

List of Indicators

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Preamble

Under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and the Government of Austria, the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research is setting up indicators of achievement, developing and collecting data on these indicators related to the commitments in the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). This work is the key activity in the MA:IMI project, which aims at assisting national governments and focal points in monitoring RIS.

The outline of the list presented here was agreed upon at the workshop *Sustainable Ageing Societies: Indicators for Effective Policy-Making*, organised jointly by the European Centre, UNECE and the Spanish Institute for Older Persons and Social Services in April 2004 in Madrid. The indicators were finalised in an expert meeting held at the European Centre in Vienna in February 2006. In between those meetings, a wide range of experts provided comments and suggestions. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution¹.

The presented indicators cover four main topics: demography, income and wealth, labour market participation, and social protection and financial sustainability. As far as possible, the indicators are gendered, compare old age with other age categories, and distinguish very old people. The list includes core indicators, collection of which we envisage as most important. Resources and data availability permitting, they can be supplemented by additional indicators, classified into those of primary and secondary importance. We visualize the core and primary indicators in charts and provide additional information in a technical appendix.

In data collection, we plan to utilize as much as possible the existing international sources, such as the databases of the UN, UNECE, Eurostat and European Commission reports, OECD, and ILO. Data collected from these sources will be presented for review to the national focal points on ageing who could update and provide additional comments as necessary. We also look forward to working together with the national focal points in obtaining data from national sources on indicators not covered in international sources. The data will be visualised in tailored-made charts, and published in booklets addressing the different topics. Core data would also be made available on the Monitoring RIS web page.

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