**VIET NAM ASSOCIATION OF THE ELDERLY (VAE)**

**Submission on education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building (3rd topic)**

**National Legal Framework**

1. *In your country/region, how is the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building in older age guaranteed in legal and policy framework?*

The right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building in older age is recognized in:

1. **The Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, amended in 2013,** concretely:

* Article 39: Citizens have the right and the duty to learn.

1. **The Law on the Elderly 39/2009/QH12**

* Article 3 (Section I). Rights and obligations of older people:

1. Older people (OP) have the following rights:

d/ favourable opportunities to participate in cultural, educational, physical, sports, entertainment, tourist and recreation activities;

đ/ favourable opportunities to work that is suitable to their health and abilities in order to bring into full play their role;

* Article 24 (Section III). Responsibility in Promoting the role of OP.

1. **State** has duty to have programs or activities for OP to promote their role that is suitable with their capacity.
2. Facilitate opportunities for OP to take part in sharing their skill and knowledge (on economy, culture, society, science and traditional works for young generation), especially in case OP are willing to contribution.

2. **Government, VAE, organizations, family and** citizens have duty to facilitate conditions for OP in doing promoting activities.

**3) The National Action Program for the Older People (Period 2012 - 2020):**

IV. Main activities.

1. Promoting the role of the OP:

c. Facilitating OP who are scientists, artisans or with specially skilled and experienced to continue contributing and disseminating their knowledge of culture, society, science, technology and professional skills to the young generation; being pioneers and core factors in the building a knowledgeable society and studious families;

**Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability**

1. *What are the key issues and challenges faced by older persons in your country/region with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building services[[1]](#footnote-2)?*

The key issues and challenges faced by OP in our country with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building services are:

* + Low priority: OP receive low priority in the allocation of funds and opportunities which relate to quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity building services.
  + Lack of funding resource: Funding resource to ensure OP have full access to quality education, training, life-long learning and capacity building is still very limited
  + Ageism: Awareness on the need for OP to continue to have access to quality education, training and life-long learning is still low understanding of education, training, lifelong learning for OP.

*3. What steps have been taken to ensure that education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building services are available and accessible to all older persons, adapted to their needs, suited to their preferences and motivations, and of high quality?*

The steps that Vietnam have taken to ensure the education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building services for OP are:

* Establish the Vietnam Association for Promoting Education (VAPE) with OP active participation.
* VAE signed partnership program with VAPE (2018-2021) to ensure OP access to life long-learning.
* National movement to promote the role of OP in Vietnam
* Increase awareness on the important of enabling OP to have access to life-long learning and capacity-building (propaganda, organize training for OP).
* The national proposal for replication of ISHCs, the model that promote life- long learning and capacity building for older people, is approved by the Prime Minister (Decision 1533-TTg, 2 Aug 2016)

However, the life-long learning and capacity-building services for OP are still given low priority.

1. *In your country/region, are there studies and/or data available on the access of older persons to the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building in older age?*

Currently, in Vietnam, the studies/data on education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building in older age are still very few.

* The Intergenerational Self-help Clubs (ISHCs): A number of studies have been conducted by HelpAge International, OXFORD and UNFPA on the ISHCs roles in promoting OP access to life-long learning.
* There are some national surveys or report on education in general but they do not have any data on OP education, such as:

**-** Result of the Viet Nam household living standards survey 2014:

[www.gso.gov.vn/default\_en.aspx?tabid=515&idmid=&ItemID=18411](http://  www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=515&idmid=&ItemID=18411;)

**-** National report on the development and state of the art of Adult learning and education:

<https://uil.unesco.org/fileadmin/multimedia/uil/confintea/pdf/National_Reports/Asia%20-%20Pacific/Vietnam.pdf>

* There is only UNFPA Vietnam report on Aging which refers on OP eduction (page 23): [https://vietnam.unfpa.org/.../ageing-population-viet-nam-current-status..](https://www.google.com.vn/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi7qeeZyJngAhXYfXAKHQH9DoMQFjAAegQIChAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fvietnam.unfpa.org%2Fen%2Fpublications%2Fageing-population-viet-nam-current-status-prognosis-and-possible-policy-responses&usg=AOvVaw0PJrm-cwI2WcHTqNq1_5yj)

**Equality and non-discrimination**

1. *In your country, is age one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination in relation to education in older age?*

Yes, according to the Law for the Elderly, age is one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination relative to education in older age.

**Accountability**

1. *What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older person to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building?*
   * Vietnam is one of a few countries in the region that has national Association for the Elderly (VAE). Around 90% of the OP population is VAE members (10 million members). VAE has staff and offices throughout the country.
   * Due to this nationwide setup, OP can lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building via judicial mechanism (local authority offices) or non - judicial mechanism (mass organizations such as VAE, ISHCs) fairly easy.
   * Vietnam also has National Committee on Ageing which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minster, which meets regularly to review the implementation of Laws and Policy that provide care and promote the role of OP:

+ When older people use all of these different mechanisms, most of their complaints are successfully resolved.

+ VAE has national wide network which represent OP voices, and responsible for protecting OP;

+ VAE Chair is VNCA Vice-Chair, and we use this channel to advocate and influence the matters of VAE and OP’s concerns.

1. Including for example: Literacy and numeracy programmes; adult education; vocational and professional training; higher education; information and communication technologies (ICT); and informal, recreational and community-based programmes, including volunteering. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)