

The National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing 2012 – 2030

Summary

The National Concept for Promotion of Active Ageing was adopted on 20 June 2012 with a Decision of the Council of Ministers. It has been designed and developed after a process of large consultations in the framework of the Interinstitutional working group on demographic issues, coordinated and guided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Department for Demographic Development. In the Interinstitutional working group has been included participants of all key sectoral ministries, agencies, National Statistical Office, National Insurance Institute, NGOs, Bulgarian Red Cross and others – in total about 70 members.

The next step is development of National Programme for promotion of active ageing which is scheduled for 2014. The most important characteristic of the Programme is the applying of integrated approach and to address the challenges of the ageing population through intersectoral policy actions. The scope of the policy action was identified in the National Concept for promotion of active ageing (please see below the operational goals). During the years of 2012 and 2013 will be the process of consultations with all interested stakeholders – the region and local authorities, Social partners, NGOs, Healthcare Institutions, Media, Religion organizations, in order to identify the needs of improvement of social services for elderly and to establish networks for common activities on local level. There have been organized 6 regional round tables with participation of all mentioned organizations.

The National concept for promotion of active ageing is a continuation of one of the key lines of action of the Updated national demographic strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria with a horizon to 2030: Overcoming the negative effects of population ageing.

The Concept offers a clear perspective for dealing with the effects of demographic ageing in the context of an integrated approach tailored to the specificities of the issue.

The strategic objective of the National concept for promotion of active ageing is to create conditions for active and decent living of elderly people by ensuring equal opportunities for full economic and social participation.

Advancement towards a society of all ages requires effective contribution of the elderly to social and economic life, and fulfillment of their human rights and freedoms.

In the society of today improvement of human capital in terms of education, health status, social and labour mobility, capacities and skills, quality of life becomes of equal and even greater importance than population numbers.

The national concept for active ageing comprises six operational objectives and targets.

Operational objective No 1: Promoting active working life for older people.

Operational objective No 2: Ensuring the financial stability of the pension system, conditions for an active and decent life, and reduction of poverty among retired individuals.

Operational objective No 3: Ensuring access to health services and prolonging life in good health condition.

Operational objective No 4: Ensuring access to education, promoting life-long learning, further trainings and requalification of older people for the purpose of enhancing labour market mobility.

Operational objective No 5: Developing and modernising long-term care and promoting access to social services; encouraging “silver economy”.

Operational objective No 6: Promoting volunteering.