



- BRIEF PEER REVIEW REPORT -
Practices in the Slovak Republic:
“Active involvement / Work after retirement”
Bratislava, 20-21 March 2012
(ZSI, Vienna, 2 April 2012)

INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the CE-Ageing Platform (<http://www.ce-ageing.eu>), a project co-funded by the Central Europe Programme, the first Peer review was held in Bratislava on 20-21 March 2012. The content of the Peer review comprised activities and measures implemented in the Slovak Republic related to the active involvement of the elderly.

The first set of presentations included the current state of health care for seniors in Slovakia (by Štefan Krajčík, Slovak Medical University), the status of working pensioners in the pension scheme of the Slovak Republic (by Patrícia Bojková, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family) as well as the deinstitutionalization of social services (by Mária Nádaždyová, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family). The good practice looked at demonstrated activities at the local level implemented in the city of Banská Bystrica on how to improve the integration of the elderly (by Maria Filipova, City of Banská Bystrica). Finally, a general statement on demographic ageing was prepared by Jozef Mikloško, Christian Seniors Association. Moderation was provided by Mária Chaloupková.

The CE-Ageing Platform partners herewith thank the Slovak project partners for their availability in organising the Peer review and their openness in sharing their experiences. With the Peer review a valuable insight into actions taken in relation to the active involvement of the elderly was made possible for the CE-Ageing Platform partners.

The ‘Brief Peer Review Report’ was drawn by the ZSI to highlight the central points that emerged. It makes no claim to be complete and is intended as an initial note from ‘critical friends’ with statements deriving from the two half days reflection visit.

KEY LEARNINGS - INITIAL NOTES FROM ‘CRITICAL FRIENDS’

During the 2nd day of the Peer review, the CE-Ageing Platform partners deeply discussed the common understanding of “active ageing” in relation to the presentations given. Active ageing is regarded as a process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security (see definition of WHO, see http://www.who.int/ageing/active_ageing/en/index.html). Hence, many policy areas as well as all age groups are to be targeted when setting activities in the field of active ageing. Consequently, the participants noted that the target group of older people - as presented during the Peer review - gives only a limited insight into activities related to active ageing.

Given the necessary limited scope as well as the short time of the Peer review the participants, however, discussed issues related to the approaches presented as well as issues outranging the Peer review focus of “work after retirement”. Overall, recommendations for the CE-Ageing Platform partners in the Slovak



Republic comprised the need to adjust the Slovak systems to conditions of demographic change including all relevant policy areas such as local/regional economic development, labour market policy, social security, health policy, and education as well as VET policy, just to name some.

In regard to the practices presented the CE-Ageing Platform partners emphasised the requirement for clearly defining the needs of the different target groups including companies, workers and users. Both, enterprises needs (in particular those of SME's) as well as employee's needs (in relation to e.g. qualification, skills, and health conditions) must strongly be taken into consideration when drawing policy actions.

The partners, finally, suggest to:

- Target all age groups by setting activities for active ageing (e.g. by establishing intergenerational pacts);
- Establish win-win situations for employers and employees;
- Ensure equal opportunities (in particular in relation to working conditions);
- Take a life-long approach to health (healthy work places and life style), qualifications (lifelong learning) as well as working conditions;
- Promote measures for the creation of new work places and longer working life (maintaining work ability, bonus system); as well as to
- Support/improve flexible pension-systems promoting a balanced transfer into retirement (e.g. job-rotations within companies, providing shift-models)

The policy approach illustrated in regard to the deinstitutionalisation of social services (presented by Mária Nádaždyová) deeply impressed the CE-Ageing Platform partners. The approach is regarded as big challenge, in particular, when taking an even enhanced, holistic approach including the many other policy areas. It was questioned, however, whether or not the deinstitutionalisation of social services is/could be implemented in the CE Ageing Platform partner countries.

KEY LEARNINGS OF THE PROJECT PARTNERS TO BE TAKEN HOME

The partners also discussed what they will take home as learnings in order to improve their own actions. The learnings taken home comprise:

- CE-Ageing Platform partners from AT/Styria:
 - Deinstitutionalisation system to be implemented in Styria?
- CE-Ageing Platform partners from AT/Upper Austria:
 - Active ageing starts before retirement;
 - Deinstitutionalisation system to be implemented in Upper Austria?
- CE-Ageing Platform partners from Italy:
 - Win-win situations should be found for all situations
 - Reflect on ageing processes placed in a customer/community oriented approach
- CE-Ageing Platform partners from SI/Maribor:
 - Never forget end-users;
 - It is a challenge to establish as many as possible win-win situations during working life;
 - Deinstitutionalisation approach implemented EU-wide?



- CE-Ageing Platform partner from CZ/Liberec:
 - Active ageing is very important when looking at demographic change
- CE-Ageing Platform partner from PL/Katowice:
 - all policies are connected with active ageing
- CE-Ageing Platform partner from SK:
 - Active ageing is first, deinstitutionalisation is of great interest.

The CE-Ageing Platform participants of the 2nd day (21st March) comprised (in alphabetic order) Tanja Bogner, AK OÖ-Chamber of Labour Upper Austria, Roberta Fefé, ISFOL-National Agency for Vocational Training, Piotr Hetmańczyk, GIG-Central Mining Institute, Mateja Karničnik, Economic Institute Maribor/Human Development Centre, Simone Kosnik, BAB Management Consulting Ltd, Michael Kříž, Bridge to Education, o.s., Sante Marchetti, ISFOL-National Agency for Vocational Training, Petra Moser, ZSI-Centre for Social Innovation, Tatjana Pavlic, Economic Institute Maribor/Human Development Centre, Mirna Prebanda, AK OÖ-Chamber of Labour Upper Austria, Melitta Scherounigg, BAB Management Consulting Ltd, Anette Scoppetta, ZSI-Centre for Social Innovation, and Aneta Zubeková, Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok / SK.