

UNECE Input to the Eleventh Working Session of the United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Focus Area: Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market

UNECE member States committed in the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration to the goal of *encouraging longer working life and ability to work* by:

- Recognizing the potential embedded in the employment of older workers and developing labour market strategies to promote maximum participation opportunities for workers of all ages;
- Fostering access to and promoting lifelong learning opportunities and development of skills as a prerequisite of an active and fulfilling life at all ages;
- Developing strategies to fight unemployment at all ages, reducing financial inequalities and poverty, taking up measures to reduce the gender pay gap as well as other gender inequalities, and preventing age-related discrimination in employment;
- Encouraging employers to value the experience of, and to retain and hire, older workers, promoting age management in both the public and private sectors, and supporting age adapted, safe, health-promoting, and flexible working conditions throughout the entire working life;
- Providing incentives for longer working life opportunities and more flexible retirement choices and fostering alternatives to early retirement including, but not limited to, rehabilitation, reintegration into work and flexible employment options to retain older workers;
- Planning and implementing pension reforms, as far as not yet done, that take into account the increasing longevity and the extension of working lives, to ensure intergenerational fairness as well as the sustainability and adequacy of pension systems;
- Facilitating the reconciliation of employment and care work, providing access to flexible working arrangements and appropriate care services, and promoting an equal division of care work between women and men, while considering a possibility to account for the time spent on tasks of family care in the calculation of the old-age pension.

Policy progress in the UNECE region on the goal of enabling a longer working life and the ability to work – third appraisal and review of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in 2017

The regional synthesis report based on 45 national reports submitted for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action and its Regional Implementation Strategy in the UNECE region, provides information on progress towards the goal of longer working life and the ability to work during the period 2012 to 2016/2017 on pages 44 – 49 of the proceedings. The Statistical Annex provides data on the participation in the labour market of women and men on pages 86 – 99 of the proceedings.

The Proceedings of the 2017 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which contain the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, Synthesis Report and Statistical Annex are available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=48046&L=0>

Several issues of the UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing series are addressing the challenge of access to the labour market. The following are particularly relevant:

- Policy Brief No. 22 on the challenging roles of informal carers (2019)
- Policy Brief No. 21 on Combating ageism in the world of work (2019)
- Policy Brief No. 19 on Realizing the potential of living longer (2017)
- Policy Brief No. 13 on Active Ageing (2012)
- Policy Brief No. 9 on Age-friendly employment: policies and practice (2011)

All policies briefs, which are co-produced with members of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing, are available on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>

Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Capacity-Building

Relevant extracts from the 2017 Synthesis Report on this theme were already provided in our 2018 input. Table A8c of the Statistical Annex on page 112 of the proceedings provides data on the percentage of persons aged 55-74 involved in training or education.

In March 2019, at the Roundtable on SDG4 “Learning without limits” at the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region, case studies on digital inclusion in Austria, France and Germany were presented. These are described in a short article on the UNECE website available at <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/population/2019/advancing-digital-and-social-inclusion-through-intergenerational-learning-and-empowerment/doc.html>

The following UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing address the topic of lifelong learning:

- Policy Brief No. 19 on Realizing the potential of living longer (2017)
- Policy Brief No. 5 on Lifelong Learning

<https://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>

Social protection and social security

Relevant extracts from the 2017 Synthesis Report on this theme were already provided in our 2018 input. Tables A8A (percentage of persons aged 55 and above who report no unmet need for medical and dental examination or treatment); Table A8b on financial security of the Statistical Annex of the proceedings provide data on relevant indicators.

MIPAA Meets SDG1 – Responses to old-age poverty in the UNECE region

On the occasion of the 56th Session of the Commission of Social Development that took place from 29 January to 7 February 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the UNECE Working Group on Ageing held a side event exploring how the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy can contribute to the implementation of SDG1 (on eradicating poverty). Austria, France and Norway shared policy strategies addressing the risk of old-age poverty through inclusive policies and the promotion of active ageing. The presentation and a summary of the side event are available on the UNECE website:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47964>

UNECE Policy Briefs on Ageing address aspects of social protection and social security:

- Policy Brief No. 22 on the challenging roles of informal carers (2019) covers the question of social protection of informal carers
- Policy Brief No. 2 on Gender equality, work and old age (2009) and forthcoming Policy Brief No. 23 on Ageing and Gender equality cover gender pension gaps.

<https://www.unece.org/population/ageing/policybriefs.html>

The Active Ageing Index includes indicators on employment, lifelong learning, and social protection of older persons

The most recent data is presented in the 2018 Active Ageing Index Analytical Report available on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/population/aai.html>