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The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and is pleased to submit, in the attachment to this Note Verbale, its responses to the Questionnaire elaborated by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and related to the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration. *g*

Geneva, 24th July 2015



UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

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Replies of the Czech Republic

Questionnaire to assess the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Question 1:

Please provide information as to how your Government has incorporated a human rights-based approach in the implementation framework of MIPAA and how this translated into concrete policies and normative actions? How does your Government monitor and evaluate the impact of MIPAA implementation on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons?

Human rights-based approach in the implementation framework of MIPAA is applied through the National Action Plan for Positive Ageing for the period 2013 to 2017 (hereafter NAP). The NAP is updated every 5 years and its aim is to promote the ideas of the MIPAA. The present NAP will be also published in Czech – English version at the end of this year. It will be accessible at web page of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (<http://www.mpsv.cz/cs/2857>).

The NAP is a national strategy. It contains concrete tasks for all ministries. The document includes concrete measures with specific time table and responsibilities for their implementation. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) is the national coordinator for ageing policy. In contrast with previous NAP, the present one contains new chapter called „Implementation of the ageing policy in the Czech Republic“ – with aim to strengthen involvement of all interested parties and to ensure implementation of ageing policy on the regional and local level including staffing and funding. The present version of NAP focuses on strengthening the themes related to the following areas: Support to informal carers, facilitating the return to employment for persons over 50 years who care for a relative (similar to maternity leave), role of the family and strengthening the role of the family, underlining the importance of intergenerational relations for the development of the whole society.

The NAP is based on the assumption that in order to improve the quality of life in later age and to find a successful solution to the challenges related to demographic change it is necessary to focus on the following strategic areas and priorities. These should be promoted horizontally throughout all sectors and at all levels of public administration:

- Implementation of the Ageing Policy in the Czech Republic
- Securing and Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons
- Life-long learning
- Employment of older workers
- Volunteering and intergenerational cooperation
- Quality environment for the life of seniors
- Healthy ageing
- Care for the elderly

Each ministry responsible for ageing agenda has a coordinator who cooperates in order to fulfill concrete measures of NAP.

In order to increase the effectiveness of evaluation of the NAP, there is a project targeting the creation of evaluation indicators. These should be comparable with European indicator set AAI (Active Ageing Index).

Another important actor on the national level dealing with implementation of MIPAA and ageing policy in general is the Government Council for Older Persons and Population Ageing. This Council meets at least three times a year. Its work is divided into interdepartmental working groups on key topics connected with ageing. These groups are composed not only of representatives from ministries (central public administration), but also from the different organizations that are active in public life, including the Association of regions, senior's organizations, representatives of academic sphere etc. The members of these working groups play important role in implementing measures of the NAP.

In 2015 the specialized unit for ageing policy was founded. It works within MoLSA as part of the family policy department and its main responsibility is NAP implementation.

Concrete actions of this unit:

- Public education, campaigning and strengthening public debate, issuing of studies and preparation of legislation, etc.
- National subsidy schemes for support of development of nonprofit organization actions aimed at active life of seniors.
- European funds: projects aimed at integrating older persons into wider society, at protecting rights of seniors or at prevention and healthy lifestyle.

The competencies of Czech Ombudsman were changed in order to effectively combat discrimination of senior population.

Human rights agenda is promoted through the establishment of the office of the Minister for human rights, equal opportunities and legislation.

Question 2:

How has your Government taken into consideration the needs of specific groups of older persons in the process of implementation of MIPAA?

Judges, policemen, state representatives and other officers were trained in order to understand special needs of older persons (project under European Social Fund (hereafter ESF), Human Resources and Employment OP (hereafter HREOP), called "Interdisciplinary education for seniors security raising"; CZ.1.04/4.1.00/B6.00026)

Furthermore, a White Book for public transport was elaborated with the aim to affect positively the quality of public transport for older persons. For example measure II/1.4 promotes alternative systems of transport services in less populated areas, etc.

Requirements for barrier-free public transport buildings are integrated in law directives and technical norms.

Moreover, MoLSA established international working group with the aim to improve conditions of long-term and lenitive care giving. For example Act No. 372/2011 Sb., Part II, Section 5 letter g) a h), determines conditions, when it is possible to provide care for incurable patients, including lenitive care.

The consumer protection law was amended in order to protect older persons from unfair business conduct within promotion sale shows.

Question 3:

How has your Government informed older persons about MIPAA and how are older persons participating in the implementation of MIPAA including in decision-making about MIPAA implementation?

Older persons are informed about MIPAA at web pages of MoLSA (<http://www.mpsv.cz/cs/2856>).

Representatives of important senior organizations such as Council of Seniors of the Czech Seniors, Union of Pensioners, Association of Christian Seniors and other nonprofit organizations (such as ŽIVOT 90 etc.), are members of the above mentioned Government Council for Older Persons and Population Ageing. Seniors are also represented on the level of regions and municipalities, where they can participate in decision-making in concerned areas.

Question 4:

What impact has MIPAA implementation had on equality and non-discrimination of older persons?

MoLSA and The Government Council for Older Persons and Population Ageing support equality and non-discrimination of older persons with activities mentioned in question one.

Implementation of the MIPAA contributed to the broadening of competencies of Czech Ombudsman described above.

All legislative changes in areas of health protection and health services are proposed with full respect to equal living conditions for seniors in compliance with international human rights law including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and European Social Charter.

The consumer protection law was amended in order to protect older persons from unfair business tricks within promotion sale shows.

Gender equality is taken into account as an important criterion in all measures and activities.

Question 5:

What impact has MIPAA implementation had on the fulfillment of the right of older persons to an adequate standard of living?

Beside institutional care and care benefits, MoLSA supports also informal and fieldwork social care.

MoLSA has worked out methodical guidelines for planning social services (project "Process support in social services" (CZ.1.04/3.1.00/04.00005)). All changed processes serve as an instrument for securing accessibility of social services including social consulting and assistive technologies.

Within subsidy program "Subsidy for public activities of senior organizations with national domain" MoLSA supports nonprofit organizations focusing on senior supporting activities, on raising the quality of their life, on satisfaction of needs of older persons and on enforcing their

interests as active partners in the society. In 2015 the financial disposition for the realization of this subsidy program is 12 million CZK.

MoLSA and Labour Offices with cooperation with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports offer retraining programs for older persons.

Moreover, the project “Using a potential of persons older than fifty years” (CZ.1.04/5.1.01/77.00368) was dedicated to support of the employment of older persons.

Furthermore, in bigger Czech cities universities of third age were established. In smaller cities it is possible to attend virtual universities of third age or join the public library activities focusing on older citizen.

In 2015 Ministry of Regional Development created national subsidy program “Housing subsidies”. Within this program it is possible to gain favorable loan for specialized building for seniors.

Czech Railways and other carriers offer and promote special transport prices for seniors.

Road Safety Department of the Ministry for Transport of the Czech Republic organizes discussions and educational programs for seniors in Senior clubs in various regions of Czech republic, dealing with how to act rightly while participating in traffic.

Question 6:

Please provide examples of best practices from a human rights perspective identified by your Government in the implementation, monitoring, review and appraisal of MIPAA.

Voluntary center TOTEM (<http://en.totem-rdc.cz/>) runs an educational project called “School of health, active ageing”. It should strengthen self-assurance of seniors and it also creates conditions for various forms of their self-realization.

Non-profit organization ŽIVOT 90 (www.zivot90.cz) implements a programme with the aim of reduction and prevention of abuse of older persons. ŽIVOT 90 operates telephone help line, organizes information meetings with cooperation with police, unions or nonprofit organizations and publishes information brochures. They also educate people who are in direct contact with seniors.

A program called 3G by Hestia non-profit organization (<http://www.hest.cz/cs-CZ/o-hestia/about-us>) was founded to support cohesion and mutual understanding between generations. Their programs are established for persons over fifty years who do not have their own grandchildren or they are not or cannot be in touch with them as well as for families with children but without own grandparents. The program runs on a voluntary basis and aims to establish friendly relation between children and older persons. Intergenerational relations are crucially important for personal and society development and for quality of life at each age.

Question 7:

Please provide information about the main challenges (such as institutional, structural and circumstantial obstacles) faced by your Government at the various levels of government (communal, provincial and national etc.) to fully respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of older persons in the implementation of MIPAA.

Our main goal is to establish ageing policy as one of the priorities of the Czech Government. At national level the issue of ageing lies in responsibility of MoLSA. Furthermore, MoLSA

also aims to transform NAP into development plans for regions and municipalities. Important precondition is creation of Focal Points for Ageing Policy that should coordinate this agenda.

To achieve these goals, it is important to ensure effective institutional background (partially solved by strengthening personal capacities and by establishing the Unit for Ageing Policy under MoLSA) and adequate financial capacities for activities connected with senior issues. This applies especially to activities other than social services (e.g. activities enforcing healthy lifestyle and active ageing).