

14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Guiding questions for the focus area on “accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)”

Regarding the housing of older persons, a Housing Allowance is granted, under certain conditions, to uninsured, and economically disadvantaged older people, as well as couples of uninsured and economically disadvantaged older people.

Regarding policies enhancing independent living of the elderly, home-based care is provided in our country through "Help at Home" services provided by local authorities.

In addition, home care services for older persons are provided through the "Home Care for Pensioners" programme, established in 2012. The beneficiaries of the programme are elderly people who have reached the age of 78 or have a certified disability of more than 67%, are pensioners of the country's social security funds, meet certain income criteria and reside alone or with another person who meets the conditions set for the programme. The programme is currently funded from the resources of e-National Social Security Fund (e-EFKA) and serves a small number of beneficiaries. The programme is currently being reconsidered in the context of the broader long-term care policy which is being drafted.

Regarding accessibility to public transport, Greece is launching a policy to promote electric mobility. In this regard, the State budget (Antonis Tritsis Programme) has financed 59 projects with 20-25 million euros from 2020 to date, in order to create infrastructure to enhance electric mobility. A provision for seats for the persons with mobility limitations in the electric buses/mini vans has been set as a prerequisite for financing.

Regarding accessibility to beaches, Greece, as a country with a coastline of an extremely extended length, is particularly interested in sustainable sea tourism. Thus, under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, businesses and Municipalities benefit from a budget of 17.136.800,00 euros for the improvement and modification of accessibility to Greek beaches and related facilities, in order to ensure safe and easy access to the destination for all visitors. To this end, it funds the development of semi-permanent infrastructure interventions on the country's beaches in order to improve accessibility for people with reduced mobility or people with disabilities in general. Moreover, in the context of the Antonis Tritsis programme, 5 projects for the facilitation of accessing beaches have been financed with a budget of 400.000 euros.

Regarding air transport services, Hellenic Aviation Service Provider (HASP), as the managing Authority of 25 State Airports, implements the European Regulation 1107/2006, concerning “the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility, when travelling by air”, as well as the Document 30 of the European Conference for Civil Aviation (ECAC) and the National law regarding accessibility to buildings and infrastructure. The Regulation prohibits air carriers from denying reservations or boarding of passengers on the grounds of their reduced mobility or disability.

According to article 2a of the above Regulation, “ ‘disabled person’ or ‘person with reduced mobility’ means any person whose mobility, when using transport, is reduced due to any physical disability (sensory or locomotor, permanent or temporary), intellectual disability or impairment, or any other cause of disability, or age, and whose situation needs appropriate

attention and the adaptation to his or her particular needs during the service made available to all passengers". Therefore, aged people, who have reduced mobility or some other cause (mental, Alzheimer's, dementia, weakness) are legally considered as Persons with Disabilities (PWD) or persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) and the requested assistance is provided at the airports. Through a tender process, HASP has signed a contract with PRM Service Providers, who have the necessary trained staff and adequate/proper equipment (e.g. wheelchairs) in order to provide the appropriate assistance to PRMs. Ramps have also been built at the airports to facilitate the transportation.

According to article 15 of EC regulation 1107/2006 a **complaint procedure** is available. Information on the services provided and the procedure for submitting complaints can be found on the website of HASP.