« Adapting society to ageing »: recent reforms in France in favour of the rights of the Elderly.

Alexis Rinckenbach, Chef du bureau des affaires européennes et internationales, Direction générale de la cohésion sociale, Ministère des affaires sociales et de la santé, Paris, France

OEWGA 7, Panel 1.
Recent developments and initiatives
13 December 2016. 3-6 PM
Age Structure in Europe in 2014

Source: Eurostat data
1 out of 5 people are over 60 years old in 2016
1 out of 3 in 2060

2012 : 1,4 million persons over 85
2020: 2,1 million = +66% in 7 years
2050 : 4,8 million

2012 : 740 000 dependent persons over 75
2025: 920 000 = +25% in 12 years
The Law “on the adaptation of society”, 28 December 2015

- A holistic approach to population ageing
- Focusing not on dependency but autonomy
- Addressing key issues: health promotion, urban planning, transports, housing, volunteering opportunities, “silver economy”, social protection, ...
France promotes a comprehensive approach by optimization - multiagency, multidisciplinary and coordinated - which makes use of all the already available tools resting on the existing standards and which ensure their effective enforcement.

A global strategy based on three key principles (“triple A”):  

- Anticipation  
- Adaptation  
- Accompaniment
With three key objectives:

- Mobilize all sectors of society, in order to strengthen prevention, optimize the care system;
- Provide Seniors quality and tailored solutions for their needs, notably regarding housing: improving conditions to remain at home for longer; increased home services and lower costs for beneficiaries; right to respite for informal caregivers;
- Strengthen Seniors’ Rights.
Mobilize all sectors of society (1/2)

- Plan national pour une politique de médicament adaptée aux besoins des personnes âgées

National action plan for drugs taking into account the age of patients and precisely adapted to the specific medical needs of each age group

- Monalisa : mobilisation nationale de lutte contre l’isolement des âgés (MONALISA)
Mobilize all sectors of society (2/2)

- Integration of the problems of ageing in the local programs of housing environment and in schemes of urban transport

WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

- A substantial financial commitment, resting on national solidarity

Supplementary withholding Solidarity tax (Contribution additionnelle de solidarité, CASA): 700 M. euros /year

“Conferences of funders” at the local level (conférence des financeurs)
Accompany and assist the elderly in their life course (1/3)
Accompany and assist the elderly in their life course (2/3)

- Reform of the homecare financing schemes: the Personal Autonomy Allowance (APA)

- Development of intermediary housing: 110,000 elders living in 2,000 assisted living projects across the country

  + “budgetary package” for prevention measures: 40M. euros

  + buildings’ renovation scheme: 50 M. euros
Accompany and assist the elderly in their life course (3/3)

- Facilitate and support family and friend caregivers

4.3 M. caregivers; average age: 60; 60% women

- Establishing family and friend leave; setting up «time off» solutions; recognition of the status of the “close caregiver” and developing support and training
October 6th: National Day of Helpers
Promoting the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

- For a better application of the general law
- Reinforced procedure of collection of consent when entering a retirement home; improved transparency of the information about the offer and the cost of accommodation; official Internet portal "for the elderly"
- Preventing and fighting ill-treatment, in particular financial abuses
- New rights for old immigrants over 65
Merci beaucoup !