EL PAPEL DE ESPAÑA EN LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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IMSERSO

Estructura de las Naciones Unidas

- Naciones Unidas (Nueva York)
- UNECE (Ginebra)
- Naciones Unidas (Viena)

IMSERSO:
Focal Point on Ageing

Naciones Unidas (nivel global)

- Comisión de Desarrollo Social
- OEWGA (Open Ended Working Group on Ageing)- Grupo de Trabajo Abierto sobre Envejecimiento

Naciones Unidas (nivel regional)

- UNECE (Working Group on Ageing) – Grupo de Trabajo sobre Envejecimiento de la Región Europea de Naciones Unidas
- Policy Briefs: temáticas que inciden en el tema de la soledad

United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

Policy brief

Images of older persons

Commitment 2 of the UNECE Strategy on Ageing: To ensure full integration and participation of older persons in society.

Contents

Good practice examples

• Images of older persons in Germany
• Austria – Towards a realistic portrayal of older persons
• Croatia: Fade In
• Czech Republic: Respect my Granny !
• Spain: IMSERSO's Project "Effective change through education"
• An intergenerational approach in school curricula in Estonia
• Belgium: Old and Young Playing Theatre Together on Basis of Improvisation
• Travelling Grannies and Grandpas Programme in the USA

Challenging context

The economic and societal implications that result from demographic change may have an impact on how certain generations or age-groups are perceived by the majority of the population or community. Often older family members or neighbours are respected and well integrated members of their community. They also often dispose of a considerable knowledge, experience and consumer power through life-long accumulated savings. Older persons are thus able to assist younger family members and their community with advice through gained experience. But in some cases older persons are faced with neglect and negative stereotypes. A displacement of older persons into segregated communities, an undervaluing of their contributions to society, and negative media portrayals, contribute to a decrease in face-to-face contact with older persons, foster the growth of a gap between generations and a general lack of empathy towards people of different age-groups.
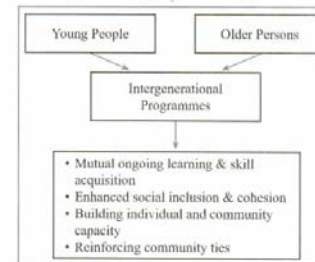
Suggested strategies

A fundamental component of combating ageism and stigmatisation is to open up an ongoing dialogue through accessible and life-long education (in schools, public campaigns, etc), which may lead to a greater awareness of differences in the experience of life-courses. Curricula that incorporate intergenerational perspectives and invite all people to celebrate diversity are also important. Designing and implementing various community programmes that encourage different institutions to have a balanced view on all generations is a key to bridging the gap between generations. Also, Governments may find appropriate means to encourage a realistic and heterogeneous portrayal of older persons in the media. These efforts may include programmes that stimulate or facilitate NGO collaboration of mass media outlets.

Expected result

The goal ultimately is the inclusion of older persons in social, economic and political life, to increase social solidarity amongst all generations on both individual and societal level.

Figure 1: Intergenerational Programmes

There are various ways how the topic 'Images of older persons' could be implemented in school curricula. Some of these might include that schools arrange activities for the young and old in the same premises[17], making it mandatory to engage in various types of community services for credit, or requiring projects that combine mandatory community service hours. The results of several studies indicate that images of older persons change positively when intergenerational programmes are part of the learning process[18]. For instance, in one study the researchers evaluated the impact of the programme by asking students in the three classes to provide descriptions of "old people" before and after contact with older persons[19]. The results show that after the contact with older persons the 2nd and 4th graders used significantly more of positive words to describe older person and notably fewer negative words.

Spain: IMSERSO's Project "Effective change through education"

The IMSERSO programme concentrates on five different areas of work, namely employment, social inclusion and protection, labour conditions, combating discrimination through the celebration of diversity and the promotion of gender equality, and operates in various Spanish cities through so-called Centres for the Recovery of Motor Disabled Persons (CRMF).

The goal of the IMSERSO's project was to "sensitize towards the situation of disabled and older persons as a way to prevent discrimination" by creating a curriculum that helps to teach younger persons about older persons in a positive and empathetic light. This was done by developing teaching material in cooperation with the heads of educational centres, directors of studies, teachers, parents associations and kindergarten and elementary schools pupils. Using these resources offered the opportunity for exchange of cultural and social values, to improve the understanding and internalization of diverse attitudes, the development of sensitivity and empathy, and to develop a sense of solidarity and respect for every human being.

Source: Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equity (IMSERSO). Email Manuel Montero-Rey,at: mmontero@imserso.es

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[18] Barton, H. (1999). Effects of an Intergenerational Program on the Attitudes of Emotionally Disturbed Youth toward the Elderly. Educational Gerontology, 25, 623–640

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Centro Europeo de Políticas de Bienestar Social e Investigación (Centro Europeo de Viena)

- Proyecto de investigación sobre soledad de las personas mayores

CONTRIBUCIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL A LA CONFERENCIA DE LEÓN

- MIPAA (Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing)- Plan de Acción Internacional de Madrid sobre Envejecimiento (2002)

- RIS (Regional Implementation Strategy)- Estrategia Regional de Implementación (2002)

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"Una sociedad para todas las edades"

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- Consejo de Derechos Humanos. Creación (2006).
- España: (2010-2013); (2017-2020)
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Agenda 2030 de NNUU y envejecimiento

- Conferencia UNECE 21 de noviembre 2018
- Mainstreaming ageing: Introducción de la perspectiva de las personas mayores en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible

Connecting MIPAA/RIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Areas for policy integration

Enlaces a la documentación:

www. unece.org

www.euro.centre.org

www.un.org/development

¡Muchas gracias!