

Achievements and challenges for age-friendly municipalities in Bulgaria

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ▶ Heavy state of national social insurance;
- ▶ Sharply ageing population;
- ▶ Strong internal and external migration;
- ▶ High unemployment;
- ▶ In BG – more accent on social and health, less on culture and self - perfection;
- ▶ Existing legislative infrastructure, but poor real implementation;
- ▶ Decrease of municipalities own resources and increasing centralism in time of financial crisis;
- ▶ “Low” added value of this services;

ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

- ❖ Large regions depopulated;
- ❖ Elderly people living alone;
- ❖ Difficult access to hospital and health services;
 - ❖ Settlements away from the municipal center;
- ❖ Children living away – in big cities or abroad;
- ❖ Low capacity of municipal services;
- ❖ Overall lack of financial resources;
- ❖ Increasing “Waiting list” of elderly people to receive support and in-home services;
- ❖ Low participation of corporate sector;

MEASURES IN INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- ❖ Constantly updating database, analysis and statistics;
- ❖ Attracting elderly people when developing measure on their behalf;
- ❖ Municipal strategies with special focus on elderly people;
- ❖ Specialized municipal councils;
- ❖ 568 clubs for elderly people in 77 municipalities;
 - ❖ *maintaining social contacts and (re) integration;*
- ❖ Permanent *up-to-date with national policies;*
- ❖ Close cooperation with NGO sector;

GOOD PRACTICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Lectures on health topics;
- ❖ Services: “Social assistant”, “Personal assistant” and “Home assistant”;
- ❖ Organization of “public canteens”;
 - ❖ Examples of generation's solidarity – canteens in primary schools;
- ❖ Constant In-home care services;
 - ❖ large covering (only 10-15% of municipalities do not provide this service);
- ❖ Municipal (public) libraries – cultural centers for elderly people;
- ❖ One –day excursions and trips with;
- ❖ Music and sport teams of elderly people;
- ❖ Holidays at the seaside and in mountains;
- ❖ Daily centers for elderly people (centers for social cares);
- ❖ Daily centers for people with disabilities;
- ❖ Wedding parties in institutions for elderly people;

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Increasing need to cover the elderly people by different services, both in scope and regions;
- ❖ Upgrading the existing services;
- ❖ Larger development of cooperation with the NGO sector;
- ❖ Better implementation of EU funded projects;
- ❖ Additional pillars in the social insurance system/ additional Funds;
- ❖ Strong development of principles of CLLD and Integrated Urban Plans;
- ❖ Encouraging the sport activities;
- ❖ Awards for age-friendly municipalities;
- ❖ Looking opportunities for increasing cooperation with corporate sector;
- ❖ Improvement of overall architectural and urban infrastructure;
- ❖ Better to banking services (credits);
- ❖ Elderly entrepreneurship;

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION