

Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

The state social policy of the Republic of Belarus in relation to the older persons is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other UN documents.

Belarus joined the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the Regional Strategy for its Implementation (2002), the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration “A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the Potential of Living Longer” (2017).

The country is implementing the **National Strategy of the Republic of Belarus "Active Longevity - 2030"**, which is aimed at achievement of the following results:

- improvement of state policy and legislation adopted in relation to older citizens, ensuring an intersectoral and interdepartmental approach to solving the problems of ageing;
- strengthening social cohesion and strengthening intergenerational ties to create a society for all ages;
- rethinking the role of older citizens in society and promoting the image of healthy ageing, including in the media;
- improving the material well-being and social protection of older citizens;
- expansion of opportunities for training and employment of citizens of pre-retirement and retirement age, as well as non-formal education of older citizens;
- improving health, reducing the level of morbidity and disability among older citizens, improving the efficiency of medical care, including geriatric care, for older citizens;
- improving the quality and accessibility of social services for senior citizens;
- creation of infrastructure and living environment adapted to the needs of older citizens.

The result of the implementation of the National Strategy should be the creation of conditions for independent and full-fledged life of older citizens, a sustainable increase in the duration, level and quality of their life, active and healthy longevity, strengthening ties between generations.

Belarusian Government created **conditions for the active participation of older people in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country.**

In 2021, in order to involve senior citizens in the decision-making process in all regions of the republic, **140 councils of senior citizens** have been created under local authorities; more than **1.3 thousand people** are involved in their activities.

Public associations of veterans are actively working. One of the largest is the **Belarusian Public Association of Veterans**. Its tasks include protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of veterans, participating in the socio-political life of the country, developing proposals for the social protection of veterans, improving the financial situation, housing conditions, medical, cultural and other types of services for veterans, war and labor invalids.

Elderly women participate in the work of the public association "**Belarusian Women's Union**", which unites almost 140 thousand women in the country. The main areas of activity are strengthening the capacity and empowerment of women, promoting intergenerational solidarity.

In Belarus, age discrimination (ageism) is not widespread.

According to the results of the sociological study "Needs, interests and quality of life of the population of Belarus aged 55 years and older" (2019), in the Republic of Belarus, 72.3 percent of people over the age of 55 are convinced that the rights of citizens of this age group are fully or are more likely to be respected.

In Belarusian society, a new vision of the old age as **the age of new opportunities** is gradually formed.

The national strategy also defines the information policy for older people. One of the priority areas of action is the **formation of a positive image of an elderly person in the media, informing society about the importance of the quality of life of older people**.

To this end, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Belarus, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is developing an **Information Strategy on Active Ageing for 2022-2024**.