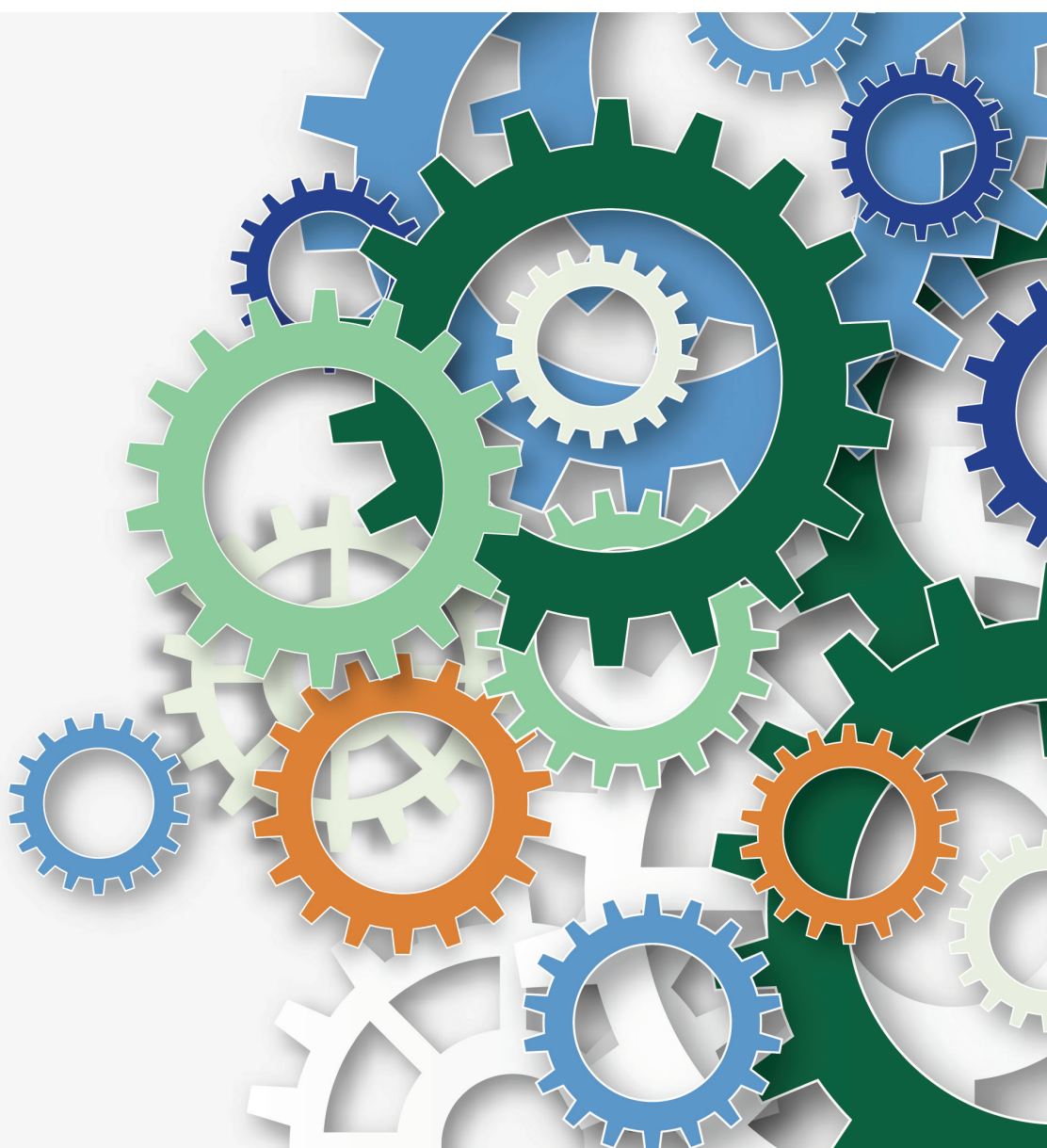


UNECE

GUIDELINES FOR **MAINSTREAMING AGEING**



UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

GUIDELINES FOR MAINSTREAMING AGEING



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PREFACE

Population ageing has been recognized as one of the global demographic megatrends with continued and lasting impacts on sustainable development and on the way we live and work in our societies. The UNECE region, currently accounting for around 30 per cent of the world's population aged 65 years and older, is at the forefront of this trend. Guiding and strengthening policymaking by member States to adapt to population ageing and to realize the potential of living longer are among the core activities of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing.

The transformative changes required to adapt societies to the implications of individual longevity and population ageing cannot be achieved without a whole-of-government and whole-of-society effort. For this reason, mainstreaming ageing, that is systematic integration of ageing issues across all relevant policy fields and at all levels of government, has been recommended by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (MIPAA) and most international ageing-related policy documents that have followed it.

In UNECE countries, realization of the need for, and efforts to, mainstream ageing are gathering momentum. To support the process and provide methodological guidance, the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing established a Task Force on Mainstreaming Ageing, which worked in collaboration with the consultant and the UNECE Population Unit to develop the present Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing. The Guidelines were discussed and agreed by the Task Force and approved for publication by the Standing Working Group on Ageing at its 13th annual meeting in November 2020.

The Guidelines provide policymakers across the UNECE region with suggestions on how to advance or improve their mainstreaming efforts by developing a Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming Ageing. They draw on the methodology of UNECE Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing and country experiences gained over the past 20 years of MIPAA implementation in the UNECE region.

Creating a society for all ages that leaves no one behind requires policymakers to understand the diverse and evolving needs, rights and preferences of individuals across their life course and along individual ageing trajectories. The Guidelines therefore recommend a 'twin-track approach' to mainstreaming ageing that considers ageing from a societal as well as from an individual perspective. A 'twin-track approach' enables societies to realize the potential of living longer while ensuring sustainable adaptations of education systems, labour markets, health and social care, and social security and protection systems to growing proportions of older persons.

The UNECE Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing are published at a critical time. Countries in the region still find themselves battling the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that demands unprecedented political, social and economic efforts. Societies with ageing populations have been particularly hard-hit. Awareness of the diversity of needs and capacities and respect of human rights provide valuable guidance for the design of government measures during this time of unprecedented complexity and for building forward better in the years ahead. By putting emphasis on age-sensitive research and analysis, multi-stakeholder engagement, cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration, as well as alignment with relevant international frameworks, the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Ageing also provide a pertinent tool for implementing the Decade of Action for the accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030).



Edmundo Martinho
Chair
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At UNECE, Lisa Warth coordinated the work of the Task Force, provided technical guidance and edited the final draft of the Guidelines under the overall supervision of Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich. France Font-Verot prepared the layout. UNECE gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Alexandre Sidorenko who reviewed the drafts several times and provided editorial suggestions.

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The Guidelines were informed by 23 country notes on mainstreaming ageing prepared by national focal points on ageing from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Federica Previtali prepared a first analysis of the country notes informing the development of the Guidelines.

Members of the Standing Working Group on Ageing and peer reviewers from civil society, international organizations and academia provided valuable feedback and comments on the zero draft and subsequent drafts of the Guidelines, which helped improve the final product.

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