

**UNECE**

## **MIPAA/RIS+20**

**20 years of action towards creating  
societies for all ages in the UNECE region**



**UNITED NATIONS**



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# MIPAA/RIS +20

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all ages in the UNECE region



**UNITED NATIONS**

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# Introduction

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002, set a comprehensive and bold agenda for ageing-related policies in the 21st century.

With the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for MIPAA (RIS/MIPAA), adopted in Berlin the same year, countries drew a roadmap for creating a ‘society for all ages’ in the region.

MIPAA/RIS called upon state actors, civil society, and the research community to change the way we think about older persons and ageing in the UNECE region and take concerted action to improve the situation of older persons and prepare for population ageing.

The implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing over the past two decades has taken place in the context of profound social, economic, environmental, and technological change.

The financial crisis of 2007-2008, security threats and armed conflicts, increased global migration flows and the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 all had their far-reaching impacts on the region’s economy, employment, health and care systems, social solidarity, and cohesion. Also, the effect of, and recovery from, these crises remain uneven across countries.

Digitalisation has transformed economic and social life across the region over the past 20 years, bringing new opportunities as well as challenges for societal adaptation to population ageing.

Collective consciousness of climate change, environmental degradation, and the increased frequency of natural disasters has grown. Older persons are at particular risk in emergency situations, as the recent experience of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the armed conflict in Ukraine have painfully demonstrated. As the region adjusts to these new realities, the importance of mainstreaming ageing across all policy fields becomes more evident, just as the necessity to deliver on the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ‘leave no one behind’.

**This report, issued to mark the 20-year milestone in the implementation of MIPAA/RIS, highlights progress in policy development and shifts in the way ageing societies adapt to demographic change. It provides an overview of the broad array of measures through which countries in the region have been paving the way toward societies for all ages, aspiring to a future in which every individual, young and old, can fully contribute to and benefit from social and economic development, social cohesion, and peace.**

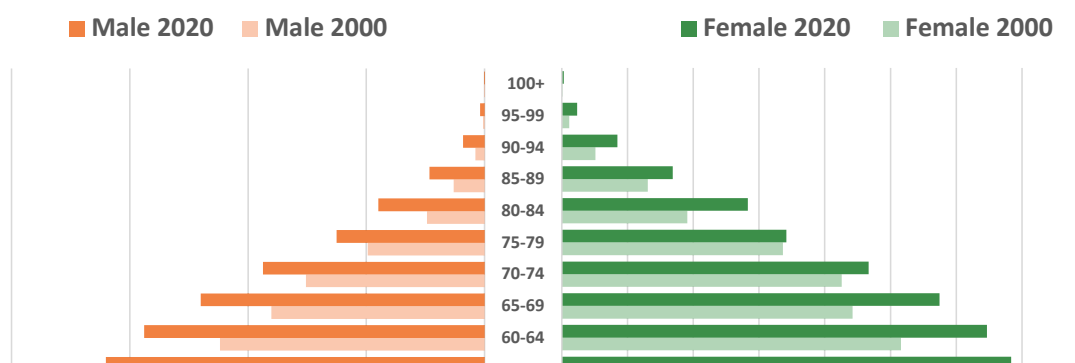
# Population ageing in the UNECE region

Since the adoption of MIPAA/RIS in 2002, the trend towards population ageing has continued in the region. It intensified in the east European countries where the impact of low fertility and rising longevity was amplified by increasing outmigration of the working age population. In turn, the international migration flows had a mitigating impact on the pace of demographic ageing in a number of west European countries. The proportion of persons aged 65 and older in the region has increased from about

1 in 8 (13.1 per cent) in 2000 to 1 in 6 (16.8 per cent in 2020) and is projected to reach 1 in 4 (24.5 per cent) by 2050. The age group 80+ has been growing fastest from 2.8 per cent in 2000 to 4.4 per cent in 2020 and is expected to almost double to 8.7 per cent by 2050. Women predominate among the older age groups as they outlive men whose life expectancy has remained lower. Women currently make up 58 per cent of the population aged 65 and above in the UNECE region.

Figure 1

## Population structure of the UNECE region, 2000 and 2020



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