1638,9	1837,4	1909,63	1876,45
Remittances relative to GDP,% ***	16,9	16,0	16,0	15,7
Employment rate (15+),% ****	42,4	44,5	40,1	38,8
Unemployment rate (15+),% ****	3,9	2,9	5,1	3,8
Absolute poverty rate,% (according to the new methodology) *****	27,7	23,0	25,2	26,8
¹ preliminary data				

Source: NBS; * INCE calculations, **, *** INCE calculations based on the NBM data (Payment account), www.bnm.md

Table 3: Dynamics of the main indicators of employment of the older people for 2015-2021

Indicator	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	55-64 years	65 years and over	55-64 years	65 years and over	55-64 years	65 years and over	55-64 years	65 years and over
Activity rate	43,8	10,6	45,6	12,3	46,9	12,7	49,4	17,5
men	54,1	14,1	56,5	16,3	58,1	16,2	59,4	22,1
Women	35,4	8,4	37,0	9,9	37,8	10,6	41,3	14,6
Urban	41,4	6,5	41,4	7,6	43,4	8,3	42,6	7,2
Rural	45,5	13,7	48,6	15,9	49,1	16,2	53,1	24,5
Employment rate	42,8	10,6	44,8	12,3	46,0	12,7	48,5	17,4
men	52,4	14,0	55,0	16,3	56,4	16,2	58,1	21,9
Women	34,9	8,4	36,7	9,9	37,5	10,6	40,6	14,6
Urban	40,0	6,5	40,0	7,6	41,8	8,3	40,7	7,0
Rural	44,7	13,6	48,1	15,9	48,7	16,2	52,8	24,5
	2019		2020		2021, I quarter		2021, II quarter	
Activity rate	42,2	7,6	41,7	6,6	42,2	5,2	44,4	4,4
men	50,5	10,1	50,1	8,5	49,6	7,1	52,8	5,7
Women	35,2	6,0	34,2	5,4	35,0	4,1	36,9	3,7
Urban	44,9	8,7	44,3	9,2	46,4	9,0	48,5	6,0
Rural	40,7	6,9	40,3	5,0	40,1	3,3	42,3	3,6
Employment rate	40,5	7,6	40,5	6,5	40,6	5,2	43,3	4,4
men	47,9	10,1	48,1	8,4	46,9	7,1	51,1	5,7
Women	34,3	6,0	33,7	5,4	34,6	4,1	36,3	3,7
Urban	43,0	8,7	42,5	9,2	44,4	9,0	46,5	6,0
Rural	39,2	6,9	39,4	4,9	38,8	3,3	41,7	3,6

Source: www.statistica.md; <https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=7007>

Table 4. Employment of unemployed aged 55 and over

	Registered, pers.	Employed, pers.	Share of employed compared to number of registered persons
2018	8941	3045	34,1
2019	9263	2646	28,6
2020	15551	2532	16,3
2021, I quarter	3506	510	14,5
Total 2015 -2021, I quarter	37261	8735	23,4

Source: www.anofm.md

Table 5: The main characteristics of age-based retirees

	Beginning of the year						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of age-based retirees, thousand pers.	507,5	518,8	531,8	533,0	526,7	524,5	522,8

The average size of the age-based retirees, MDL	1114,7	1191,8	1301,14	1456,9	1643,7	1843,0	2067,5
The average size of the established monthly pension, MDL	1087,6	1165,2	1275,2	1527,9	1709,2	1901,1	2104,5
Number of age-based retirees in the agricultural sector, thousand pers.	199,0	195,9	193,9	190,0	182,8	176,0	170,0
The average size of the monthly pension established in the agricultural sector, MDL	924,3	1 007,3	1 093,7	1 208,8	1 289,1	1 447,4	1522,2
Number of age-based retirees in the non-agricultural sector, thousand pers.	308,4	322,9	337,9	343,0	343,8	348,5	352,8
The average size of the monthly pension established in the non-agricultural sector, MDL	1221,5	1303,8	1420,2	1594,2	1832,4	2042,7	2330,4
Number of persons who have reached retirement age and the size of the state social allowance (persons who do not meet the necessary conditions for obtaining the right to a pension).							
Number of beneficiaries of state allowances, pers.	4986	5652	6596	7421	8170	9046	10393
The amount of the state social allowance, MDL	119,5	129,1	142,1	153,8	204,6	215,6	570,8
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The share of employed retirees, %							
Total for the RM	22,5	23,0	23,3	23,3	23,0	23,4	23,7
Mun. Chisinau	37,8	37,5	37,2	36,8	36,2	36,1	35,6
Northern region	18,1	18,7	19,2	19,1	18,9	19,2	19,6
Central region	18,3	19,0	19,5	19,6	19,2	20,0	20,6
Southern region	18,5	19,0	19,1	19,0	18,6	18,8	19,4
ATU Gagauzia	21,3	22,0	22,1	22,7	23,2	23,5	23,9
Pension indexation coefficient, %	7,95	10,1	6,8	6,6	5,3	4,83% since 01.04.2020 1,07% since 01.10.2020	
Share of retirees receiving minimum pensions, %*							
Total for the RM	19,7	20,9	15,3	16,1	...	...
Mun. Chisinau	7,7	8,1	5,5	4,9	...	...
Northern region	17,6	18,6	13,1	14,2	...	...
Central region	26,8	28,6	20,9	22,1	...	...
Southern region	26,8	28,5	23,4	25,1	...	...
ATU Gagauzia	23,2	24,7	15,9	16,7	...	...

Source: NBS.

Note: * The share of retirees receiving minimum pensions - the decrease in number of these retirees took place under Law no. 254 of 22.11.2018

Table 6: Poverty and the minimum subsistence of the older people population

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total absolute poverty rate in Moldova	25,4	26,4	27,7	23,0	25,2	26,8
The threshold of absolute poverty, MDL	1709,8	1819,2	1939,3	1998,4	2095,1	...
Total extreme poverty rate in Moldova	10,5	10,4	11,0	8,7	10,7	10,8
Extreme poverty threshold, MDL	1378,9	1467,2	1564,0	1611,7	1689,7	
Absolute poverty rate by age groups of the head of the household,* %						

People aged 50-59	27,7	25,0	26,4	23,6	22,0	26,2
People aged 60-64	24,7	31,9	30,6	22,9	28,8	28,5
People aged 65 and over	31,4	34,3	34,8	29,4	40,8	41,1
Absolute poverty rate after retirement as a main source of income	29,8	32,7	34,6	28,9	38,3	39,5
Absolute poverty rate for one person aged 60 years and over	27,1	31,7	27,2	24,3	38,1	...
Absolute poverty rate for family couple without children, head of the family aged 60 and over	28,0	29,5	30,1	24,8	32,6	...
The minimum subsistence in RM, MDL	1734,1	1799,2	1862,4	1891,0	2031,2	2088,4
The minimum subsistence of the pensioner, MDL**	1437,4	1494,8	1547,5	1574,2	1707,4	1759,8
The average size of the age-based pension, MDL	1191,8	1301,1	1 456,9	1 643,7	1 843,0	2067,5
Correlation between average age-based pension and subsistence minimum,%	82,9	87,0	94,1	104,4	107,9	117,5
Ratio between average age-based pension and absolute poverty line,%	69,7	71,5	75,1	82,3	88,0	...
Correlation between average age-based pension and extreme poverty line,%	86,4	88,7	93,1	102,0	109,1	...

Source: NBS.

Note: * Starting with 2019, the data are not comparable with the previous period, because the CBGC methodology was modified

** 2015-2018 - the estimation of the indicators regarding the subsistence minimum was based on the number of the stable population

2019-2020 - for estimating the subsistence minimum, the number of the population with habitual residence was used.

Table 7: Social assistance for the older people and persons unable to work

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of home care departments	99	68	68	71	77	...
Number of social workers	2143	2085	2290	2151	2056	...
Number of served older people and disabled people, thousands of persons.	20,2	19,8	21,2	19,4	18,5	....

Source: <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&id=2193&idc=263>