

*A review of implementation of MIPAA in  
Slovenia*



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*FEDERATION*  
*OF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS OF*  
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# Older people in Slovenia: the facts

- in 2006 21% > 60. —————> 40% in 2050;
- Life expectancy at 60 : men - 18 years; women - 23 years;
- 27% of older women live alone compared to only 9% of older men, but only 6 % of older women work, compared to 12% of older men;
- over 60% 80+ - one or more chronic health problems;
- households with 2 people aged 60+ spend twice as much on health as those with no members aged 60+;
- 12% of people in Slovenia live in poverty. The most vulnerable of them are retired persons, especially women, widows and unemployed and one-parent families.

# Achievements since 2002

- 2006 Slovene Government adopted Strategy of Care for the Elderly 2007-2010.
- 2007 The Parliament of Slovenia accepted The Resolution of Care for the Elderly 2007-2010.
- The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs proposed changes to the Act of Social Welfare.
- In autumn 2007 established the National Strategic Committee for Intergenerational co-existence and Solidarity chaired by the representative of users

## Federation of Pensioner Associations of Slovenia (FPAS)

260,000 members in 502 local Associations

2004 the FPAS started the project »Elderly people for better quality of life at home«.

- in 2007– 117 local associations – 1,499 volunteers are visiting 50,982 people >69 (40%) living in their households
- 10 to 15% need assistance, organized by local associations of pensioners
- Results will be presented to the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

- **local interdisciplinary coordination**, nominated by the mayor of the municipality.
- discuss the problems of older people of the entire area with the aim to solve them **interdisciplinary**
- discuss documents prepared by the national government and parliament which affect older people (i.e. privatisation of the primary health care system.)

- 1999 - opened **public discussion on violence against elderly in Slovenia** by NGO's

### **3 books published by SPh and FPAS**

- 2005, "Never told stories", the book on the violence against the elderly in the family
- 2007 Attitude toward Older people in Slovene society
- 2008 Attitude toward Older people in Slovene institutions
- We are convinced that the broadcast of information about the elderly being maltreated has led to the draft of the law providing articles against the maltreatment of the elderly in the family, which is currently debated in the Parliament.

# Challenges facing older people in Slovenia

- the elderly in Slovenia are kept out of decision-making processes
- retired experts can not lead any project for the elderly. This is forbidden by the Act of Social Welfare. FPAS has demanded the change of this article for four years without any success,
- public opinion in Slovenia considers the elderly only as a burden on society,
- leaders of political parties are denying everything that has been done by former generations in order to collect political points for their parties,
- legal opportunities are needed to stimulate pensioners to work after they retire.



# Challenges in implementing MIPAA

- the government knows MIPAA but they did not respect conclusions and recommendations of MIPAA neither at accepting the Strategy of Care for the Elderly nor at accepting some of new laws in the field of the elderly,
- privatisation of the primary health care system violates the rights of elderly. Thereby the elderly joined the movement for collection of the signatures in 2006 for the support of public primary health care system,
- the Strategy of Care for the Elderly adopted in 2006 should represent the Slovenian policy of ageing. But it deals only with the different forms to help weak old people. It does not respect that current generations of aged are much more active, educated and healthy than former generations,

- in past months NGOs, especially the FPAS, permanently pressed upon the members of the government and MPs to respect and implement the MIPAA. The result of these efforts was the meeting between MFLSA and FPAS and it seems it was the beginning of cooperation.

Here are some agreements from this meeting:

1. a group of retired experts will make a study about the quality of life of the elderly in Slovenia and Ministry will finance this study;
2. the Ministry will invite a group of experts and members of pensioners to discuss about partnership in the care for elderly who live in their homes;
3. the Ministry will look for opportunities how to establish different services operated by pensioners;
4. FPAS will participate at the conference about the intergenerations partnership this year when Slovenia presides the EU;
5. the Ministry wants FPAS to cooperate in the drawing of the Law about long-term care;
6. the Ministry and FPAS will work together on the establishment of intergeneration centres

# Recommendations for better implementation of MIPAA:

- the Act has to define active participation of the elderly, the importance of voluntary work and intergenerational cooperation,
- Slovenia as democratic country should determine by the Act that NGOs and Civil Society represent the constituent part of the decision-making process, and thus work in close cooperation on different levels with decision-making agents,
- the Ministry should give FPAS as the main organisation of seniors more opportunities for monitoring and surveying the quality of life of older people in Slovenia.

- The Act has to define the role of Civil Society, especially of NGOs and humanitarian organisations, define the scope of their cooperation and give them an opportunity to cooperate in formulating statements and decisions with authorities on all levels.
- The Act should financially support NGOs in their activities in the field of social welfare.

# Recommendations for better implementation of MIPAA in other areas:

## **The government should**

- include retired experts in preparing drafts of laws, analyses, researches and other papers in the field of elderly,
- Open possibilities for the elderly to participate in public discussions and decision–making processes in all questions touching them,
- Give retired people possibilities of »mini jobs«, part time working etc.

- **The Government should**
- Give stronger support to voluntary work,
- awards for volunteers have to be free of taxes,
- has to adopt Voluntary Work Act .The draft for this Act was already made four years ago,
- has to adopt as soon as possible the Act about long-term care. The first draft has already been done.