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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dear Readers of Families International,

This double issue contains, amongst others, the official recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly, of a United Nations Expert Group Meeting, held in New York on 15 – 17 May 2012, organised by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Division for Social Policy and Development, entitled “Good Practices in Family Policy Making: Family Policy Development, Monitoring and Implementation: Lessons Learnt” convened as part of the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014, and which was attended by the Secretary of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family and Editor of this Bulletin.

The issue further includes the text of a draft Resolution of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family from November 2012, as well as reports from Member Organisations of the Committee, and recent and upcoming events of interest.

With kind regards,

Dr. phil. Peter Crowley

Editor

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News from the United Nations

United Nations

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Nations Unies



General Assembly

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21 November 2012

Sixty-seventh session

Third Committee

Agenda item 27 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Algeria: revised draft resolution

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009 and 66/126 of 19 December 2011, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations confer-

ences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development, Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency and regional cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in

advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

1. Encourages Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. Invites Governments and regional intergovernmental entities to provide for more systematic national and regional data on family well-being and to identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments, including the exchange of information on good policies and practices;

3. Urges Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

4. Encourages Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies and programmes that address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational issues and to share good practices in those areas;

5. Also encourages Member States to promote the delivery of family centred benefits, such as social protection and social transfer programmes to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

6. Further encourages Member States to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements in order to improve work-family balance;

7. Encourages Member States to support social integration and intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection assistance and investments in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes for youth and older persons and mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

8. Urges Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are

essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;

9. Invites Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

10. Invites Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

11. Invites Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, regional commissions, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to share good practices and data on family policy development;

12. Invites Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

13. Encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue research activities and provide assistance to countries, upon their request;

14. Recommends that United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at all levels;

16. Decides to consider the topic "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

¹ A/67/61-E/2012/3.

United Nations

Nation Unies



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development**

Recommendations

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting,
New York
15 – 17 May 2012**

**“Good Practices in Family Policy Making:
Family Policy Development, Monitoring and Implementation: Lessons Learnt”
Convened as part of the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of
the Family, 2014**

Preamble

Family policies and programmes should be consistent with existing international standards, including Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as relevant International Labour Organization’s Convention.

Family-friendly policies should be based on the principles of gender equity, non-discrimination and best interest of the child and other family members. They should take into account family diversity and family conditions.

All member states have a responsibility to invest in families and develop sound policies and programmes that support families and benefit society.

Promoting good practices in family policy making is an opportunity to make informed and sound decisions about policies and programmes that support families, intergenerational relations and benefit society.

With the family as the basis of society, all member states have a responsibility to invest in families by conducting research on them, teaching about them at different educational levels and developing sound family policies.

All relevant stakeholders such as Governments, civil society, private sector and academic institutions should contribute to multidisciplinary teamwork in family policy development, provision of comprehensive and integrated social services and programmes as part of policy implementation, and conduct thorough family policy assessments.

Countries already implementing family policies should be encouraged to provide support to other countries in developing effective explicit family policies and in applying a family perspective when designing, implementing and assessing social policies.

Activities in support of issues noted above would promote the well-being of families, which in turn would contribute to fostering democratic, stable and cohesive societies.

Family policy development and good practice promotion

Develop family policy on the basis of sound, comprehensive empirical research on families.

Ensure that family policies have clearly stated goals and evaluation schedules.

Conduct longitudinal assessments of family policies, their implementation and their impact using multiple methods (quantitative, qualitative) and multiple respondents (e.g., parents, grandparents, children).

Improve data collection, monitoring, research and analysis on family forms and living standards, especially on populations missing from traditional surveys. At the local level, examine the complexities of domestic situations in poor families in order to design effective policies and render assistance before any punitive measures against parents might be applied.

Develop appropriate indicators and practical methodologies for assessing the direct and indirect effects of family-focused policies and programmes on overall family well-being.

Introduce transparent and effective mechanisms to ensure public accountability for family policies at national level.

Improve partnerships between relevant stakeholders, including Governments, academia and civil society in family policy development, implementation and evaluation.

Promote regional networks for research and information exchange on policy and programme options, as well as on experiences and good practices to assist in developing national contextualized family policies aimed at addressing family well-being in general, and family poverty and social exclusion in particular.

Report on family policy developments, implementation and assessments in the international arena, so that policymakers can learn from different experiences.

Share knowledge of good practices from different regions of the world to facilitate the development of guidelines for effective extension and delivery of family-focused programmes and services.

Ensure the participation of families from diverse sections of society in designing, monitoring and evaluating family-focused policies through appropriate mechanisms.

Family law

Further family law to expand women's rights, promote fair custody rights in the best interest of the child and ensure that access to resources is gender neutral.

Educate women and men about their rights and obligations under family law through national campaigns and literacy training.

Ensure family law enforcement at the national level through training of judges and monitoring of court decisions especially in rural and underprivileged urban areas.

Strengthen the social as opposed to legal contract (e.g. providing supports when neglect is due to lack of means or other social constraints.)

Ensure that immigration policies do not separate or endanger families.

Promote family reunification and prevent family break-ups by eliminating discrimination on the basis of disability in immigration and refugee legislation and policy.

Family-oriented policies and programmes

Work-family balance

Public policy relevant to working families

Extend maternity leave, paternity leave, and parental leave, with financing and eligibility mechanisms that reduce gender disparities and maximize coverage. Develop mechanisms to extend the coverage of these regulations to informal employment sectors. Ensure that leave is of adequate duration and with adequate income replacement.

Ensure that leave is available to meet the health and educational needs of children and youth, and the health and care needs of older adults. Ensure maximum of consideration for the needs of family members with disabilities or other special needs.

Promote family-friendly work hours, including special attention to evening, night, and rotating shifts, in the public and private sectors in order to accommodate household and family needs. Generate mechanisms that facilitate the implementation of work-family balance measures in small and medium-sized companies.

Ensure workplace protection for working families in the informal economy and in precarious work situations such as casual, temporary, and part-time employment contracts, through which workers commonly earn less and have access to fewer workplace protections.

Prioritize social investment in care services for children, adults in need and older persons. Promote initiatives for the extension of the school day when beneficial to the child and/ or provision of out-of-school activities, as well as the extension of high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE). Expand the supply of high-quality care for under-three year olds. Provide high-quality, affordable, appropriate, and accessible care options for older persons.

Provide care in intergenerational settings, when possible, to ease the burden on families caring for children, older persons and those with special needs or disability.

Increase collaboration across government ministries on work-family balance policies (e.g. between Ministries of Health, Labour, Gender Equity, Finance, Children, Social Justice, Education, etc.) and across government, employers, unions and community organizations.

Include work-family issues in major relevant United Nations initiatives such as global social protection floor, Global Compact, relevant family provisions of conventions, etc.

Examine and implement the best practices in portfolio of legal obligations and incentives to encourage the development of more effective and improved work-family policies.

Data, monitoring and evaluation of work-family policies and programmes

United Nations agencies in collaboration with other international organizations should collect and make readily available information on Government and private sector progress in work and family issues.

These transparent measurements would provide information for accountability purposes and for countries and companies seeking to improve work-family balance and (a) measure the existence and implementation of country-wide relevant laws and policies and (b) collect and assess company-level information on work-family balance policies and practices.

The international community, national governments and research/academic bodies should generate and share information that examines the social and economic benefits of work-family balance schemes. A collaborative effort of United Nations agencies, other international organizations academic institutions, and civil society actors can also make a difference by creating a readily accessible policy tool kit, including the compilation and dissemination of information on

work-family policy measures among countries and corporations (good practices, legislation, economic cases, and implementation results).

Employers

Endeavour to make workplace culture more family-friendly so workers can utilize different options available to them.

Take account of and respect employees' family needs to build up an effective profile and assess priority areas for support in their workplace.

Use imaginative and effective ways to lead and model workplace cultural change towards improved work-family balance, in particular by Chief Executive Officers and supervisors.

Formulate creative methods to communicate written formal and informal work-family practices and policies within the workplace, including podcasts, blogs, tweets as well as traditional manual and notice-board methods.

Invest in team skills training of managers involved in work-family implementation.

Family poverty and social exclusion

In efforts to alleviate family poverty, focus on the family as a unit, taking into account that the interdependence between family members and proper investment in children is necessary to improve living standards, bolster human development and break intergenerational transfer of poverty.

Ensure that family-oriented social policies are gender-sensitive, given that gender inequality and associated labour market and educational disadvantages play a major role in causing and perpetuating poverty.

Ensure that families, especially the most vulnerable, have access to social services and social protection for which they are eligible.

Invest in children in the early years and throughout childhood to promote human development, and avoid personal and social costs later in life.

Ensure that child support systems have straightforward payment procedures, and maximize coverage so that absent parents enjoy their rights and undertake the responsibilities required of them.

Detailed data collection, measurement and evaluation are necessary to capture the needs of all family members to improve anti-poverty policy, including for those groups often missing from standard survey data collection (e.g. children with disabilities or grandparents raising grandchildren).

Provide information and guidance to help families to exercise choice over, and make decisions

about, the benefits and services for all family members.

Ensure respect for the legal capacity of adults who have a disability and the right to make their own decisions about the benefits they receive.

When relevant, combine public works programmes with skills training and information to workers to aid their search for employment and/or to promote self-employment at the end of such programmes.

Prioritize social policies that promote access to good quality and stable employment as well as complementary services, such as tax-based initiatives, conditional cash transfers or in-kind services depending on national priorities.

Encourage all employers to offer part-time employment opportunities and flexible working hours while keeping equivalent labour standards of full-time jobs in place. This would contribute to making employment opportunities accessible to all families, including those with young children or sole parents.

Provide a range of social policies and programmes for families with persons with disabilities after consultation with persons with disabilities, their families and their representative organizations. Ensure that receipt of these benefits does not disqualify families from other benefits for which they would normally be eligible.

Maximize coverage and quality of all-inclusive, affordable childcare, early childhood education, and health services for children.

Improve housing conditions and infrastructure services for families with children.

Intergenerational issues

Given the importance of intergenerational perspectives in family policy design, Governments are encouraged to integrate intergenerational aspects into their policies and programmes.

Create or strengthen ministries or ombudspersons at the national level responsible for using an intergenerational lens to review policies and practices, in order to ensure that they are designed so that all generations are viewed and engaged as

resources for and deserving of support from families, communities and each other.

Initiate or improve supports and services for parents, grandparents, and other adults caring for older persons and family members with disabilities.

Encourage the allocation of public and private funds towards more intergenerational programmes, shared sites or centers and educational opportunities for people of all ages.

Ensure that academic institutions provide programmes in gerontology and the study of the life conditions of older persons in different life situations.

Assess the impact of socio-economic policies on intergenerational solidarity as an essential element of policy design and implementation.

Raise awareness of the importance of intergenerational solidarity through celebrations, festivals, and holidays while increasing opportunities for intergenerational collaboration.

Recognize grandparents as caregivers and care recipients, given the extended life span in most world regions.

Educate across the lifespan to raise awareness of intergenerational issues.

Invest in parents during each stage of their children's development (this includes but is not limited to investment in parenting education), and in parallel invest in direct services for parents.

Promote parenting education and research on parenting, especially on parent's relationships, the role of fathers and co-parenting (within policy settings, academic institutions, civil society, etc.) as well as research and education on caregiving for older persons and family members with disabilities.

Ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable housing designed for multigenerational households, including grandparents and other relatives raising children, as well as older persons and family members with disabilities in need of care themselves.

News from Member Organisations

International Council of Women as reported by Eleonore Hauer-Rona, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna:

The General Assembly of the International Council of Women was held from 17 - 22 September in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting was a big event in the history of ICW with almost 400 full or partial participants and observers from about 80 countries. Numerous partial participants and observers were representatives of NGOs which had been invited by NCW Korea and sponsored by governmental training programs, by Koica and various institutes.

The Theme was "Progress for Women is Progress for All". The ICW - President was re-elected.

The 33rd ICW-CIF General Assembly
17-22 September 2012
Seoul, Korea

SEOUL DECLARATION

1. We, the women participating in the 33rd ICW-CIF General Assembly, gathered here in Seoul on 17-22 September 2012 on the occasion of ICW-CIF 124th anniversary, with the theme of "Progress for Women is Progress for All," concerned about the outcomes of upcoming +20 conferences, urge the Member States of the United Nations to make an evaluation of the implementation of the commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

2. What has been achieved? What are the challenges they still have to realize by 2015? Included in the evaluation and monitoring should be their commitments to the ICPD Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, Human Rights Agenda, CEDAW, Security Council Resolution 1325.

3. We urge Women's Organizations (International), NGOs, to make the commitment to monitor the above issues by making shadow reports.

4. In particular, we urge the monitoring of commitments regarding:

- BPfA: the IO "Critical areas of concern" of the BPfA: leadership of women, participation and decision making
- MDGs: especially No. 3, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as the Cross-cutting goal
- ICPD: Sexual Reproductive Rights, harmful practices/FGM
- Human Rights: "Women's Rights are Human Rights"
- CEDAW including the Optional Protocols and other Conventions

- SCR 1325: involvement of women in peace prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict situations and in National Action Plans.

5. We note the following emerging issues to respond from a gender perspective:

- Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Food Security
- Water Sanitation
- Economic and Financial Crisis Effects

We are determined to;

6. Make concerted efforts to increase women's representation in decision making so that no more than 60% of both genders are represented at all levels of society, including the National and Local Assemblies, Government Cabinets, as well as private corporations.

7. Ensure that sexual crimes such as rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment and stalking are considered as violation of women's human rights to dignity that should be subject to heavy penalty, and urge governments to make it compulsory for Internet Service Providers to block pornography at source.

8. Pay special attention to rural, migrant, and elderly women, and urge governments and international organizations to take positive measures to protect the rights of refugee women so that they won't be forcefully returned to the country they escaped from.

9. Denounce sexual slavery and rape of women and children during and after wars and armed conflicts has to be condemned as a crime.

A message on the International Day of Peace.

On this International Day of Peace, the International Council of Women, meeting in their 33rd General Assembly in Seoul, Republic of Korea, very conscious of the pain and hardship of our sisters and their families in areas of severe conflict, and supportive of efforts made so far by the United Nations, calls on the Member States to make more positive, immediate moves towards peace in our world by the implementation of SCR 1325.

From 18-20 September the UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference on Ageing was held in Vienna “Ensuring a Society for All Ages - Promoting quality of life and active ageing”. 56 delegations, 33 of them on Ministerial level were participating. A huge number of NGO Representatives and Researchers and Practitioners were attending too. A Researchers Regional Forum and a NGO Regional Forum were held. The following documents were adopted: the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration, a NGO Political Declaration and the Vienna Research Forum Statement. Attached the NGO Political Declaration.

More details can be found on www.bmask.gv.at

NGO POLITICAL DECLARATION

UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing
19-20 September 2012, Vienna, Austria

1. We, the NGOs contributing to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna, 19-20 September 2012;
2. Recognising that much has to be done to achieve the aims and objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and insisting that fiscal uncertainty is not an excuse for inaction;
3. Recalling the León Ministerial Declaration in which NGOs were recognised as playing “a significant role in representing people and their needs in society and thus can contribute to policy making”;
4. Reaffirming that MIPAA and its political declaration constitute a forward-looking response on the part of governments to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing in the twenty-first century and that if MIPAA is to succeed; Member States need to implement the three priority actions of MIPAA that they themselves have agreed: older persons in development; advancing health and wellbeing into old age; ensuring enabling and supportive environments;
5. Noting with concern problems with the effectiveness of MIPAA as a political tool given the non-binding nature of the agreement, its lack of concrete time-bound targets and comprehensive accountability;
6. Further noting with disappointment: i) the lack of awareness of MIPAA; ii) the failure of over one third of UNECE Member States to complete reviews of MIPAA in the current cycle; and iii) the lack of implementation of the ‘bottom-up’ review process across UNECE Member States resulting in the almost total absence of civil society involvement in the review at the national level, where such discussions would have had greatest impact;
7. Reaffirming the rights of older persons and the obligations of Member States to protect those rights;
8. Recognising that efforts to address the needs and aspirations of older people require on-going intergenerational dialogue, cooperation, communication and the full participation of all age groups;
9. Further recognising the need to value older persons and their multiple contributions to society, and rejecting any notion of discrimination based on age;
10. Insisting that assured social, physical, material and financial security is a fundamental prerequisite for ageing in dignity in all societies and at all times;
11. In the interests of achieving the aims and objectives of MIPAA, urge UNECE Member States to:

- a. Protect the rights of older persons by: i) enforcing legislation that already exists; ii) promoting good practice that enables older persons to understand and claim their rights; iii) strengthening national, regional and international human rights legislation including the continuation of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing; and iv) appoint ombudspersons in every UNECE Member State in order to offer older persons greater legal recourse;
- b. Strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and review of MIPAA by: i) setting time-bound targets and commitments; ii) developing specific indicators with the involvement of older persons and NGOs for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and impact of MIPAA; iii) supporting the submission of NGO shadow reports at MIPAA reviews; and iv) establishing a schedule of interim meetings between NGOs and relevant national ministers in the years between the mandatory five-year reviews of MIPAA;
- c. Eliminate poverty and inequality among older persons by: ensuring adequate incomes, including universal access to non-contributory pensions and equal access to essential goods and services;
- d. Facilitate access to decent work and adequate pay for persons of all ages by: i) abolishing mandatory retirement ages; ii) eliminating discrimination on the basis of age for access to work and pay across the life course; iii) implementing flexible working practices that meet the needs of older persons; iv) supporting retraining programmes for older workers; and v) supporting older workers in the informal sector;
- e. Recognise, make visible and support the multiple contributions of older people to society and to the benefit of people of all ages, including knowledge and life experience, caring, educating, homemaking, working and volunteering;
- f. Guarantee access to lifelong learning across the life course, recognising that access to affordable highquality education, informal and non-formal learning for people of all ages is necessary for strengthening older persons' participation in society, increasing social inclusion and reducing discrimination;
- g. Strengthen the autonomy of older persons and their inclusion in the community by investing in agefriendly environments, including: local infrastructure, transport, adaptable housing and products, social and personal support services, and local facilities;
- h. Provide free access to: i) high-quality and gender-specific health and social care services, including investment in gerontological training of care personnel and their adequate remuneration; ii) mental health and dementia services, including preventative and rehabilitation services; and iii) adequate pain management and palliative care;
- i. Put in place national quality standards to regulate health and social care services in both community and institutional settings involving older persons in the monitoring, evaluation and review of those standards;
- j. Take action to prohibit, prevent and redress acts of abuse, neglect and violence by: i) reviewing laws and policies and implementing existing legislation; ii) raising awareness and providing appropriate social support systems; and iii) implementing transparent complaint mechanisms;
- k. Take action on the gender-specific rights and needs of women and men, including: addressing the vulnerability of older women who often live in greater poverty; and meeting the specific needs of older vulnerable men living in isolation;
- l. Recognise the vulnerability of older migrants and other marginalised groups and put in place measures to assure them adequate social protection and equal access to services;
- m. Take forward the commitments and values of MIPAA in eliminating poverty and meeting the needs of older persons internationally by: i) mainstreaming ageing in development cooperation; ii) strengthening age and sex-disaggregated data collection globally; and iii) ensuring that issues relating to ageing and older persons are fully integrated into the post-2015 Development Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- n. Ensure that the commitments and values of MIPAA are carried forward in other international agreements, including, but not limited to: the UN Principles for Older Persons of 1991; the Declaration on the Right to Development; the Millennium Declaration; and all relevant human rights instruments;
- o. Engage and collaborate actively with civil society and older persons to ensure that the commitments made at the present Ministerial Conference are fully realised.
12. In conclusion, we the NGOs expect the UNECE Member States to: i) recognise fully the role of NGOs in achieving the commitments entered into both at the present Ministerial Conference and in the original MIPAA agreement; ii) convene plan-

ning meetings with organised civil society at the national level in each Member State by March 2013 to take forward those commitments; and iii)

report publicly, both nationally and regionally, on the results of those meetings by the end of June 2013.

Vienna Research Forum Statement *Dated 20th September 2012*

1. We have come together at the Research Forum in Vienna, Austria, to contribute to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing with its theme 'Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting Quality of Life and Active Ageing'. We unequivocally support the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). We are convinced that the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for MIPAA (UNECE RIS/MIPAA)² is a sound framework for policy actions on ageing in our countries. We are also convinced that such actions will have to be informed by and founded on valid, reliable, representative and timely evidence drawn from a high quality multidisciplinary research on ageing, incorporating life course perspective and placing an essential focus on gender.

2. We realise that our region and the entire world have been undergoing important demographic change with social, familial, economic, political and technological implications, and population ageing will be one of the most powerful forces driving these global transformations. Through research and knowledge dissemination, we want to understand the full extent and significance of these transformations and contribute to capacity development in designing appropriate policy responses. Emphasis need to be placed towards capacity-building in gerontological expertise, so as to assist shaping the society for all ages consistent with the goals of MIPAA/RIS, as well as in securing and enhancing the dividends of longevity gains. This requires a significant investment in the development of academic centres in the field of research on ageing, as well as rolling out training programmes in the field of gerontology to ensure

an effective provision of all essential social and health services.

3. We recognise that researchers and research institutions of the UNECE region are among those leading the global efforts in identifying the mechanisms of individual and population ageing and therefore we have a special responsibility to share the scientific analysis of ageing and its implications with the rest of the world. To realise this endeavour, adequate and timely funding is required from both public and private sources and also obligations to make all necessary data accessible to researchers, policymakers and practitioners. We must do more and better research to counter the growing concerns often raised in policy debates in which population ageing is seen as a burden to the society, in particular during times of economic crisis, and elaborate approaches for removing the institutional and social barriers in mobilising the potential of older people.

4. We acknowledge in particular that Eastern Europe countries, as well as countries of the former Soviet Union, in recent decades have undergone multifaceted transitions and gathered invaluable experiences in addressing numerous challenges of building cohesive and prosperous societies. Many of these countries have also been adjusting to their demographic transition by developing policies for active and healthy ageing, by reforming their pension systems, reorganizing labour markets and modernizing their health and social care systems. These countries need to be supported further in building research capacity and in formulating evidence-informed policymaking, especially in view of the fact that efforts to deal with the crisis may undermine attempts to improve the programmes that exist in these countries to enhance well-being and social integration of older people. Reciprocity is required in drawing lessons across the countries of the UNECE region.

²http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/_docs/ece/2002/ECE_AC23_2002_2_Rev6_e.pdf

5. We note the progress achieved within the priority areas for policy related research on ageing outlined in the Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century.³ We are eager to see that the results of this research are translated into good practices, evaluated and applied in more effective and efficient policy responses to the challenges and opportunities of ageing. To achieve this, the policy formulation and its evaluation must be performed through a concerted and well-coordinated engagement of experts from public authorities, research institutions, academia, civil society including employers and advocacy groups, trade unions, the business sector, older people themselves and representatives from younger generations, not just at the national level but also at the regional and local levels. Policies should clearly seek to respond to the needs and preferences of older persons by giving them the opportunity to make their voices and opinions heard as experts in their own right, and all new initiatives or policy developments should aim to promote active and healthy ageing and the quality of life among the current and future generations of older people.

6. We regard the WHO Framework on Knowledge translation⁴ as a useful tool for promoting evidence informed policy in various areas of individual and population ageing. 'Strengthening the evidence base and research' has been singled out as one of the four strategic priority areas for the WHO Strategy and action plan for healthy ageing in Europe, 2012-2020.⁵ We welcome the initiatives of the Road Map for European Ageing Research, resulting from the FUTURAGE project funded by the European Commission⁶ and the European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE) resulting in Europe's first post-doctoral programme in the ageing field (FLARE) and the first European ageing research funded jointly by several European countries – *Active and Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course*. We also acknowledge the significance of the European Social Charter and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights that help strengthen human rights of older people, as well as the EU Directives against age discrimination and the re-

cent European Charter on the rights and responsibilities of older persons in need of assistance.

7. The 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIPAHA)⁷ and the Joint Programming Initiative 'More Years, Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change'⁸, as well as the EU programme 'Ambient Assisted Living', have initiated a more systematic process identifying how research and innovation can best enhance and highlight the contribution that older people make to society. These initiatives as well as the Active Ageing Index (AAI) developed at the European Centre Vienna for the European Commission have the explicit purpose to encourage policy-makers and relevant stakeholders at all levels to take most appropriate policy actions, with the goal of ensuring that longevity gains are not just additional years of life but an asset for social and economic development.

8. Exchange of knowledge, practice and policy experiences on ageing can make indispensable contribution at national, cross-national, and cross-cultural levels. To ensure such exchanges, both a sustainable *structure* and an ongoing *process* are needed and it must involve all key stakeholders from various parts of our region, most importantly older people as well as younger generations, to empower their interests further. We believe that such requirements in the UNECE region can be met by forming the online platform **Research Application and Dissemination Platform on Ageing (REAP-AGE)**. The formation of an initiating multi-disciplinary group for exploring the feasibility of this proposal would be required at this first stage of such an endeavour.

9. The proposed platform would involve international experts from public and private sectors, academia, the civil society, the business sector, and labour and trade unions as well as older people, to help translate research findings into policy options and specific recommendations for policy actions. It would serve as the forum for exchanging innovative scientific ideas, help in designing rigorous studies, analysing research findings and monitoring current research and policy advancements, in order to identify the most promising replicable models (best practices) to inform evidence-based policy action on ageing. It would also

³<http://www.imsersomayores.csic.es/documentos/documentos/desa-agenda-01.pdf>

⁴http://www.who.int/ageing/projects/knowledge_translation/en/index.html

⁵<http://www.euro.who.int/en/who-we-are/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/sixty-second-session>

⁶ <http://futurage.group.shef.ac.uk/>

⁷http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing

⁸ <http://www.jp-demographic.eu/>

provide opportunities for international experts to train each other in the development, analysis and dissemination of data on ageing. It can become a bridge between the Western, Central and Eastern European countries and the countries of the former Soviet Union for sharing the experience in evidence-based policy action on ageing and facilitating the exchange of ideas and experts between

various countries for developing national capacity in the area of ageing.

10. European countries are entering the third cycle (2013–2017) of implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA, and we (the participants of the Vienna Research Forum) commit ourselves to produce and disseminate the essential evidence to inform policy efforts aimed at reaching the goal of the MIPAA: A Society for all Ages.

20.09.2012

UNECE – 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration Page 1

2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration: Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing

1. We, the representatives of the Member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), gathered at the Ministerial Conference on Ageing from 19 to 20 September 2012 in Vienna, Austria, reaffirm our commitment made in the Berlin Ministerial Declaration in 2002 and subsequently confirmed in the León Ministerial Declaration in 2007 to implement the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).

2. We welcome the notable increase in life expectancy in the region, so that ever greater proportions of persons are living longer and in better health. We are aware that in certain countries with economies in transition the recent gains in longevity have not yet been able to fully offset the losses in life expectancy of their citizens, particularly men.

3. We recognize that the enduring demographic changes have been generating both opportunities and challenges in the region. We are committed to raising awareness about and enhancing the potential of older persons for the benefit of our societies and to increasing their quality of life by enabling their personal fulfillment in later years, as well as their participation in social and economic development.

4. We emphasize the rights of older persons and note with concern that age discrimination continues to be a barrier, in attaining a full, healthy life as active members of society.

5. We are committed to meet individual and societal challenges triggered by population ageing

through adequate and sustainable measures of financial security in old age, life-long continuum of health and social care, including long-term care, and provisions of inclusive systems and support for active ageing, life-long learning, and participation in various spheres of society without discrimination, particularly with regards to older women.

6. We realize that the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the past five years has occurred in the environment of a continuing global financial crisis, which in most countries of the region has affected families and communities, including its older members and especially older women.

7. We also realize that while some Member States still have to develop more comprehensive policy responses to individual and societal needs of ageing populations others aim to sustain for the future the existing access of older persons to adequate social protection and well-functioning systems of education, gender-specific health and social care, as well as opportunities to participate in society as equal partners.

8. We acknowledge the significant progress made by many Member States in fulfilling the ten commitments of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the second five-year cycle. The notable achievements of the implementation process in the region include, amongst others, the following:

(a) increasing attention by policy makers, the media and the general public, to the issues of population and individual ageing, including growing recognition of older persons' dignity, human rights

and fundamental freedoms, their potential to contribute to social and economic development, solidarity between generations and cohesion within society;

(b) expanding initiatives to adapt national social protection systems to the consequences of demographic change;

(c) growing involvement of civil society, in particular organizations of older persons, in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies addressing the rights, needs and expectations of older persons;

(d) increasing use of innovative approaches in providing educational, health, rehabilitation and social care services, including technological and organizational innovations, as well as promoting stronger involvement and collaboration of public, private and non-profit sectors in developing such services;

(e) Establishing the UNECE Working Group on Ageing as an intergovernmental body for regional cooperation in the implementation and monitoring of RIS/MIPAA.

9. We are cognizant that the advancement towards a society for all ages promulgated by the MIPAA has been uneven across the region. We are also aware of numerous challenges in implementing RIS/MIPAA, including the following:

(a) many societies are still confronted with man-made barriers and prejudices that constrain the achievement of intergenerational equity and reciprocity. There remains the need for policies on health and welfare of older persons to be complemented with measures to empower older persons, particularly older women, and to prevent elder abuse, neglect and loneliness, as well as by measures to strengthen solidarity among generations;

(b) in many countries, policies fostering active and healthy ageing have been rather modest and short of the necessary disease preventing and health promoting measures;

(c) the progress in adjusting national legislation concerning work and retirement has been slow in some countries;

(d) the need to streamline national efforts to adjust the systems of social protection in view of demographic changes and financial challenges persists;

(e) the growing demand for long-term care presents additional challenges for public systems of

care provision, as well as for care provided by civil society and by families.

10. In fostering the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA in its third implementation cycle (2013-2017), we are determined to reach by 2017 the following policy goals:

I. Longer working life is encouraged and ability to work is maintained by

(a) Promoting and supporting healthy life styles and wellbeing in work, preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, and ensuring safe and healthy working conditions, including measures for appropriate work-life balance with flexible working time schemes, through the entire working career.

(b) Achieving higher employment rates of older men and women through appropriate incentives related to, inter alia, taxation and social security systems, age-friendly working conditions, flexible working time schemes, information, age-appropriate training and re-training programmes, and age management measures in public and private sectors.

(c) Developing evidence-based labour market policies which recognize that youth and older persons' employment policies are complementary and beneficial to all. Promoting positive attitudes towards senior employees and combating age discrimination in the labour market.

(d) Making the transition to retirement more flexible and providing incentives for staying longer in the work force in accordance with the individual's needs and aspirations.

(e) Carrying out pension reforms to adapt to demographic changes, including increasing longevity and, in certain Member States to, the growing numbers of older persons working in the informal sector. Promoting the sustainability and adequacy of both public and private pension systems and ensuring universal coverage, as appropriate.

(f) Promoting the role of older workers as transmitters of knowledge and experience to younger workers.

II. Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons are promoted by

(a) Reducing material deprivation, poverty and social exclusion among older persons, especially older women, and facilitating the access of older persons to resources to meet their needs.

(b) Taking measures to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

(c) Empowering people to realize their potential for physical, mental and social wellbeing throughout the life course and to fully participate in society according to their needs, desires and capacities.

(d) Ensuring lifelong access to various forms of high quality education and training, including in advanced technologies.

(e) Facilitating participation of older persons in political, economic, cultural and social life.

(f) Facilitating participation of older persons, particularly women, in decision-making processes at all levels, both directly and through organizations of older persons across civil society.

(g) Combating ageism through awareness campaigns and by encouraging the media and other opinion-making actors to give an age-balanced image of society, highlight the positive aspects of ageing, develop non-discriminatory images of older persons, and disseminate information about ageing as a natural phase in individual development. Involve older persons in the planning, implementation and evaluation of such media programmes.

(h) Promoting easy access of young and older persons to information and education related to ensuring their dignity and their human rights.

(i) Improving the collection and sharing of data, statistics and qualitative information for monitoring better the quality of life and dignity of older persons, including cases of violation and abuses of their rights, in order to design and implement appropriate evidence-based policy measures.

(j) Taking into account the diverse needs of a growing number of older persons among ethnic minorities and migrants to ensure their integration and equal participation in society.

III. Dignity, health and independence in older age are promoted and safeguarded by

(a) Safeguarding the dignity of older persons, particularly those with disabilities, and fostering their sense of belonging and self-esteem through measures aimed at, inter alia, combating any form of prejudice, neglect, abuse and discrimination.

(b) Strengthening measures of health promotion, care and protection, as well as disease and injury prevention at all ages, thus lowering the probability of illness and disability and helping to ensure high physical and mental functioning, independent living, as well as active participation throughout the life course.

(c) Giving special attention to preventive measures, early diagnosis and to the treatment,

care, especially long-term care, and social protection of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, while ensuring their dignity and non-discrimination in society.

(d) Respecting self-determination and dignity as core values through the end of life of an individual. This in particular should be the principal attitude in nursing and medical practice, including long-term and palliative care.

(e) Aiming to ensure that older persons maintain the highest possible level of health, social and functional capacity before, during and after natural and man-caused disasters by enhancing coordinated support.

(f) Facilitating access to age-appropriate, affordable and effective high-quality goods and services and improving mobility through age-friendly environments.

(g) Developing innovative methods and technologies for reliable, affordable and safe support and care of older persons at home.

(h) Ensuring 'ageing in place' by promoting services and support to the individual and the family to enable older persons to continue living for as long as possible in their own environment and community. These services should take into account the special needs of women, in particular those who are living alone.

(i) Promoting architectural alterations and innovative housing design aimed at adapting to the changing needs and functional abilities of persons as they age.

(j) Supporting, by appropriate means, self-help arrangements of older persons for independent or assisted living, including inter-generational housing facilities and acknowledging that individual needs are assessed and properly addressed whether in an institution or at home.

(k) Ensuring a continuum of affordable, high-quality care, ranging from arrangements for primary and community-based care to various forms of institutional care.

(l) Recognizing and improving the situation of informal and formal carers, including migrant carers, through training and dignified working conditions including adequate remuneration.

(m) Recognizing and supporting family carers, who are mostly women, in accomplishing their demanding tasks, including provisions for reconciliation of work and family duties, as well as social protection measures.

IV. Intergenerational solidarity is maintained and enhanced by

(a) Promoting and strengthening multigenerational dialogue and intergenerational learning by all stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, the media and the general public.

(b) Improving cooperation between youth organisations and older persons' organisations.

(c) Recognizing the value of and fostering the joint volunteering of people of all ages.

(d) Designing and implementing educational campaigns for the general public, particularly the younger generations, on issues of population and individual ageing. It should include teaching about healthy, active ageing as part of the life-course into the curricula of all educational institutions, while also raising awareness among older persons on issues, living conditions and challenges of the younger generations.

(e) Considering, that solidarity between generations also means adequate and sustainable social protection of older persons while recognizing that older men and women continue to make important contributions to their communities in various ways, including continued employment, performing non-paid caring of younger and older family members, participating in volunteering as well as cash and in-kind transfers to benefit younger members of their families and communities. (NGO)

(f) Developing and implementing socially responsible, financially sound and sustainable strategies encompassing the needs, capacities and expectations of current and future generations while promoting equal opportunities for their self-determination.

11. For reaching the policy goals in the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA during the period 2013-2017, we stress the importance of mainstreaming ageing and promoting active ageing as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the national policy processes, notably by incorporating the life course approach. We also note a need to build where possible on recent international commitments relevant to the promotion of active ageing, including prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and addressing the social determinants of health.

12. We will endeavour to raise awareness in societies of the overall advantages of promoting active ageing for today and the future, underlining the need of allocating sufficient resources for its im-

plementation. We will also strive to disseminate across the region innovative and effective approaches for policy action for example those promoted during the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012) and its follow up.

13. We also emphasize that policies on ageing and their implementation are to be seen as a shared responsibility of all major actors in society. Consequently, there is a need to effectively promote the collaboration of governments, policy makers, the private sector, social partners, researchers and organizations of and for older persons, as well as other non-governmental organizations. Such cooperation is of particular importance for identifying issues that require new policies, for formulating appropriate responses and for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of evidence-based policies on ageing.

14. We are aware that research is vital to the development and implementation of effective policies and programmes. Sustainable research infrastructures, improved data collection, longitudinal research and cross-sectoral cooperation should be further strengthened and developed.

15. We acknowledge the contribution of civil society and older people themselves in taking forward the provisions of the RIS/MIPAA and are committed to sustain the continuing partnership between all major stakeholders in the implementation process.

16. We appreciate the contribution of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, affiliated with the United Nations, and the International Institute on Ageing, United Nations - Malta (INIA), to the implementation of the UNECE RIS/MIPAA.

17. We recognize the role of the national focal points on ageing and the UNECE Working Group on Ageing in leading the implementation and monitoring of RIS/MIPAA across the region and providing for the exchange of information and best-practices. Through the work of its Bureau, the Working Group on Ageing has streamlined the second review and appraisal process of RIS/MIPAA and the preparation of this Ministerial Conference on Ageing.

18. We are committed to sustaining the Working Group on Ageing as a long-term intergovernmental body within the UNECE framework for the implementation and monitoring of RIS/MIPAA and will

support its activities substantively and by contributing financially to the extent possible.

19. We appreciate the role of the UNECE secretariat, in collaboration with other stakeholders, in assisting Member States in implementing the UNECE RIS/MIPAA and the Vienna Ministerial Declaration 2012 through, inter alia, the support provided in developing national capacities on ageing. The cooperation between the UNECE secretariat and its major partners within the UN system, in

particular with the entities working on ageing such as UNFPA and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, should be strengthened. 20. We thank the Commission of the European Union for the financial contribution to the organisation of the Research and Civil Society Fora.

21. We express our sincere gratitude to Austria for hosting the 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing and for its hospitality.



1. XXII WORKSHOP ABOUT "SENSITIZATION ABOUT THE PROMOTION OF INTERGENERATIONAL POLICIES"

We have organized in partnership with the ISCTE-IUL the XXII Workshop with the title "Sensitization about the promotion of intergenerational policies" on the 21 June 2012.

We underline some topics of the final report:

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The various social transformations which have occurred in aging population, low birth rate and migration, lead to the need to look at the present social reality in order to find new practices which, on the one hand, are based on the aspects of active aging and intergenerational solidarity and to the need to pay attention to the importance of the family.
- ✓ Associated with aging there is a stigma that leads to isolation and violence, which must be overcome. Aging must be seen as a multidimensional process, with positive and negative aspects.
- ✓ Aging must be seen as a prize and not as a problem, and also to allow the possibility of continued learning and to share experiences between generations.
- ✓ So the challenge this year will be, to put into action the intergenerational practices. We need to replace the attitude to "separate" (families, generations, citizens) by the attitude of "integrating". The persons must unite them and society must be emotionally intelligent, a synergy.
- ✓ Intergenerational solidarity is important in order to establish intergenerational policies which may enable the persons to exercise their rights. Aging is not a problem, but yes the low birth which leads to social and economic lack of sustainability.
- ✓ For the last 50 years there was gradually a decrease in the number of births. Since 2007 the natural balance is negative.
- ✓ People want more children, but several factors hamper to achieve this goal like the work balance family and work, to the problem of the financial possibilities, recognizing that families are spending more, and the problem of social pressure that penalizes families with children.
- ✓ In relation to stigmatization, isolation and violence against the elderly it was remembered that the elderly, especially between 75 and 84 years old, are victims of various kinds of abuse, and the most common is psychological abuse (32%), the extortion (16.5%) and physical aggression (12.8%). The attackers are mostly spouses and family. Some of the consequences are: shame, confusion, emotional fragility, the septicism about the law, the loss of confidence in the future, low self-esteem, self-devaluation, isolation and lack of confidence of the others. Combat the stigma, the isolation and violence against the elderly, is a matter of social attitude and human rights.
- ✓ To become old is a gift, the problem is in how we experience the process of aging. The largest age dependency, and reduced accessibility architectural barriers, low educational level and social participation, the weak economic resources, and harmful media (television) contribute to the isolation of the elderly. It is necessary to sensitize society constantly and also all professionals.
- ✓ The palliative measures, health care and social support of the elderly, should be viewed from a multidimensional approach of the individual dimension.

2. XXII Congress on Life Styles about “REFLECTION ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION”

PROSALIS is organizing the XXII Congress on Life Styles about “REFLECTION ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION” on the 21st November at the Parliament, in partnership with ISCTE-IUL University.

GOALS

Portugal cannot ignore that is quantitatively more a country of origin, than a country of destination. Protecting the rights of migrant workers is, therefore, a huge responsibility towards our million migrants around the world. We never tire of - and well - to require the countries hosting these emigrants, to treat them with dignity, respecting their basic rights. For our claim to be credible, we must have the same requirement in relation to our way of welcoming immigrants, who come to us. (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families - Perspectives and Paradoxes Domestic and International Immigration Matters. Observatory for Immigration (25 December 2007).

According to UN data, the overwhelming majority of the world's migrants, who are not refugees, leave their countries of origin in search of better economic conditions (CF Zlotnick, MARIA, International Migration Trends Suice, 1980. International Migration and the Millennium Goals. Marrelcechi: UNFPA, 2005, ps)

How is Portugal positioned to face this challenge?

Through the promotion of this action, PROSALIS, will look to encourage reflection and debate, aiming to promote social progress and better living conditions, under a broad concept of freedom, using a constructive debate between entities with decisive power and civil society.

PROSALIS will also help to promote mechanisms which will allow congregating efforts for the creation of services and conditions adjusted to every citizen, regardless their socio-economic and ethno-cultural situation, enabling them to use their rights with a sense of valorization and dignity as human beings.

We will be addressing the following topics:

- HOW TO HOST AND TO INTEGRATE IN MOMENTS OF ECONOMIC RECESSION
- THE CHALLENGE OF INTEGRATION: A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS APPROACH
- ACCESS TO WORK, HEALTH, EDUCATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CITIZENSHIP OF IMMIGRANT POPULATION
- GOOD PRACTICES AT WORK WITH IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

3. XXIII Workshop about "WHAT IS MISSING IN POLICIES FOR FAMILY (III)?-RETROSPECTIVE AND PERSPECTIVES"

PROSALIS is also organizing the XXIII Workshop about "WHAT IS MISSING IN POLICIES FOR FAMILY (III)?-RETROSPECTIVE AND PERSPECTIVES" on the 7th March, 2013 in Lisbon, Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian, in partnership with ISCTE-IUL University.

PRESENTATION

PROSALIS - Health Project in Lisbon is a Private Institution of Social Solidarity, recognized as Family Association, with representation generic for purposes of health and social welfare, charitable, non-profit.

While Family Association with Generic Representativeness PROSALIS has dedicated the year 2003

to the theme "What is missing in Policies for the Family."

That year the Institution promoted on 15th and 16th May, at the Calouste Gulbenkian our XIV Workshop on the theme "WHAT IS MISSING IN POLICIES FOR FAMILY (I)?"

GOALS

PROSALIS referred then the following objectives: to defend and to promote the Family as an institution recognized in its identity and accepted in its nature of social subject. It has become a long path that, although complex, will also renew the hope in a future, based on the effective recognition of the importance of this institution fundamental to the life of the entire society.

The institution considered by that time urgent to effect a proper family policy, in the sense to help to promote efforts for the creation of services, structures and appropriate conditions that would enable every family, regardless their socio economic and ethno-cultural conditions to beneficiate the economic, social, cultural, health protection, employment, disability, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control.

In the same year, on 20 and 21 November, in the continuity of the XIVth Workshop, PROSALIS organized in the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation its XIIIth Congress with the theme "WHAT IS MISSING IN POLICIES FOR FAMILY (II)?", with the main goal to complete the cycle of reflection / discussion in order to go deep in the matter and the share the know-how, to evaluate new strategies of intervention in partnership and in network, in the sense to promote the wellbeing and the protection of the family, while living cell of society, heritage of

humanity before the state itself, first stage of socialization of the person.

Considering the family as a nucleus base for the prevention and the education of its members, it became relevant to approach the specificity of strategies which allow to avoid the pathology, the use of additives substances and entry into delinquency circuits.

On the other hand still had the objective of contributing to the beginning of the celebrations of the International Year of the Family decreed by the UN in 1994 - 10th Anniversary 1994 - 2004.

10 years later and approaching the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family which aims to offer an opportunity to reorient the role of families; to make a balance of the recent tendencies in the development of family policies, to share good practices in developing family policies, to review the challenges faced by families around the world and recommend solutions.

PROSALIS while Family Association with Consultative Status at ECOSOC could not remain indifferent to the United Nations appeal. Moreover, we question how the Policies for Family have developed during this period due to the profusion of mutations that societies have suffered. Through

the organization in conjunction with the ISCTE-IUL/CIS-IUL of the XXIII WORKSHOP "WHAT IS IN FAMILY POLICIES (III)? RETROSPECTIVE AND PERSPECTIVES", we will be addressing the following topics.

- DEMOGRAPHICS AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS

- THE FAMILY AS A FACTOR OF PROTECTION AND WORK BALANCE BETWEEN FAMILY AND WORK
- FAMILY POLICIES - HEALTH, EDUCATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND FINANCE
- GOOD PRACTICES IN FAMILY DOMAIN

4. WORKING GROUP ADVOCACY FOR INTERGENERATIONAL POLICIES

During the year 2012 the Working Group Advocacy for Intergenerational Policies had several meetings in order to program new events and projects with the goal to contribute to improve and to increase the work with aging populations.

5. PRESENTATION AT THE 14TH PORTUGUESE CONGRESS OF SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY

PROSALIS was invited to participate with a presentation by the APP - Portuguese Association of Psychogerontology, in 14th Portuguese Congress of Social Gerontology. Maria Helena Paes presented in the Round Table named: Innovative Actions and Active Aging the work developed by the Institution on the past 12th October, in Lisbon in Ismaili Centre, underlining the importance of the support of the extended family in order to contribute to fight the loneliness of the elder population.

6. FOUNDATION OF VIA VITAE – PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION IN FAVOUR OF THE ELDERLY

It was constituted by the following founder members:

- Portuguese Red Cross, Vice-President Cristina Louro;
- PROSALIS, Chairperson Maria Helena Paes;
- Leonor Beleza;
- Maria Elizabeth Granja (Chairperson);
- Ana Maria Dias.



VIA VITAE has had its origin in a reflection on the increasing vulnerable situation of the elderly and the challenge they represent for social cohesion.

VIA VITAE is aimed to become an organisation with representativeness at national and European level, bringing forward seniors requirements and concerns, eventually through other Portuguese senior organisations. It will be applying to join the AGE Platform in Brussels, which gathers elderly associations in the EU.

In developed countries, namely in Europe, public social systems are showing a dramatic downward trend, which is affecting the whole social assistance of this sector. Albeit unemployment, a sustainable Social Security is presently of great concern to our politicians.

The considerable weight of a growing aged society will tend to increase in the coming years. The

forecast for Europe in 2020 was 1 worker/1 retired, which gap has meanwhile become bigger due to the increasing unemployment rate and the decrease of births affecting the European society.

The elderly are thus becoming a new social force whose impact may be compared to the industrial revolution.

According to the current forecast, the big challenge to come lays not merely on employment creation but rather on governments' capacity to manage an increasing greying population. As far as Portugal is concerned, the existence of some structures in this area reflects the importance of this age group, which claims its place in society and the adoption of some measures to comply with their requirements.

However, in view of the severe economic crisis Portugal is presently going through and the emer-

gency measures to be taken, this issue did not find room in the political debate nor did it deserve much thought. The absence of a real policy oriented for the aged population has worsened the fragility of many of our aged citizens, as shown recently by the numerous deaths of old people in a totally lonely situation.

Therefore, it urges to re-think a new social model, a new solidarity scheme to integrate the elderly in a sustainable economic dynamic in partnership with the private sector and the active participation of the senior people themselves.

Citizens, in partnership with the authorities concerned, must participate and contribute to such

common effort in favour of the coming generations and should dignify those who, through their lifelong work may pass on their experience and know-how to the younger generations.

In this respect and because the senior population represents a big challenge for social cohesion in Europe, this year 2012 was designated the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. As such, this year 2012 aims to stimulate the mobilization of actors and resources to find innovative solutions to encounter the demographic challenge and allow aged people to enjoy a more active and longer autonomy in their lives.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

- To protect senior people's interests
- To reinforce Seniors' citizenship
- To promote non discrimination on age grounds

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To protect seniors' interests so as to allow for a dignity and quality living all lifelong.
- To integrate Seniors in active life valuing their know-how as a contribution for cohesion and social economic development;
- To foster intergenerational relations
- To promote equality and non discrimination based on age grounds
- To create the necessary conditions for project implementation.

Whereas "soft" measures require some time to mature, other issues should be carried out from the very start of the implementation process:

Training

Oriented for the professionals working on the ground, experience exchange and transfer of know-how, namely in partnership with other European and non-European countries.

Communication

The Communication plan should include an Information action through the publication of a Magazine intended for that age range. As a matter of fact, information is seen as a priority sector so that the elderly become aware of the opportunities and constraints lying ahead.

A Communication/Advertising/Marketing action is intended to inform the elderly but also public and private institutions and the market in general about VIA VITAE, its objectives and goals.

Senior Expo

Expo at national level to take place yearly and gathering a wide range of economic agents and actors for the promotion of their products and services available on the market for senior people.

This gathering would also include some lectures on specific thematic, workshops, and some training where applicable.

Recent and Forthcoming events

30TH JANUARY 2013

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Tackling Human Trafficking in Europe: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution

In order to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive and integrated solutions to fighting the 'hidden' crime of human trafficking, all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders are welcomed

WEBSITE: <http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/DA30-PPE2.php>

CONTACT PERSON: Paul Fox

ORGANIZED BY: Centre for Parliamentary Studies, Public Policy Exchange

28TH – 31ST OF JANUARY 2013

SAN DIEGO, USA

27th Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

Leading the way in preventing child and family maltreatment

The San Diego Conference focuses on multi-disciplinary best-practice efforts to prevent, if possible, or otherwise to investigate, treat, and prosecute child and family maltreatment.

The objective of the San Diego Conference is to develop and enhance professional skills and knowledge in the prevention, recognition, assessment and treatment of all forms of maltreatment including those related to family violence as well as to enhance investigative and legal skills. In-depth issues include support for families, prevention, leadership, policy-making. Translating the latest research into action is also addressed.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://sandiegoconference.org/>

30TH – 1ST FEBRUARY 2013

WINDSOR, UNITED KINGDOM

A Crisis for Youth?

This conference brings together youth-workers, educationalists, economists, social scientists and policy-makers to ask whether there is a crisis facing Britain's youth, and if there is, what are we going to do about it.

WEBSITE: <http://www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/programme/Forthcoming+Events/A+Crisis+for+Youth>

CONTACT PERSON: Jamison Steele

7TH TO 9TH OF MARCH 2013

LISBON, PORTUGAL

3rd Global Conference: Experiential Learning in Virtual Worlds

The main aims of this conference are to increase our understanding of experiential learning in virtual worlds, both formal and informal, to share experience and best practice, and to debate future possibilities for learning in virtual worlds.

WEBSITE: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/education/experiential-learning-in-virtual-worlds/call-for-papers/>

CONTACT PERSON: Rob Fisher

ORGANIZED BY: Inter-Disciplinary.Net

8TH TO 9TH MARCH 2013

VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

On the Eve of International Women's Day IMRF aimed at practical empowerment, celebration shouldn't be only celebration but of educational, social & influence value. Attend & take back with U Human Rights International Research Journal with your paper being published.

WEBSITE: <http://icwc2013.wix.com/icwc>

CONTACT PERSON: Dr.Ratnakar

ORGANIZED BY: International Multidisciplinary Research Foundation

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS/PROPOSALS: 2nd February 2013

20TH TO 22ND MARCH 2013

ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Youth 2.0: connecting, sharing and empowering?

This international multidisciplinary scientific event will address a number of relevant questions related to the use of social media in general and social network sites in particular by children, adolescents and young adults.

WEBSITE: <http://www.ua.ac.be/youth2.0>

15TH TO 18TH MAY 2013

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

HAPPY FAMILIES, HEALTHY ECONOMY

A NEW VISION FOR NATIONAL PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

Happy families build better individuals, societies and economies.

What makes a happy family?

WCF7 Sydney will explore how business, government, education, law, healthcare and the media can strengthen families.

What can I do to make family life better?

Be part of the conversation. Be part of the solution.

COME TO WCF7 SYDNEY, May 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee for the World Congress of Families 7 Sydney, I invite you to come to Sydney, Australia from 15th-18th May 2013.

This World Congress of Families is the first to be hosted as a joint venture between two countries – Australia and New Zealand – and the first in this region of the world, and so we particularly encourage our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific Region to come and take advantage of having the Congress so close to home.

While in Sydney why not take advantage of the temperate climate (usually ranging from 17°C to 25°C in May) to relax and enjoy Sydney's wonderful attractions - its iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House, the sandy beaches and the natural beauty of the surrounding Blue Mountains. If you have more time and a spirit of adventure don't miss this opportunity to travel inland in search of Australia's unique wild-life and landscape, go north to the Great Barrier Reef or travel on to New Zealand - just a short flight away.

Please explore the website as we add further information, and register early to take advantage of the discounts offered.

Our enthusiastic team and I look forward to welcoming you to Sydney in May 2013.



Mrs Mary-Louise Fowler

Chairperson

WCF 7 Sydney Local Organising Committee

WEBSITE: <http://wcfosydney2013.org.au/>

Impressum

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