CHAPTER 2
The ICPD Beyond 2014 survey in UNECE countries: findings at a glance

As part of the ICPD Beyond 2014 global survey, UNECE countries provided information on the status of implementation of the provisions of the 1994 ICPD PoA. The survey used a standardized questionnaire designed to collect information across countries, accounting for policies and programmes which they formulated in the years after the ICPD, the level of institutionalization, the extent of implementation and the progress made. The questionnaire was sent out to all UNECE Member States, and the information gathered from 46 completed questionnaires was reviewed.

The analysis here is exclusively drawn from the completed questionnaires received and sequentially follows the eight sections therein. The main topics enquired about in the survey are as follows:

• To what extent have the provisions of the ICPD PoA been reflected in relevant policies, programmes and strategies?

• How did UNECE countries and subregions address the ICPD issues being investigated in the questionnaire? What were the measures taken for policy implementation?

• What are the major challenges that UNECE countries are likely to face in the future? What are the issues that require particular attention? What are the emerging priority issues that need to be reflected in future policies?

The survey gathered a wealth of information with respect to the availability of legislative acts and policies, but with rather limited detail on their content. The inferences are, therefore, based on the availability of policies and the short comments related to their implementation. No inferences were made on the effectiveness of policies, as the questionnaire was not designed to collect this information.

The text throughout this chapter includes numerous references to country-specific policies selected to reveal the variety of policy approaches around the region. They are used as examples and do not necessarily include all countries with similar policies.

The UNECE countries' replies to the survey provided useful information on the regulatory framework based on the available legislation, policies, programmes, strategies and plans of action,[17] and their implementation, as well as priorities for the future. It can help countries to learn more about international experience and make their own comparisons.

Section 1: Population dynamics and sustainable development

Sustainable development depends on the balance of three main pillars: economic, social and environmental sustainability. Population matters permeate all three pillars. The social pillar requires that people do not experience adverse social impacts such as impoverishment, social exclusion and deprivation, and that special attention be given to vulnerable groups, including youth, women, elderly people, migrants, and persons with disabilities, among others. It also requires that future generations be able to live in an environment no worse than the contemporary environment. The balance among the three pillars is particularly important during times of financial and economic crises when social and environmental sustainability are at a higher risk of being disrupted.

Although the three pillars were not articulated as such in the ICPD PoA, the questionnaire makes it possible to track the relevant policies and helps better understand the subject of population and sustainable development.

Policies, programmes and strategies

The existence of a national policy, programme or strategy addressing interactions between population and sustainable development was reported in 61 per cent of responses (Annex A, Table 1.1). The response rate was very low among

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[17] Further in the text, the general term 'regulation' or 'regulatory documents' will be used when referring to the set of documents that include legislative acts, programmes, policies, strategies, action plans and others.

the Non-EU (0 out of 5) and the EU15 countries (4 out of 13). This could be misleadingly understood as non-compliance with the ICPD PoA and, therefore, requires further clarification.

Germany, for instance, provides the following explanation:

"Questions related to the implementation of the ICPD in section 1 of the enquiry do not relate to the situation in Germany, a country with a very high level of human development and an ageing and shrinking population. The relationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in the context of the ICPD, relates to population growth. Germany does not have a national policy aimed at this issue. However, the German Federal Government implemented a coherent policy to maintain economic growth despite the demographic change which is expected to take place over the next decades. Ecological sustainability has already been implemented as a fundamental goal of German policy and consequently, the new demographic strategy will regard it as one of its guiding principles (see http://www.demografiestrategie.de)".

The ICPD PoA may be misperceived to refer mainly to population dynamics in developing countries, where the demographic situation differs notably from that of the economically advanced countries. In fact, as was indicated in Chapter 1, contemporary demographic trends in advanced countries also interact with sustainable development and sustainable growth, particularly when population cohorts are shrinking or ageing. This interaction is particularly important for the achievement of social sustainability — i.e. for curbing poverty, inequality, deprivation and social exclusion.

Certain ICPD provisions are relevant to the recent demographic changes in advanced countries. Moreover, these changes are expected to affect a growing number of people across countries, as globally both fertility and mortality are declining, bringing down population growth and inevitably increasing population ageing.

The topic of sustainable development and its interaction with population issues is part of the EU agenda. In 1997, sustainable development became an overarching strategy of the EU. The European Council of June 2006 adopted a comprehensive renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy[18] which built on the Gothenburg Strategy of 2001 and was the result of an extensive review process that started in 2004. This strategy addressed seven key priority challenges:

- climate change and clean energy;
- sustainable transport;
- sustainable consumption and production;
- conservation and management of natural resources;
- public health;
- social inclusion, demography and migration; and
- global poverty and sustainable development challenges.

The last three priority challenges relate to population matters and the ICPD PoA.

According to the EU strategy, the Member States implement the strategic priorities in their respective national policy framework, design concrete actions and monitor their implementation. For example, the Czech Republic's first strategy for sustainable development was adopted in 2004 as a long-term framework for political decision-making. This strategy was designed in the context of the international commitments made by the Czech Republic in connection with its joining the EU in 2004 and its membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the UN.[19] The Czech survey questionnaire states that a Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development in the Czech Republic was adopted by the government with resolution No. 37 in January 2010.

EU Member States have committed to strategies of sustainable development, and their actions are accounted for in the progress reports published every second year since 2007. Thus the EU countries that responded negatively or did not supply a response to this question can still be considered as engaged in implementing the ICPD PoA in matters of population and sustainable development.

The EU is also partnering with other countries in formulating and implementing policies for

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[18] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/.

[19] Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, "Sustainable Consumption and Production", http://www.mzp.cz/en/sustainable_consumption_and_production.

sustainable development. Numerous initiatives are oriented toward collaboration with neighbouring countries, such as Turkey and Eastern European countries. For instance, the EU Eastern Partnership with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine included, among other provisions, concrete initiatives on improving environmental governance. This programme comprised financial support from the EU and addressed important environmental challenges in the region, such as waste management, water quality and managerial and information capacities regarding environmental issues. The South-Eastern European Cooperation Programme co-funded by the EU also reports similar activities.

Altogether UNECE countries reported about 109 policies, programmes and strategies addressing interactions between population and sustainable development (Annex A, Table 1.2). Programmes and strategies outnumber policies. The status of their implementation, the year of inception and the horizon of implementation vary considerably.

Some of the cited regulatory documents refer to general sustainable development — for example, in Belarus, the Czech Republic, Finland and France. These are overarching legislative acts, usually complemented by others specified by their objects of influence:

• Many reported policies, programmes or strategies refer to the social pillar of sustainable development, such as the reduction or eradication of poverty, issues related to active ageing and ageing in general, youth or social inclusion.

• The environmental pillar is supported by policies, programmes or strategies on biodiversity, climate change, energy consumption and water supply.

• Demographic strategies, policies and programmes exist in most of the countries in the SEE, EEC and CA subregions. These countries cite policies, programmes or strategies related to development of the country's regions.

Policies, programmes or strategies on education are frequently cited. A human capital development strategy is available in Poland; Cyprus has adopted a national curriculum for environmental education/ education for sustainable development, noteworthy for the combination of education and environmental protection. It complies with the UN's conception of the achievement of social inclusiveness through education in matters related to sustainable development.[20]

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

Under this section, the survey questionnaire covered 10 issues from the ICPD (Annex A, Table 1.5).

The first issue refers to eradicating poverty through income generation and employment. Although combating poverty is left to national governments, the EU has set up a system of recommendations that its members are expected to follow and has initiated a series of campaigns. For example, 2010 was declared the Year of Combating Poverty. The importance of this issue in the EU is also evident by its inclusion as a target in the Europe 2020 strategy. Most of the non-EU countries have addressed this issue.

Three other issues, related directly to the implication of population trends in large urban agglomerations and in ecologically vulnerable areas, including the needs of people living in the latter, have not been frequently addressed in policies, programmes or strategies.

The issue of addressing the needs of people living within or on the edge of fragile ecosystems is relevant in areas such as the Aral Sea and Chernobyl. Countries most affected by these disasters report on relevant policies (Belarus, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan).[21] This was corroborated in the 10-year review of the ICPD PoA.[22]

Fostering sustainable use of resources and preventing environmental degradation is the most frequently addressed of the issues in this section. However, its implementation is relatively slow: only 56 per cent of the countries reported being on schedule or ahead of schedule. Implementation is also behind schedule for measures to improve solid waste management and promote management of environmental resources.

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[20] United Nations, "*From Transition to Transformation: Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Europe and Central Asia*" (New York and Geneva, United Nations, 2012: 47–48).

[21] No data are available for Uzbekistan.

[22] T. Frejka, "A decade of experience with implementing the ICPD Programme of Action: the UNFPA field inquiry in the UNECE region", *The New Demographic Regime: Population Challenges and Policy Responses* (New York and Geneva, United Nations, 2005).

Eradicating poverty was selected as the most important issue in the national context. Other issues indicated as important include: reducing territorial inequalities, strengthening food security and improving solid waste management.

Persisting and emerging priorities

In most cases the prospective policies are primarily envisaged at the macroeconomic or macrosocial level, while micro-level policies directed towards individuals are given secondary importance.

• Eradicating poverty and increasing employment are indicated as priorities, for example, in the Czech Republic, Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Increasing income generation is mentioned by Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic.

• Demographic and population policies and strategies (Bulgaria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia): low fertility is considered a problem that requires relevant policies in several countries. In the Russian Federation two quantitative indicators are set as policy aims: to reach a total fertility rate of 1.73 in 2017, and a life expectancy of 74 years in 2018. Increasing life expectancy is also a priority in Belarus.

• Migration, population growth and its implications for spatial development: Switzerland emphasizes their effect on housing/rental prices and the social security system. Integration of immigrants is also cited by Switzerland and France. Belarus, Finland, France and Portugal, among others, mention regulating migration as a priority. Georgia and Lithuania mention territorial distribution of the population as a policy priority.

• Investment in human capital, promoting a better quality of education and environmental education (Albania, Andorra, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan): health is highlighted by several countries, mainly with reference to health services and reproductive health.

• Reducing social risks for older persons, low-income families and vulnerable population groups by developing an effective social protection system (Azerbaijan).

• Gender equality in terms of the social and economic development of women in rural areas (Spain).

• General issues related to economic growth and sustainable development: the United States emphasizes the importance of general sustainability.

Romania refers to the importance of non-governmental organizations: "The development of social economy by actively involving all relevant stakeholders and by encouraging the social action of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups (social cooperatives, self-help associations, foundations, charities and voluntary services, etc.)".

Future priorities are dominated by persistent issues such as poverty and unemployment, demographic concerns (raised by slowing population growth, low fertility, high mortality, migration) and issues referred to in other sections, such as education and health. Issues related more directly to interactions between population, on the one hand, and energy consumption, pollution and environmental protection, on the other, did not receive sufficient attention. This observation raises concerns especially in connection with the lagging implementation of policies related to the sustainable use of resources and environmental protection.

Section 2: Population structures: young people, older persons, and persons with disabilities

Young people are represented at the bottom of a population age pyramid, while older ages are situated at its peak. Changes in the population pyramid due to changes in fertility, mortality and migration can have tremendous demographic, economic and social consequences and, therefore, call for appropriate public policy responses. These changes can be anticipated and, therefore, can effectively be used for macro-level planning purposes. Yet at the micro level, young people and elderly people are specific vulnerable groups whose problems require relevant policy action. Disability which affects individuals of both sexes and of all age groups exposes people to added vulnerability. The problems experienced by young people, elderly people and persons with disabilities were thoroughly reflected in the ICPD PoA.

2.1. Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth

In addressing youth, the ICPD PoA focuses on the age group 10–25 years. This group is the subject of many international acts. Children aged below 10 are targeted by other UN documents, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Council of Europe supports a range of programmes through

Sustainable consumption: Eco-social shopping in Austria (from the Austrian questionnaire)

"The initiative 'Conscious Buying' ('Bewusst kaufen') was launched in 2010 by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. The goal of the initiative is to raise consumer awareness and thus to enhance the sale of sustainable products, in cooperation with retailers. With the label 'Das bringt's nachhaltig' ('getting there the sustainable way'), thousands of retailers including all major food chains, hardware suppliers and drugstores point the consumer towards healthy, environmentally sound, energy-efficient, regionally processed and/or fairly traded products. The label is used in the advertising material of the participating retailers and at each point of sale in order to inform the consumers on the relevant product lines and to encourage them to shop accordingly.

The campaign has four objectives:

1. To encourage consumers to buy sustainable products

2. To use products and special offers to raise awareness of sustainability and give practical examples of sustainable development

3. To highlight good examples of local sustainable development initiatives

4. To give publicity to the partners (government and retailers) in the media.

With the latest sustainability topics, shopping guides and online databases for labels and products, the online platform www.bewusstkaufen.at offers a variety of tools that assist in eco-social shopping."

its Youth Department, thus assisting young people across its 47 member countries in diverse ways.[23] The EU provides support to youth through diverse initiatives. For example the EU Youth Strategy (2010–18) has two overall objectives:

- to provide more and equal opportunities for young people in education and in the labour market; and

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[23] http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/Structures_en.asp.

- to encourage young people to be active citizens and to participate fully in society.

There is clear commonality between these objectives and the ICPD PoA issues considered below.

Policies, programmes or strategies

Regulation to protect children's rights exists in many countries (the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Sweden), and it is frequently closely connected with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The existence of a policy, programme or strategy addressing the needs of adolescents and youth were reported in 41 out of 46 questionnaires (Annex A, Table 2.1).

The most frequently cited documents centre directly on youth. A law on youth is cited by Azerbaijan, Belarus, Israel, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Serbia. These countries, along with many others, also have a national action plan, a strategy, a policy or a programme addressing the needs of adolescents and youth. For example, Bulgaria has a National Youth Strategy 2012–2020; France has a *Plan interministériel pour la jeunesse*. Specific programmes are reported by Denmark: The Youth Effort; Germany: *Jugend staerken*; and the United States: YouthBuild, which centres on high-school dropouts.

Topics related to young people are also embedded in broader policies such as family, health and labour force policies, territorial development and others.

Specific policies on youth employment are mentioned by Albania, Belarus and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Russian Federation reports support to graduates with vocational training to practise their skills through internships. Other policies/acts address youth poverty (Bulgaria, Serbia) and sexual violence against youth or violence among youth (Croatia, Germany, Italy, Sweden). Norway cites a Manifesto against Bullying.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

Table 2.5 in Annex A summarizes all responses on the six ICPD PoA issues under this section.

The first issue, 'Creating employment opportunities for youth', is addressed in 41 questionnaires, and 37 countries state that they have allocated budgets and have taken implementation measures.

Implementation is reported behind schedule by six countries where unemployment is high. However, reported progress in another 29 countries was not necessarily associated with the level of youth unemployment. This observation serves as an alert for a deeper examination of policies whose implementation is behind schedule.

The least addressed issue refers to data collection.[24] The countries that failed to answer this question are concentrated in the EU13 (six) and EU15 (four). These countries, however, have a number of statistical surveys including labour force surveys that provide data on youth aged 15 or 16.

Youth unemployment is the most important issue, indicated by countries mainly in the eastern part of the UNECE region, and also Austria, Norway and Portugal. The issues regarding the adverse effects of poverty, addressing violence, exploitation and abuse, and participation were also mentioned as important. Ending youth homelessness was mentioned by the United States. Education was addressed by Croatia, creating gay–straight alliances at secondary schools by the Netherlands, a job strategy for youth with disabilities by Norway, and engagement and civil participation of young people by France.

Persisting and emerging priorities

The emerging priorities during the next 5–10 years, as revealed in the survey, match the ICPD issues in this subsection, yet the scope of intended policy development is wider, specifically as regards education of adolescents and youth. The priorities highlighted in the survey were as follows:

• Increasing youth employment: in Albania, for instance, this policy is aimed at the young first-time jobseekers. In France it is aimed at ensuring a smoother transition between education and the labour market.

• Increased access to different forms of education: the Czech Republic emphasized the importance of non-formal education and informal learning. Latvia underscored the need for a policy to encourage young people aged 15–19 to return to education. Israel plans to reduce disparities in education. Malta wishes to increase its higher

educational attainment. The Republic of Moldova seeks improved, free access to studies (and health services), and Serbia to health education in schools. Romania centres on ensuring access to all forms of education and lifelong learning. Spain aims to achieve excellence in education, at all stages, to maximize the potential of youth. Turkmenistan plans a further development of educational institutions.

• Fighting poverty among children, adolescents and youth (highlighted by Bulgaria, Croatia, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine).

• Social inclusion and participation: Serbia aims to increase the activity of young people in different aspects of social, economic and political life. The Russian Federation aims at enhancing young people's life skills.

• Provision of social services (Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania): the United States aims at "implementing validated screening and assessment tools in order to better target the right set of services to an individual youth". Lithuania envisages the establishment of youth-friendly services at the municipal level.

• Imparting positive social values: Turkey emphasizes the role of the family. The Russian Federation stresses support for values and patriotic education of children and youth.

Other topics include improvement of adolescent- and youth-friendly legislation (Kyrgyzstan), improvement of the housing situation (Austria, Azerbaijan), and "promotion of local youth NGO activities and youth involvement in social life" (Armenia). France emphasizes the transition from education to employment; access to social rights, especially for the most vulnerable young people; governance of youth policies at local, regional and national level; and the commitment and participation of young people. Ireland seeks to ensure greater coordination in addressing the needs of young people.

The recent unprecedented rise in youth unemployment and poverty may have negative consequences throughout the young people's lives, as they leave an imprint on their personal values. They may remain the 'scarred generations' of the future, in contrast to the aims of sustainable development. To counter this impact, young people's needs should be better understood and addressed with relevant policies and strategies. Specifically, unemployed young adults may be motivated to further their education and labour qualifications.

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[24] "Collecting age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socioeconomic status of adolescents and youth".

Belgium emphasizes the importance of "Valorisation des compétences des jeunes, orientation et choix de vie" (enhancing young people's competences, their orientation and life choice). Young people face crucial decisions for their own life with respect to fundamental events such as education, work, leaving the parental home and starting their own family. In times of globalization the set of potential choices faced by individuals increases drastically, and the availability of relevant information for making decisions becomes critical. Some young people may feel disoriented when they do not have sufficient information; uncertainty becomes a leading feature in young people's lives in contemporary globalizing societies.[25]

2.2. Addressing ageing and the needs of older persons

The pattern of ageing differs significantly among UNECE countries. In Central Asia, Turkey and, to some extent, Israel ageing is at its inception; in EEC countries it is progressing rapidly after the swift decline in fertility from the early 1990s. In the western parts of the region population ageing has had a longer history. Therefore, while the size of this vulnerable group is on the rise in the eastern part of the region, policymakers and stakeholders can effectively use this time 'lag' to devise policies that better meet the needs of the elderly population.

The UN and the UNECE have a rich history in addressing population ageing. The 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) set forth an agenda on ageing for the 21st century. Its implementation in the UNECE was organized with a Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS), which emanated at the ministerial-level conferences in Berlin in 2002 and Léon in 2007. The UNECE ministerial conference held in Vienna in 2012 reviewed the progress over the last five years and with its declaration outlined the goals for RIS/MIPAA implementation until 2017. The UNECE Population Unit participated in research on active ageing and specifically in the creation of an Active Ageing Index.

It has developed road maps for mainstreaming ageing in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova. A series of policy briefs has been published.[26]

The 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration states a clear commitment of the countries in the region to ageing-related issues. Under the general motto 'Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing' it underlines the significance of the following main areas:

• encouraging a longer working life and maintaining the ability to work;

• promoting the participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons;

• promoting and safeguarding dignity, health and independence in older age; and

• maintaining and enhancing intergenerational solidarity.

The Declaration encompasses all crucial aspects for older persons: their quality of life, working life, social inclusion and participation in society, dignity and health. Countries are urged to follow the recommendations therein, which are also at the heart of the ICPD agenda.

Policies, programmes and strategies

The questionnaires report a broad spectrum of policies, programmes or strategies regarding ageing and/or the needs of older persons. For example, Armenia has a Strategy for Addressing Issues Stemming from the Consequences of Population Ageing and Social Protection of the Elderly. Austria cites a Federal Plan for Seniors' Ageing and the Future. The Czech Republic introduced a National Strategy Supporting Positive Ageing for the Period 2013–2017. A similar strategy was adopted in Ireland. Serbia has a National Strategy on Ageing 2006–2015. The Republic of Moldova has a road map on integrating ageing issues into policies.

In the eastern part of the UNECE region, ageing is part of more extensive policies. For instance, in Azerbaijan it is part of the Conception of Demographic Development. In the Russian Federation, it is part of the demographic policy until 2025, which includes measures to support the health and longer working lives of elderly people.

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[25] H.-P. Blossfeld, E. Klijing, M. Mills and K. Kurz (eds), *Globalisation, Uncertainty and Youth in Society* (London, Routledge, 2005).

[26] More information and relevant documents can be found on the website of the UNECE Population Unit: http://www.unece.org/pau/welcome.html

In EEC and CA countries population policies have an explicit social character and do not necessarily refer to population change at the macro level.

Beyond general regulation, countries cite policies that refer to specific issues, such as pensions, health care and housing. For instance, Sweden has a law on dignity in elderly care. The Czech Republic devised a Concept for Technology Development and Assisted-living Services for Seniors. Denmark identified five key values for its policies: impact on own life; respect for difference; humanity; good experiences every day; and a dignified end of life. France set up an interministerial task team for the adaptation of French society to demographic ageing. Malta devised a Dementia Strategy. The Netherlands adopted a National Care for the Elderly Programme for long-term care and cure. Norway passed an Inclusive Workplace Agreement (IWA), Goal 3: Extended work life among seniors aged 50–70. Poland adopted a Government Programme for Senior Citizens' Social Activity for 2012–2013. Portugal devised a Housing Comfort Programme for Older People and provides incentives to the employment of older workers. Ukraine passed a law on basic principles for social protection of retired workers and other elderly people.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

Providing social services to elderly people is the most frequently addressed ICPD issue (Annex A, Table 2.16). Fewer than half the completed questionnaires (22 out of 46) made reference to preventing discrimination against older persons. A low response was observed for the following issues: enabling older persons to make full use of their skills and abilities; addressing neglect, abuse and violence against older persons; and instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for older persons to participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their lives. These issues deserve more attention in the future.

Reported progress on implementation was slow on average, particularly for promoting employment opportunities for older workers, which may be a consequence of the recent economic crisis. Providing support to families caring for older persons also deserves more attention.

Implementation is also slow with regards to measures taken to prevent discrimination against older persons, especially widows.

Persisting and emerging priorities

• Most priorities are directed towards the needs of elderly people, rather than at macro-level policies. They include: improving the legal foundations of retirement, pension reforms or changes in retirement age (Israel, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Austria and Spain). Increasing pensions or providing other material support is planned in many countries including Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Switzerland.

• Improving regulations that refer to elderly people. (Albania raises the need for a coordinating body that should monitor enactments of laws and their execution).

• Improving health care (Austria, Romania, Sweden), especially in rural areas (Romania).

• Training staff and providing personnel for health care and social services (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Switzerland). The need for geriatricians is highlighted.

• Promoting employment and extending the working lives of elderly people is emphasized in at least 10 questionnaires.

• Improving the quality of social services and extending their scope (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan).

• Ensuring the financial sustainability of elderly care (Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia).

• Lifelong learning (Czech Republic and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The latter reports about a third-age university adjoined to the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

• The necessity of protecting the rights of older persons (United States).

Many countries seek to provide care for elderly people in their own homes. Moreover, some countries (Croatia, Ukraine) give priority to home care over placing older persons in specialized homes. This approach reflects a generally preferred choice of the older persons themselves: they often wish to stay in the home where they have lived for a long time, in a familiar neighbourhood, close to relatives and friends, rather than to be institutionalized.

While an individual-based policy approach is common in addressing aspects of care for elderly people in the UNECE region, retirement is ruled by macro-level legislation. A mandatory retirement age is stipulated in the majority of countries with

little room for flexibility. Finding a balance between macro- and individual-level policies in addressing these matters would serve the interests of older persons.

2.3. Addressing the needs of persons with disabilities

On 13 December 2006 the UN adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention stresses social inclusion of persons with disabilities, respect for their human dignity and ensuring their self-realization and self-determination. Human values should be achievable for everyone in an inclusive society, thus embracing persons with disabilities.

The Convention was signed by all UNECE countries and ratified by many of them, as well as by the EU. Its ratification turns it into a law which then provides guidance to the country's legislative system to specify concrete measures for its implementation.

Policies, programmes and strategies

All but three of the 46 completed questionnaires reported the existence of national-level legislation on disability (Annex A, Table 2.23). In most cases the regulatory documents cited were enacted before the ratification of the Convention.

A large number of questionnaires report on the availability of a national strategy or plan related to persons with disabilities. They address a wide range of issues: health, care, working facilities, protection against discrimination, institutionalization and others. Many questionnaires cite, often in addition to the acts mentioned above, regulatory documents aimed at social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunities and human rights. The Convention itself is cited by Germany, Norway, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The questionnaires report also on regulations designed to support specific needs of persons with disabilities. Most frequently they refer to physical disability, mental illness, blindness and other disabilities.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

ICPD issues related to disability are presented in Annex A, Table 2.27. The response rate to the issues is higher than that for addressing the needs of young people and elderly people.

Creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities is the most frequently addressed issue (mentioned in 40 out of 46 completed questionnaires). About 80 per cent of related measures have been implemented.

The development of infrastructure for persons with disabilities is either on schedule or ahead of schedule in two thirds of the 33 responses received. Appropriate infrastructure is costly but crucial for ensuring social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Application of the principle of 'universal design' is particularly important so that the infrastructure can be effectively used by all persons regardless of their disability status.

Where civil participation was mentioned, it was reported along with advanced implementation. This area is not as costly as development of infrastructure and can receive higher attention at times of economic crisis.

Persistent and emerging priorities

The questionnaires underscored the following priorities:

• harmonizing or improving legislation in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

• improving infrastructure;

• creating jobs and equal labour market opportunities;

• ensuring inclusive education; and

• providing equal access to health and other social services, and strengthening rehabilitation services.

Other items include:

• increased involvement in public and political life;

• collecting data on the situation of persons with disabilities;

• providing support to families caring for persons with disabilities;

• recognizing the sexual and reproductive human rights of persons with disabilities;

• preventing violence against persons with disabilities; and

• supporting independent living and providing care at home and non-institutional forms of care.

Several countries highlight priorities of policies related to independent living, deinstitutionalization and providing support at home (Belgium, Ireland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland, and Tajikistan). These policies are in line with Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. With this approach, persons with disabilities can have the choice to remain at home in the surrounding of their social network; to participate more actively in community life; and to be more autonomous. This approach is similar to the one described above for elderly people.

Section 3: Urbanization and internal migration

In the framework of the ICPD PoA, urbanization and internal migration affect population and sustainable development. They differ greatly between more developed and less developed countries. Internal migration often causes population growth in cities and puts pressure on existing social and health services in urban centres. It can also lead to deepening disparities among regions within a country.

Policies, programmes and strategies

Two thirds of all questionnaires (31 out of 46) reported the existence of a national policy, programme or strategy addressing urbanization and internal migration (Annex A, Table 3.1). Most of the countries that did not respond were EU Member States. This, however, should not imply that internal migration is not important to these countries.

The EU tackles problems of rural and urban development through the Regional Policy (also known as the Cohesion Policy). This policy is implemented at the regional level in all EU countries and is adhered to by EU candidates. Its goal is to improve political, social and economic situations in an effort to avoid and reduce disparities among regions. The current EU Regional Policy covers 2007–2013 and has three main objectives: convergence, regional competitiveness and employment, and European territorial cooperation. The European Commission (EC) has adopted a draft package which will frame the policy for 2014–2020. Most countries

have incorporated the EU Regional Policy in their national development plans, and its implementation is experiencing good progress. The policy promotes multilevel governance and is based on regionally tailored operational programmes that support local initiatives. Many operational programmes in lower-income regions focus on increasing the dynamics of small and medium-sized towns and developing human capital in rural and remote areas.

Bulgaria, one of the countries that did not respond to this survey question, is classified by the EC as a convergence country where the development of underdeveloped regions is a priority. The country has incorporated the Regional Policy in its national operational programmes in areas such as transport, environment and regional development. In Spain, a country which does not report a national policy, areas such as Andalucía, Galicia and Extremadura are eligible for funding support for rural and urban development activities. These regional programmes have an indirect impact on the territorial distribution of the population, although they are not directed explicitly at internal migration. Serbia, not an EU member, is following the EU Regional Policy strategy of developing rural areas in response to a depopulation surge. The Ministry of Resources of Serbia has developed a draft strategy for rural development for 2009–2013.[27]

It can be concluded that while UNECE countries have various regulatory documents that refer to territorial and regional issues, this is less so where urbanization and internal migration are explicitly considered.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

The survey collected data for eight ICPD PoA issues related to urbanization and internal migration (Annex A, Table 3.5). Two areas were most frequently mentioned: the development of smaller and medium-sized urban agglomerations, and rural development strategies. The main purpose is to decrease the effect of push factors that encourage migration from rural areas and to mitigate their adverse impact on already large urban centres. Both issues were addressed with dedicated budgets, and the progress of implementation is generally on schedule.

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[27] M. Todorović and M. Drobnjaković, "Peripheral Rural Areas in Serbia – the Result of Unbalanced Regional Development", *Geographica Timisiensis*, 2010, Vol. 19, No. 2: 207–219.

Fewer countries have tried to decrease the pressure on urban agglomerations either through decentralization or by promoting environmental management of urban agglomerations, and implementation is behind schedule in 7 out of the 17 countries that reported on it.

Issues related to facilitating the integration of migrants from rural to urban areas, offering services to internally displaced persons and proactive planning for urban population growth were only addressed by 7, 11 and 13 countries, respectively. When addressed, the implementation is also reported as being behind schedule.

It is worth noting that poverty in Section 1 and poor people in urban areas in the present section are among the issues that have been mentioned most frequently and where policy implementation is reported to be on schedule. Poverty is recognized as a key issue across the region.

Persistent and emerging priorities

Priorities mentioned for the next 5 to 10 years include:

- • Improvement of the infrastructure, such as road networks (Czech Republic, Albania).

- • National territorial or urban development plans (Azerbaijan, Luxembourg, Poland, Tajikistan, and Turkey).

- • Development of rural and/or small urban settlements; territorial decentralization with the aim to ease the pressure on large urban areas (Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Ukraine). Spain cites "rehabilitation of deprived neighbourhoods as a tool to improve employment". Armenia intends to decrease disparities between rural and urban settlements.

- • Addressing depopulation of rural areas (Armenia).

- • Declining population is addressed in the Dutch questionnaire with an emphasis on peripheral areas; Slovakia addresses depopulation in eastern parts of the country.

- • Reference to housing (Albania, Croatia and the United States). The latter emphasizes: "strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life".

A specific case for policy action in the future is raised in the Belgian questionnaire: "Keeping young families in the larger cities". It refers to a rising preference among young families to leave the cities. This outward migration trend may lead to an imbalanced population age structure, with a prevalence of older persons in the cities, and cause a corresponding imbalance in the provision of services.

Other plans for policies include: provision of financial resources; development of an adequate legal framework (Bosnia and Herzegovina); elimination of poverty as a tool to decrease internal migration (Azerbaijan); and stimulating labour mobility (Russian Federation).

The Swiss questionnaire states that "Policies on urbanization and internal migration are not relevant to Switzerland", but it also mentions "agglomeration policy in Switzerland", "agglomeration programme for transport and settlement", "programme for urban projects" and "new regional policies". The accent is on regional development without explicitly referring to any population group. Policies aiming at regional development are broader than public policies directed towards migrants or population groups specified by place of residence. The same policy approach is observed in other countries in the region such as the Netherlands, where a region-specific approach is designed to alleviate population decline in peripheral areas, with policies related to housing, transport and quality of services. The broader policy perspective aims to increase individual choices with its direct effect on 'push' factors on migration.

Section 4: International migration and development

Since the 1990s many countries in the EEC and CA subregions have experienced significant in- and out-migration flows. Migrants and their families require support to adapt to a new economic, social and cultural environment with full respect of their human rights.

Policies, programmes and strategies

International migration is usually regulated through legal acts, which manage issues such as permissions to emigrate or immigrate, duration of stay and visas. Such acts also regulate the status of migrants. In

many countries, the provision of basic social services for migrants such as employment, education and housing is embedded in broader legal acts that refer to all individuals without differentiating them by nationality, ethnicity, religion, culture or other attributes that might distinguish migrants from the local population, in which case specifying public policies for migrants is redundant. Yet migrants face particular challenges — namely, those related to integration or reintegration which may require targeted efforts on the part of governments. For example, the Czech questionnaire cites the Czech Development Cooperation, a broad and comprehensive policy covering various forms of development cooperation, including work with migrants, their communities, returnees etc.

Policies, programmes and strategies refer either to international migration in general or to specific migration-related issues.

General regulating acts:

- Strategies on migration in general have been developed in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Tajikistan. Migration in a broader sense, along with asylum seeking, is cited in the questionnaires for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova. A few strategies are still being drafted, but most of them are already being implemented.

- Policies on migration are being drafted in Croatia, Poland, Turkmenistan and Ukraine; France, Kazakhstan and Lithuania have reported immigration policies as already being implemented. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has developed and adopted a migration policy and its action plan for 2009–2014.

- Kyrgyzstan has implemented a state programme for the regulation of migration for 2007–2010.

- Bilateral and multilateral agreements: Switzerland reports partnerships on migration with a number of countries; Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova refer to agreements with EU partners. These agreements cover matters such as liberalization of visa regimes, countering illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, family reunification, remittances, migration for economic reasons, and education.

Among specific issues on migration it is worth noting the following:

- Foreigners, immigration and integration: Romania has an immigration strategy; in Albania the Law 'On emigration of Albanian citizens for employment purposes' of 2006 has been recently amended. The questionnaires for Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic and Portugal also cite normative documents on these issues.

- Returnees are considered, for example, in Turkey and Serbia (Strategy for the Reintegration of Returnees Pursuant to the Readmission Agreements).

- Remittances, for example, are addressed with a strategy in Turkey, and in a national action plan in Albania.

- Asylum seekers or refugees are part of the strategies developed in Latvia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the United States.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

In addressing the root causes of migration, the development of small and medium-sized urban areas and rural areas is mentioned as a measure to alleviate the push factor that drives migrants away from these areas. Another measure is to provide information to potential migrants about the risks of migration, particularly of illegal migration. The human rights of migrants (Issue b, Table 4.5 of Annex A) are usually considered in the overall framework of human rights on an equal basis for nationals and immigrants. For example, in Belgium the anti-discrimination law of 10 May 2007 forbids discrimination on the basis of age; sexual orientation; civil status; birth; wealth; faith; philosophical or political beliefs; membership of trade unions; language; present or future health status; disability; physical or genetic features; and social origin. Implementation measures include, among others, plans for the integration of migrants (National Integration Plan in Germany); information provided by immigrant NGOs on how to react to violations of their rights (Albania), and increasing immigrants' awareness of their rights. This issue is one of the most widely addressed across the questionnaires, and progress in implementation of measures is stated as high.

The questionnaires rarely provide any information about whether and how gender and age are taken into account in immigration policies. In France and Italy, specific attention is paid to unaccompanied

minors; in Poland to access to education for immigrant children; in Norway to women at risk.

The issues of forced migration, including internal displacement, refugees and trafficking in human beings are also generally addressed. A notable implementation measure here is related to international negotiations and agreements, mainly among neighbouring countries.

Facilitation of remittances is another important issue. In some UNECE countries, remittance receipts are very high in relation to GDP. They can raise the living standards of families left behind, or be used to initiate businesses in the country of origin. In the latter case, providing information on the local rules about starting/conducting a business has been found useful. Facilitation of bank transfers is frequently referred to. It has been addressed by 18 UNECE countries, two thirds of which reported slow progress in implementing foreseen measures (the lowest rate of all issues).

In Annex A, Table 4.7 lists a range of priorities on migration and provides information about the extent to which specific priorities, based on the ICPD PoA, are being addressed in the countries.

Persisting and emerging priorities

During the next 5–10 years international migration will be at the centre of a broad range of policies, both in sending and receiving countries. Such policies could be divided into three groups.

1. Policies aimed at improving the management of migration through the legal system and international cooperation. They include:

   • Development and strengthening of legal mechanisms and their implementation — in the United States such legal mechanisms refer to labour migration. Turkmenistan plans to improve procedures for issuing visas and other legal documents. Switzerland seeks to reduce the time for processing asylum requests. Slovakia also envisages improving asylum and naturalization policies.

   • Enhanced international cooperation through exchange of information, statistical data collection, joint monitoring and research on migration flows and combating trafficking in human beings — Sweden chairs the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2013–2014, which endorses the promotion of positive aspects of migration and development. France looks forward to global and regional management of international migration. Through enhanced international cooperation the United States aims "to ensure humane and effective border management that facilitates safe, controlled, regular migration, discourages irregular migration, and ensures access to legal protection and respect for human rights for all migrants". Switzerland, Romania, Republic of Moldova and Poland also raise the importance of international cooperation.

   • Poverty reduction was emphasized as a strategy to act on push factors and curb migration. Sweden refers to provision of support to developing countries in designing their poverty reduction strategies.

   • Several EEC countries indicate cooperation with the EU. Armenia is aligning its migration policy with that of the EU.

2. Policies aimed at improving the situation of migrants through integration, reintegration, protection of human rights, and fighting trafficking in human beings and at counteracting illegal migration:

   • The integration of migrants and reintegration of returnees were recognized as important issues. The Russian Federation seeks to develop the appropriate infrastructure by providing general information, legal support, and language and cultural education. Turkmenistan highlights the importance of integrating displaced persons. Tajikistan plans to develop a programme for the reintegration of returning labour migrants. Along with the overall integration of immigrants, especially from developing countries, Slovakia pointed to the importance of improving the social climate for immigrants.

   • Ten countries addressed fighting illegal migration and trafficking in human beings in their survey answers. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia plans to develop "clear and effective procedures aimed at preventing illegal border crossing, cross-border crime, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants". Italy seeks to "improve the procedures in place for the protection of unaccompanied immigrant children".

   • Protection of the human rights of migrants (Croatia, Finland, Slovakia and Serbia); prevention of xenophobia (Croatia); protection of refugees and displaced persons (Romania, the Netherlands and Ireland).

• Diaspora issues were also underlined: strengthening the ties with the diaspora in the countries of origin (Finland); the contribution and role of the diaspora to migration and development (Sweden); support for diaspora groups (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia).

3. Policies addressing specific migration issues:

• Labour migration is indicated as a primary form of migration and is the subject of policies aimed at facilitating and improving it (Poland, Spain, Turkmenistan). The Russian Federation and Austria aim to encourage immigration by highly qualified specialists.

• Environmental issues linked with migration are raised by Finland (climate change and migration and development) and France (environmental migration).

• Facilitating flows of remittances is considered important for both sending countries (Ukraine) and receiving countries (Sweden).

• Alleviating negative aspects of migration by addressing the root causes of migration.

• Improving data and research on migration (Serbia, Romania, Poland, Georgia).

• Facilitating voluntary repatriation (Ireland and Armenia).

The countries in the UNECE region report numerous regulative documents and policy priorities related to international migration. Beyond regulation, countries emphasize the necessity of intensifying international cooperation related to displaced migrants, flows of remittances, diaspora, voluntary repatriation; exchange of statistical and other information about migration; and cooperation on scientific research. International cooperation is of crucial importance in times of globalization when moves across boundaries are expected to intensify.

Section 5: Family, individual and social well-being

The last two decades have seen important changes in family lifestyle and individual well-being. The societal transition in EEC and CA countries reinforced these changes during the 1990s. Changes were observed in living arrangements, new family forms, types of unions, single parenthood, and others. In

Turkey encourages expatriate Turks to establish NGOs in order to voice their views vis-à-vis the local public opinion and for establishing direct contacts with the destination governments. The alliance of the NGOs on common goals and interests as umbrella organizations will help them express their demands more effectively. This will enable them to become influential actors in the contemporary pluralist societies that they are dwelling in. The basis of Turkey's cooperation with the destination governments is the perception of integration constituted on giving the immigrants a strong background of their native culture and providing mutual recognition by immigrants and local societies of each other's culture, traditions and characteristics. Within the framework of this understanding, Turkey has been encouraging expatriate Turks and destination countries to establish new bonds with each other which will lead to the formation of prosperous societies enjoying cultural diversities. Turkey defines integration as active participation of migrants to the social, economic, cultural and political life of the destination countries while maintaining their ties to their motherlands, mother tongue, and original cultures and living as happy, prosperous, successful individuals respecting local laws and customs. For the next five to ten years this public policy will continue. To this end, necessary measures will be taken including the conclusion of bilateral labour force and social security agreements.

some UNECE countries, the number of 'skipped generation households' consisting of grandparent(s) and grandchild(ren) multiplied. The number of people postponing starting a family or having children increased significantly. Childlessness also increased, mainly in the western part of the region.

The issues addressed in the ICPD PoA centre mainly on family-related vulnerability and human rights, both of the family and of individuals within the family. New family forms can be legally vulnerable with respect to their status and rights, as the corresponding legal framework might lag behind their rapid development.

Policies, programmes and strategies

According to the survey data, countries in the region are highly committed to the issues of family and well-being (Annex A, Table 5.1), with a diversity of regulatory documents. The issues they address can be summarized in the following groups:

Families

Broad-spectrum family matters are regulated with legal acts such as a family code, national family policy or strategy (reported in many questionnaires). Bosnia and Herzegovina has a strategy for family development; the Russian Federation has a programme on family support for 2010–2015. Beyond this general regulation, family matters are considered in some countries in national demographic policies, programmes or strategies — for example, in Belarus, Lithuania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova.

Social protection and support

Social protection, including protection of families and children, is addressed in relevant regulatory documents. Kyrgyzstan cites a strategy for the development of social protection, including social protection of families and children in need. Armenia reports a series of regulatory documents related to children: the Law 'On Social Assistance for Children Left without Parental Care'; Annual Programme for Protecting Children's Rights, 2010; the 2006–2010 Strategy for Reforms in Social Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations; and the Policy Concept on Providing State Support to Families with Three and More Children.

The broad field of social welfare encompasses another range of legal acts that relate to the life of the family. In the scope of the ICPD PoA it is considered, for example, in Finland's National Development Programme for Social Welfare and Health Care 2012–2015. The Netherlands reports a social support act.

Support for families with children rests on three main pillars: fund transfers including child allowances, parental leave, and childcare. All three pillars are extensively supported by relevant regulation throughout the UNECE region. For example, Denmark has an Act on Family Allowances and Child Benefits; Norway seeks a 100 per cent provision of kindergartens for children, which helps both parents return to the labour force.

Other regulatory documents refer to poverty in the family, education, health issues, gender inequality, and care for persons with disabilities. These issues are also considered in other sections of this report. Germany, for instance, monitors family development with a special report issued every year, the 'Family Report' (*Familienbericht*). Practical support to families is cited by Cyprus (with seminars to parents), and the Netherlands (with youth and family centres). Austria states indirect financial benefits: free transport to school; free textbooks for school; family counselling centres at the regional level; parental education programmes; and a public childcare system.

A common feature of all the cited legal acts is that they have been either developed or amended during the last five years. In fact, they often replace or complement the existing ones, to adapt to the dynamics of family changes. A conspicuous overall trend in these amendments, less visible in the ICPD+10 report (fn. 20), is that they expand the scope of the legal system — for example, by increasing parental leaves or childcare facilities, or enlarging the scope of families eligible for support.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

The needs of families and well-being of individuals are reflected in the set of ICPD PoA issues presented in Annex A, Table 5.5. These issues were addressed widely across the UNECE region. Progress of implementation appears to be satisfactory. Exceptions regarding a few issues are addressed below.

Increasing efforts to ensure that health, education and welfare services function collaboratively and effectively

These are embodied in general regulatory documentation and in its implementation that refers to general matters such as family strategies (discussed above). Beyond the general, specific normative acts are available and being implemented. For example, Bulgaria reports the implementation of the Social Inclusion Project that provides integrated services for early childhood development for children aged 0–7 and their families. In Latvia, educational and training activities are being implemented to raise the qualification of different specialists working with children and families. Tajikistan has established an educational centre, *Charogi hidojat*, for orphaned girls.

Facilitation of compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities

One approach is to protect women's employment while they are on maternity leave. Other approaches are directed mainly towards raising opportunities for flexible, part-time work and towards enlarging and improving childcare systems. Countries suggest a wide variety of these approaches. In Denmark, the day-care system provides families with flexibility and options for various types of facilities and subsidies. It makes it possible for each family to plan its family and working life according to its individual needs and preferences. France planned to open 200,000 crèches between 2009 and 2012. In the Russian Federation, among other measures, parents of three or more children and parents of children with disabilities are supported in finding work, and women who return to work after parental leave can attend courses for qualification and requalification. Sweden grants parents a 'gender equality bonus' to stimulate an even distribution of parental leave between the two parents.

Nearly all countries report changes in regulating documents on this issue. Updates refer to family allowances, parental leaves, childcare and labour participation of parents of young children with a view to release family care for their children (for example, Poland introduced significant changes in 2009).

Germany has designed a special business programme, Success Factor Family, whose objectives are: "(a) to convince enterprises of the usefulness of a family-oriented personnel policy; (b) to establish family-friendliness as a management topic; and (c) to make family-friendliness a hallmark of the German economy." Slovenia issues a Family-Friendly Enterprise Certificate.

Providing financial and social protection schemes to single-parent families

This is a topic of increasing attention, both because the number of single-parent families is rising and because their needs are increasing. Countries report a variety of approaches regarding this issue, including implementing general family policies or legislation on poverty, education or housing, among others. Albania, for example, emphasizes the

provision of housing to single-parent families. Many countries provide special benefits to single-parent families.

Developing the capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families

Monitoring is usually undertaken by departments at the ministries and other institutions that are in charge of implementing the corresponding laws. Digitization and reporting in matters related to the family and social security is mentioned in the Polish questionnaire. Germany issues an annual report on the family; in the Russian Federation, annual state reports are issued on 'the situation of children'; 'the situation of families'; and as of 2012 'the situation of children and families with children'. Related ongoing research and evaluations are carried out in the United States.

Providing effective assistance to families and the individuals within them who are affected by specific problems

Bulgaria reports that "under the Social Assistance Act social assistance is provided in a manner that preserves individuals' dignity and is based on social work, while applying a personalized approach and making an integrated needs assessment of individuals and families." Germany points to support for mothers with a migration background.

Preventing child abuse and neglect and providing assistance to children victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment including orphans

This issue is widely addressed in the questionnaires. Regulatory documents cover many specific aspects of child abuse and neglect. Georgia underlines specific measures against child abandonment, and foster care is provided for children in need. Two booklets called 'Do not be a victim of trafficking in human beings' and 'Protect your children' were published in Azerbaijan in 2012. In the Netherlands there is an Advice and Reporting Centre for Child Abuse and Neglect tasked with removing children from unsafe environments. Norway has developed specific institutions such as child protection services, crisis shelters and family counselling services. Counties in Romania are involved in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. A wide range of measures adopted in the Russian Federation include an Internet portal on 'responsible parenthood' and an all-Russian child 'trust' telephone service.

Assisting families caring for family members with disabilities, and family members living with HIV

The policies and measures implemented by and large overlap with descriptions in Section 2 on persons with disabilities. Measures that are extensively used include the one practised in Latvia: special state allowances for families caring for a child or an adult with disabilities as well as state-funded services for persons with disabilities (attendants' service, psychologists' consultations for parents when their child is diagnosed with a disability for the first time etc.). Day-care centres for persons with disabilities are available for families who need them, but there is a tendency towards providing day-care services in the homes of persons with disabilities. In Turkmenistan families with children with disabilities have the right to improved housing conditions in accordance with relevant norms and individual needs. Education is also provided at home or in hospitals.

Portugal reports that in the last five years, 15 projects were funded to promote home support, residential support and psychosocial support to people living with HIV, and their families. In Romania a person affected by AIDS is entitled to receive care from a personal assistant who can be a member of her/his family. The personal assistant is employed by the local authorities. In the Russian Federation there is a system for HIV monitoring and prevention.

Ensuring good-quality early childhood care and education for working families, including extended day-care programmes

Early childhood care is emphasized by many countries. In some countries (Austria), kindergarten attendance at age 5 is obligatory and supported financially by the State and local communities — it is considered a preschool year. As specified above, Norway seeks to provide 100 per cent kindergarten coverage and thus supports both parents to return to the labour market.

Supporting and assisting vulnerable families

This support is usually guaranteed by law — for example, in Denmark with the Act on Social Service (*Serviceloven*). Municipalities are cited as being involved in providing this support.

Supporting educational programmes on parental roles, parenting skills and child development

Parental education is organized in some countries. For example, in France, systems are designed to support parents in their parenting role. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia provides counselling for mothers and children at risk. The Netherlands provides courses for parenting, managed by 'youth and parent centres'. Among others, Portugal and the Russian Federation support a training programme for adoption.

Persistent and emerging priorities

The priorities for family-related public policy during the next 5–10 years are broad and include amendments to general legislation such as family codes, and specific actions such as increased cooperation with NGOs. A variety of policy priorities are linked with ICPD PoA issues.

1. ICPD PoA issues:

• The issues discussed above are strongly emphasized by many countries among their priorities: reducing poverty, especially among families with children; reconciliation between work for pay and work in the family; providing protection to single-parent families; and assisting families caring for members with disabilities.

• Improving capacities to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families is considered less of a policy priority in the future. It was also less frequently reported as being addressed during recent years; this issue needs greater attention in the future.

2. Specific issues — countries have underlined a variety of specific issues, including the following:

• decentralizing services to local government units (Georgia, the Netherlands among others);

• improving and expanding family-home services (Albania, Belarus);

• improving cooperation with NGOs (Croatia);

• enhancing intersectoral cooperation and integrated services for the family (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria);

• little emphasis is placed on the needs of elderly people, whether in families or when living alone. Ukraine plans to improve the quality of life of single persons aged 80 and over; and

• support care for orphans and their adoption by families (Russian Federation); and care deinstitutionalization of (orphaned) children in Bulgaria (i.e. by finding a foster home or helping them start a new life after they come of age).

3. A macro-level policy approach is envisaged in some countries. The Republic of Moldova seeks to increase birth rates. Serbia plans the development of a comprehensive population strategy.

> The Tajikistan questionnaire underlines the development of the following specific policies: (a) provision of grants to women with disabilities and to women who care for children with disabilities; (b) creation of working places at home for women of migrants and of women who care for persons with disabilities; (c) expansion of shelters for women who are victims of violence and for their children; (d) provision of interest-free credits to vulnerable families; and (e) development of family hostels for vulnerable families.

The rise and spread of new family forms requires that they be reflected in regulative acts. This is particularly important for cohabitation: while in some countries legislation regards it as a family form equal to one based on a marriage, in many countries it is still outside the scope of legislation. This delay in updating legislation procedures may place an increasing number of children born in cohabitation in a status that does not correspond to their real family situation. The same applies to same-sex couples, whose existence is increasingly tolerated and accepted in contemporary societies.

Section 6: Reproductive health, reproductive rights and health, morbidity and mortality

After 1994, the population in EEC and CA countries underwent sweeping behavioural changes related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Modern contraceptives started to replace traditional contraceptive methods, and data show that induced abortion is much scarcer today in these subregions than at the beginning of the 1990s (see Chapter 1). Unmet needs of family planning persist, however.

Policies, programmes and strategies

Table 6.1 in Annex A shows a broad coverage of the topic in this section across the UNECE region. There are no specific differences among the subregions.

Regulations related to SRH as well as sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) are addressed in general and specific regulating acts. General acts include SRH and SRR in a broader framework. For example,

they are included in the general provision of health services in a country, or in general acts that protect fundamental human rights. Some questionnaires cite the country's constitution as a legislative act that refers to SRR.

General legislative acts are supported by specific policies, programmes and strategies. For example, Bulgaria has a National Health Strategy for the Period 2008–2013, and Latvia a Public Health Strategy 2011–2017. These provisions help to adapt general regulations to specific and emerging needs, especially among vulnerable groups. Countries also develop general strategies such as demographic strategies, which include issues of SRH and SRR (Russian Federation, Belarus).

A variety of regulatory documents in the region are addressing issues related to SRH and SRR. These include:

• Azerbaijan has adopted the National Strategy on Reproductive Health and Family Planning 2008–2015, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a national strategy on reproductive health. Kyrgyzstan has adopted a national strategy for the protection of reproductive health which is being implemented in two stages: 2006–2010 and 2011–2015.

• Croatia has a national programme for the early detection of cervical cancer (2012) and a similar programme for breast cancer (2006); Bulgaria reports a programme on primary prevention of cervical cancer 2012–2016.

• Ireland's Health Service Executive Crisis Pregnancy Programme covers a broad range of issues related to crisis pregnancy.

• The National Programme on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STI in the Republic of Moldova.

• Norway has a strategy for the prevention of unwanted pregnancy and abortion, and a strategy on HIV named Acceptance and Coping.

• The Dutch questionnaire cites a policy paper on sexual health, including HIV/STIs; national HIV/STI prevention programmes; and a policy entitled *Gezondheid dichtbij* ('Health in our grasp') on improving young people's sexual health and improving their lifestyle so that they can make free, healthy and safe choices.

Provision of relevant education and information is less widely cited, probably because it is included in general documents. Cyprus reports a health

education programme for HIV/AIDS, and a health education programme called Learning about Contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections. Italy promotes communication campaigns for the protection of women's health. Denmark's support is oriented towards socially vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities.

Some countries cite international conventions — for example, the Convention on the Rights of the Child — and other documents which regulate relations with UN organizations and the EU.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

Table 6.3 in Annex A accounts for policies, programmes or strategies directed towards four specific HIV-related issues. The UNECE countries report a high level of coverage of all four issues with relevant policies.

ICPD PoA issues related to SRH and SRR (Annex A, Table 6.6) are summarized in six groups as follows:

• *Information and counselling*: Provision of information and counselling is reported in diverse forms. Booklets are distributed to populations at risk in many countries. For example, Armenia distributes education/information materials on maternal and child health care, and on preventing HIV and STIs. Belarus raises awareness of modern contraceptives. NGOs perform activities in the provision of information and counselling. For example, in Cyprus support is provided by the Family Planning Association funded by the Ministry of Health.

• *Access to services*: Countries frequently state that access to services is guaranteed for the whole population on an equal basis. However, some disadvantaged groups need special support, such as Roma, without health insurance in some countries, and persons with disabilities that face barriers to access services. This support is usually provided for free.

o Access to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine is provided for all women aged below 26 years in Denmark. Support provided by NGOs to women with disabilities is recognized, for example, in Kazakhstan. In The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a 'Guide to Sexual Rights for Persons with Disabilities' was developed and distributed in cooperation with NGOs.

• *Pregnancy*: Medical examinations for infertility are provided in Armenia. Social workers and health-care personnel provide social support to pregnant girls in Kazakhstan. Information booklets and other materials are being distributed. Additional nutrition is provided for anaemic pregnant women. Pregnant women living in regions close to Chernobyl in Ukraine receive vitamin complex. Regulation of iron and iodine supplementation is available in Albania. With respect to referrals to obstetric care, the Lithuanian questionnaire reports: "health-care institutions providing obstetric and neonatology services were divided into three levels in accordance with the levels of obstetric and neonatology medical treatment, the scale of activities and quality indicators. Depending on pregnancy risk, a woman is referred to a health-care institution of a respective level." Also in Lithuania, adolescent girls below the age of 18 receive state insurance for the provision of pregnancy care.

• *HIV/AIDS*: Albania reports the establishment of a Reference Centre on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT). Express diagnostics for HIV is available in Kazakhstan. In other countries, notably Lithuania, pregnant women are requested to be tested for HIV twice during pregnancy. All pregnant women are screened in Denmark.

• *Cancer*: Teaching self-examination for breast cancer is frequently cited; mammography is regularly provided. Obligatory screening of women was introduced in Kazakhstan in 2008; many other countries report screening (in Lithuania screening for breast cancer is offered at least once every two years for women aged 50–69, and women aged 25–60 are offered screening for cervical cancer every three years).

• *Abortion*: Induced abortion is a sensitive matter in many UNECE countries. Legislation covers a wide spectrum: from a strict ban to free abortion. State and private abortion clinics are available in some countries (e.g. Cyprus). The Republic of Moldova cites the development of a national clinical protocol for abortion. Denmark and Germany provide counselling services in cases of unintended pregnancy. In Poland the Act of 7 January 1993 on 'family planning, human foetus protection and conditions of permissibility of abortion' is known as the 'anti-abortion law', as it bans abortion on social grounds; abortion remains permitted in strictly defined medical cases. The position in the United States is: "Abortion is a legal health-care service

in the United States. States generally establish laws and regulations regarding facilities providing abortion care as well as the qualifications needed by providers who offer this service. Some, although not all, private insurance plans cover abortion services. However, no federal funding goes to the provision of abortions except in extremely limited circumstances. In general, private health-care plans as well as public insurance cover medical management issues related to post-abortion care."

Issues that require more attention include improving access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive SRH, and prevention and management of the consequences of unsafe abortion. Each one of these issues was addressed by fewer than 10 countries.

The progress of implementation needs to speed up for issues that refer to access to SRH services for indigenous groups, minorities and persons with disabilities, as well as for cervical cancer screening and treatment.

Some countries report monitoring mechanisms or collection of data as a means of addressing the issues. These topics are of primary importance and need further enhancement in the future.

ICPD PoA issues on SRH and SRR: additional topics

1. The questionnaires provide information on four accountability mechanisms to address people's claims related to SRH and SRR (Annex A, Table 6.9). For example:

• Albania, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia and Poland report the involvement of an ombudsman.

• In Croatia, national human rights institutions provided recommendations to the government on the necessity for interventions in legislation and on the need to implement health and SRH education in public schools. Parliamentary commissions involved civil society in discussions about the Medically Assisted Reproduction Bill.

• Ireland (see box right), Lithuania and Poland report cases brought to the European Court of Human Rights — Poland on the matter of the lack of access to prenatal testing, which made it impossible to perform abortions.

• Italy reports an agreement between the State and the regions on access to HIV testing for prisoners.

• In Lithuania claims related to SRH services usually refer to service delivery; they can be submitted

to the Commission on Evaluation of the Damage Caused to the Health of Patients operating under the Ministry of Health.

• In the Republic of Moldova the most common issues that have been analysed are forced sterilization and the lack of health services for pregnant women, among others (the lack of statistics does not allow them to be linked with proper accountability mechanisms).

• Portugal introduced a mandatory Complaints Book in all establishments.

• In Slovenia most of the accountability mechanisms referred to vaccination, including against HPV.

2. The promulgation and enforcement of national laws responding to selected ICPD PoA priority areas are at an advanced level across the UNECE region (Annex A, Table 6.14). Legislation on safe abortion is either part of legislation on health in general or specific. The latter is reported for Albania's Law for Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy; the Netherlands has a law with a similar title; in Croatia it is called the Act on Health Measures for Decision-Making on Childbirth; in the Czech Republic and in Finland there is an act on abortion; in Germany the Pregnancy Conflict Act; Latvia informs about the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation of 28 October 2003 'Organizational Procedures for the Termination of Pregnancy' under the Sexual and Reproductive Health Law; and the same level of regulation is reported for Lithuania. In the United States this is a state-level issue.

> The Irish government recently approved the implementation of the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights (16 December 2010) in the A, B and C v Ireland case (in which it was argued that restrictions on abortion in Ireland were in breach of their human rights) by way of legislation with regulations. The government also agreed to make appropriate amendments to the criminal law in this area.

Legislation on the other items listed in Annex A, Table 6.14 can be characterized in the same way: in some countries laws (or acts) are of a general type, and in others they are issue-specific.

3. A wide range of SRH services is currently being offered through primary health care (Annex A,

Table 6.15). In general, counselling and provision of information are offered for all services listed in the table except for two: obstetric fistula services and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

• Among contraceptive services, access to female condoms can be considered as being offered relatively rarely.

• Maternity care services are widely available, but safe abortion requires more attention in some countries.

• Although services related to STIs are available, more services are required for HIV, especially where treatment is considered. The 12 countries that reported a lack of services on this issue are situated in diverse subregions.

• Reproductive cancer prevention and treatment services are broadly available. HPV vaccination is not yet common in some countries, mainly in EEC and CA.

• At least half of the negative responses on obstetric fistula services come from EU countries.

• FGM/C is unlikely to be commonly practised in the region, yet 15 questionnaires state that prevention services are available, and 12 questionnaires state that treatment and care are provided. The target population includes immigrants.

4. The questionnaires report on the existence of strategies/actions to address SRH as an integral part of the primary health-care system. This integration is recommended in the ICPD PoA. Table 6.16 in Annex A shows some items with a relatively high number of negative answers. Several countries, mainly from EEC (four out of six responding) and CA (two out of four), did not yet have an SRH costed package integrated into primary health-care provision. High levels of negative responses refer to mechanisms to guarantee participation of community-based organizations and the monitoring of quality of SRH services. It has been noted earlier in this report that monitoring requires greater attention; this is one of numerous important findings of the survey.

Regarding whether the national essential medicines list includes the full range of SRH medicines defined by the WHO, 30 out of 39 questionnaires responded positively. Sweden remarked that it does not have a national essential medicines list.

5. SRH and HIV programmes aimed at groups with special needs are shown in Annex A, Table 6.18.

A high rate of positive responses is observed for people living with HIV, populations at high risk of HIV, and adolescents and youth. Negative responses are concentrated mainly among EU countries. Further attention is required to make such services available to persons with disabilities, older persons, undocumented migrants, and poor people in general.

6. Strategies under the current national policy/programme on SRH to reduce financial barriers to SRH services are reflected in Annex A, Table 6.19. Negative answers are noted from new EU Member States; there is no obvious explanation for this observation. Revenues from taxation of tobacco and alcohol are used to reduce financial barriers in 20 countries, as a form of cross-subsidization; interestingly, only 11 countries state that they used the latter. 'Free services at point of care' is the only strategy whose application dominates throughout the region. In brief, strategies to reduce financial barriers have remained scarce.

7. Specific programmes to ensure access of adolescents and youth to SRH information and services that warrant and respect privacy, confidentiality and informed consent were reported in 35 questionnaires out of the 43 that addressed the issue. Programmes are available in all areas listed in Annex A, Table 6.21.

8. Mechanisms are in place to ensure implementation of programmes to monitor maternal morbidity and mortality (Annex A, Table 6.24). National health information systems, direct obstetric case fatality rate monitoring and mandatory notification of maternal death monitoring are the three most frequently reported monitoring mechanisms across the UNECE region. Monitoring has not yet been introduced in at least 10 countries for all other listed mechanisms.

9. Countries reported the extent to which they considered selected HIV-related issues a priority in national programming (Annex A, Table 6.29). High priority is given in the majority of responses to the protection of the human rights of people living with HIV, populations at risk and adolescents and youth. The same three groups were identified in Annex A, Table 6.18 as being widely addressed with SRH programmes across the UNECE region. One notable item considered a low priority by a majority of countries is increased access to and use of female condoms.

10. Finally, Table 6.32 is informative about the areas of health, morbidity and mortality considered priorities in countries' national health policy framework. Priority is rarely assigned to malaria and tropical diseases, as they are rarely observed. Obesity is also rarely prioritized.

Persistent and emerging priorities

Countries' priorities for public policy in SRH during the next 5–10 years include numerous ICPD PoA issues, priority areas and special topics that were discussed above. An incomplete list of future priorities is given below as an illustration.

• Improved access to preventive SRH care and improved information on SRH care were highlighted, among other issues, by Turkmenistan, Sweden, Slovakia, Serbia and Norway.

• SRH care services to adolescents and youth were highlighted by many countries (for example, Sweden and the United States).

• Curbing maternal mortality is a priority for Romania, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

• Improving sexuality education for adolescents and youth was emphasized, for example, by The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Turkmenistan.

• The integration of SRH services, HIV health services and other health services was emphasized by The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova.

• Ukraine and Norway mentioned eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV; it is one of the components in the mother–child certificates used in Austria.

• Fighting cancer related to reproduction is addressed by France, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine.

Although the scope of topics covered in this section is broad, they all are unified with respect to prevention measures that countries have undertaken. Specifically, countries in the eastern part of the UNECE region report intensive implementation of regulatory documents aiming to increase the spread of relevant information and adequate education on the issues of SRR, SRH and morbidity in general. Thus it can be expected that stigmatizing attitudes towards STIs will soften, and an increasing number of people will start seeking screening and medical support. However, this development may identify a number of 'new' cases

and lead to a rise in incidence rates: a likely result of effective policy action. Research and data are necessary to monitor similar processes.

Some topics raised in the questionnaires were not in the list of ICPD PoA issues and priority areas. One such topic refers to the provision of sexual health services to specific groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, sex workers, and drug users (Malta, Sweden). Another specific topic is fighting infertility with the use of assisted reproduction technology (ART). Latvia mentions the necessity of improving the legal system related to ART. Ireland reports that legislation will be enacted to clarify the law surrounding assisted human reproduction. In some countries an increasing number of women postpone pregnancy to later years of life when fecundity declines and they rely on ART to become pregnant. However, the effectiveness of ART also declines with age. Information on the effectiveness of ART should become widely available. The use of ART to fight infertility is an emerging issue which requires increased attention.

Section 7: Gender equality, equity, and empowerment of women

The ICPD PoA includes a variety of gender issues beyond those related to SRHR. It acknowledges that the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself and is essential for the achievement of sustainable development.

Gender relations are embedded in traditions and social norms. As such they have a bearing on the status of women and girls in the family and in society at large. They also determine and are determined by the extent to which women acquire full autonomy, enjoy their individual social, economic, political and reproductive rights, are enabled to occupy public space and participate actively on an equal footing with men in public life, and are capable of exercising all their rights as full human beings free from coercion and gender-based violence.

The ICPD marked a significant paradigm shift, particularly in terms of gender equity and equality.

At the individual level this shift materialized in the full acknowledgement of women's reproductive health and rights and their empowerment and well-being. At the community/national/macro level the PoA laid the foundations for a society with equal opportunities and free from discrimination and violence, where both women and men are equally empowered to make their own choices and lead a dignifying life.

While the western part of the UNECE region fared rather well in terms of women's empowerment and upholding women's social, economic and political rights, the evolution of gender relations in the eastern part of the UNECE region over the last two decades was not as swift as other population issues. Although traditional gender relations in the family persist, they are gradually giving ground to increased gender equality in the family, at work and in all areas of life. This change is part of the overall evolution in norms and values related to gender.

Policies, programmes and strategies

The UNECE countries report a multitude of legislative acts (Annex A, Table 7.1). Nearly all questionnaires report that gender issues are subject to regulatory instruments.

Gender equality is the focus of national strategies or policies in many countries (for example, Ireland has a National Women's Strategy). Action plans on gender equality are available in many countries such as Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; in Cyprus equality between men and women in the workplace is explicitly emphasized.

The continuous relevance of the topic is illustrated by the action plan in France: *Une troisième génération des droits des femmes: vers une société de l'égalité réelle* ('A third generation of women's rights: towards a society with real equality').The institution responsible for its fulfilment is the Ministry for Women's Rights.

Topically, gender equality is expressed mostly in terms of equal opportunities for men and women and gender mainstreaming. Equal opportunities for women and men are underlined in regulatory documents in Kazakhstan, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Poland, Spain and Tajikistan. An 'equal pay' programme is being developed in

Finland and in Austria. Georgia and Serbia state that 'equal pay' is governed by law. Equal pay for women is also addressed in the United States. Belgium has a federal plan for gender mainstreaming, which is addressed also by Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

Domestic violence and violence against women are addressed in regulatory documents in nearly all reporting countries in the region. Trafficking in human beings is also reported as it relates to violence against girls and women (Serbia). Harmful traditional practices such as FGM/C and forced marriages are a matter of legislation, policies, strategies and action plans (in Portugal, Austria and Norway, among others).

Many countries report specific approaches that are not necessarily part of regulatory documents but help manage gender issues:

• Croatia has a position of ombudsman for gender equality.

• Switzerland emphasized the Post-Beijing Action Plan on gender equality as a reference in addressing gender issues.

• The German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in 2011 published the first report on gender equality: 'New Pathways — Equal Opportunities. Gender Equality over Women's and Men's Life Courses'.

• Portugal introduced the mandatory adoption of gender equality plans in state-owned enterprises.

• At the programme level, Croatia, Denmark, Armenia and Austria provide support to women to enter the labour market and entrepreneurship, and the Netherlands convenes family group conferences, which target poorly educated women.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

Twelve ICPD PoA issues related to gender equality and empowerment of women are listed in Annex A, Table 7.5. They demonstrate some similarities, so are discussed below in five groups.

1. Increasing women's participation in the formal and informal economy and in political representation and public life. The following measures have been undertaken to address these issues:

• Awareness-raising campaigns aimed at curbing gender-stereotyped behaviour that prevents women from participation are being carried out in Albania, Azerbaijan and Croatia, to mention but a few.

• Women's entrepreneurship is encouraged in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Portugal and Slovenia.

• Support is provided to mothers returning to work through requalification courses.

• Flexible forms of employment are advocated, for instance, in Cyprus and the Czech Republic.

• Sweden introduced an earned income tax credit designed to help women and encourage them to work.

• Measures to ensure women's representation in political bodies (Turkmenistan) and management boards have been introduced. In Norway "both sexes are represented in government in equal numbers", and "each sex must make up at least 40 per cent of board representatives in public limited companies, inter-municipal companies and state-owned companies from 2003. The rule was extended to apply to cooperative companies in 2008 and municipal companies in 2009."

2. Improving the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, including data on the social and economic status of women, and the necessity of reliable indicators, such as gender equality indicators, is underlined. Countries indicate that data are gathered through the following main statistical sources:

• population censuses;

• specialized surveys including Demographic and Health Surveys carried out in some EEC and CA countries, time-use surveys which inform about time use by women and men, and other specialized surveys sponsored by international organizations and donors (UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID);

• data published in specialized yearbooks as well as in booklets, brochures and other materials aimed at the public, many of which are available online; and

• Germany produced an 'Atlas on Gender Equality'.

3. Domestic violence and trafficking in human beings:

• Preventive measures include distribution of information booklets and brochures ('Tradition and violence against women' in Austria) and awareness-raising campaigns.

• Help to victims is available beyond physical health care, such as psychological care; access

to shelters (Turkey); and social rehabilitation programmes (Latvia and Portugal).

• Support groups to those who are vulnerable to violence such as persons with disabilities, immigrants and sexual minorities.

• Telephone hotlines (Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine).

• Collaboration with the Council of Europe on implementing the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Armenia).

4. Harmful traditional practices: ending child marriage and forced marriages, ending FGM/C. The reported measures include: booklets and brochures (Austria: 'Zero tolerance to genital mutilation'); preventing child marriage among the Roma population (Romania); and increasing the minimum age for marriage from 16 to 17 years (Kyrgyzstan).

5. Issues related to age- and gender-specific population groups: improving the welfare of the girl child, improving the situation of rural women, engaging men and boys in equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work. The measures applied are similar to the measures listed above, with the main idea to advocate for family care among young boys and men: awareness-raising campaigns, booklets and brochures, films, workshops on care and upbringing (Austria).

Project Connect (USA)

The Office on Women's Health and the Administration for Children and Families at the Department on Human Health and Services funds Project Connect: a coordinated public health initiative to prevent violence against women. This is a national initiative to change how adolescent health, reproductive health and home-visiting programmes respond to sexual and domestic violence, and is one of the only programmes offering a national coordinated public health model to improve the health response to domestic and sexual violence. Project Connect sites provide much-needed services for women in abusive relationships including historically medically underserved communities that have high rates of domestic and sexual violence, such as rural/frontier areas, immigrant women and Native Americans.

Issues related to harmful traditional practice (ending child marriage/forced marriage and ending FGM/C) are rarely addressed (Annex A, Table 7.5). While Non-EU advanced countries and new EU Member States have shown relatively low interest, higher interest was reported by EU15 and EEC countries.[28] Domestic violence and trafficking in human beings are addressed in nearly all reporting countries.

Survey results on additional issues of gender equality and empowerment of women are summarized in Annex A, Tables 7.8, 7.10 and 7.11. Various monitoring mechanisms (Table 7.8) are cited in the vast majority of questionnaires, with national commissions on women being reported least frequently.

Several areas require higher attention. Day-care centres for breastfeeding mothers require further consideration, mainly among the new EU Member States, but also in SEE and EEC countries. Laws regarding the provision of paid paternity leave are still lagging. Questionnaire data (Annex A, Table 7.11) reveal that specific attention is needed for measures to eliminate discrimination against working women.

Persistent and emerging priorities

Many countries cite women's participation in the formal and informal economy and their representation in political processes and public life as priorities anticipated to receive further public policy attention in the next 5–10 years. In addition, the following topics were cited as requiring further policy attention:

• Reducing socioeconomic gender inequalities, bridging the pay gap and increasing the participation of women — Germany seeks to bridge the gender gap in pensions, and Kazakhstan plans to achieve an average women's salary of 70 per cent of men's by 2020.

• Increasing women's participation and ensuring a balanced representation in decision-making positions in management and governance.

• Addressing violence against women — Germany ratified in 2011 the Council of Europe Convention to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

• Mainstreaming gender is an ongoing task (Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovenia).

• Promoting work and family reconciliation (Latvia, Malta, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Spain).

• Combating harmful gender stereotypes (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Latvia, Norway, and the Republic of Moldova).

• Adequate budget — Austria emphasizes the importance of gender budgeting, and Georgia of a budget line for gender-related matters.

Other issues include preventing sex-selective abortion (Armenia), and equal property rights for women (Kosovo questionnaire).

Gender mainstreaming and reconciling work and family are two gender-related areas that dominate legislation and its implementation over the whole UNECE region. They frequently confront culture-based harmful gender stereotypes practised mainly among some minorities which require specified enactment. To detect and address them, data collection, research and subsequent monitoring of policies need to be enhanced. Work with minorities may require a specific approach in line with their specific culture.

> Belarus stresses the role of fathers and responsible fatherhood. Denmark emphasizes 'gender equality for and with men', and Slovakia stresses the importance of the participation of fathers in childcare. Many countries address gender equality between men and women without emphasis on one of the two genders. No emphasis is placed, however, on men's rights as fathers. Fathers' rights movements, usually in the form of NGOs, exist mainly in countries in the western part of the UNECE region. They fight against unjustified court decisions on child custody, which they feel are depriving them of their rights as fathers.

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[28] Studies show that these practices persist among some immigrant communities in the EU. See Health Care for Women International, Volume 27, Issue 4, 2006.

Section 8: Population, development and education

Equal access to quality education synthesizes the importance of education to human capital, its effect on economic growth and on healthier and longer lives of individuals.

Education is not just a diploma; achieving higher-quality and enabling education matters. Quality education (formal and non-formal, as well as informal learning) entails a range of requirements: high-quality infrastructure in and around schools (including universities); high-quality teaching; friendly social environments in schools; and easy, sustained and equal access to schools for all. ICPD PoA issues refer to these important components in organizing and managing education.

Policies, programmes and strategies

All questionnaires report the existence of policies, programmes or strategies on education (Annex A, Table 8.1).

More than half of the questionnaires referred to national laws on education. In addition, the countries mention laws regarding specific educational levels: preschool, primary school, secondary school, vocational schooling, colleges and universities.

Laws are being applied with relevant national strategies and programmes, cited by many countries. The Swedish questionnaire refers to the adoption of a new education act. National curricula are being developed in Georgia and the Czech Republic. A national strategy for education and sustainable development is cited by Austria, and a similar programme by Armenia. Finland cites a policy and Romania a strategy on education and research. Poland has adopted strategies for human and social capital. Switzerland has a programme for the promotion of education, research and innovation, and an act for university promotion and coordination.

Many of the regulatory documents refer to specific aspects of education, such as:

- lifelong learning (Austria, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Romania and Spain);

- national strategies, programmes or policies against school dropouts (Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, where an attendance management programme for pupils aged 6–13 has been adopted);

- inclusive and integrated education: Bulgaria and Ireland (action plan for educational inclusion), Republic of Moldova;

- integration in education of children of minorities: Bulgaria;

- promoting multicultural and intercultural education: Cyprus, Ireland and Spain; and

- reducing violence in schools: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania.

Several specific programmes are informative:

- A state programme for the study of Russian and English languages is available in Tajikistan.

- Ukraine has adopted a state programme to introduce information technologies in schools.

- A programme for education in prisons is being developed in Georgia.

- A decision for co-financing school transport for pupils is being implemented in Croatia, and a similar decision covers boarding schools. In Poland a ministerial regulation refers to safe and hygienic conditions in kindergartens and schools.

Addressing issues highlighted in the ICPD PoA

A number of measures are being taken to implement acts and decisions regarding issues highlighted in the ICPD regarding education (Annex A, Table 8.5):

Access of girls and adolescents to education[29]

The questionnaires commonly reported 100 per cent coverage of primary and, to a large extent, secondary education. Portugal notes that levels of school attendance are similar for girls and boys.

Special arrangements are made for some minorities such as the Roma population, where negative gender stereotypes prevail (for example, in Albania and Austria). Scholarships are provided for Roma students in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to reduce early dropouts.

Switzerland focuses on equal chances for men and women in education through its programmes, for example: the Federal Programme for Equal Chances of Women and Men in Universities and the Federal Programme for Equal Chances of Women and Men in Higher Professional Schools.

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[29] A detailed description of the issues can be found in Annex A, Table 8.5.

> While the main concern in the ICPD PoA is about education of girls, countries raise concerns with boys, whose dropout rate is higher. In the Czech Republic, 52 per cent of the newly enrolled college students and 60 per cent of graduates are girls, who seem to have lower dropout rates than boys. Denmark reports that a range of different initiatives have been taken to address the dropout rates of adolescents, with a particular focus on boys, since girls have high completion rates. In Kyrgyzstan, 54 per cent of the students are girls. Girls' higher enrolment in higher education is statistically documented in many countries (Chapter 1).

Improving educational infrastructure, and providing adequate transportation facilities

The main way to improve the infrastructure in and around buildings is through sanitary norms. This is being undertaken in Azerbaijan, Belgium and Croatia. Transportation is provided in numerous countries such as Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Portugal and the Republic of Moldova; Lithuania reported the adoption of the Yellow School Bus Programme for 2009–2012 and 2013–2017.

Facilitating school completion for pregnant girls

Ukraine reports the existence of external, distance and evening forms of schooling. (Evening schools are available in Belarus). Home tuition grants to facilitate the retention of pregnant girls are used in Ireland. In Spain teaching at home is provided.

Improving the safety of pupils, especially girls, in and on their way to and from school

A variety of measures have been applied. A manual about protection in and around schools has been designed in Albania, and Armenia has a child-friendly school programme. Police and school authorities cooperate to protect children in Portugal. In Kyrgyzstan escorts for children going to school in unsafe areas are used. Safety Education in Schools awards are available in Spain.

Revising the contents of curricula to make them more gender-sensitive, and to incorporate population issues

Widely used measures are training seminars for teachers and requirements for textbooks to reflect these topics (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium,

Croatia and Portugal). The topic of population is included in subjects related to social sciences in Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan and Romania, among others. Tajikistan carried out an evaluation of textbooks on issues of gender in 2008 and in 2011.

Promotion of non-formal opportunities for education and literacy, and providing training and employment opportunities to out-of-school girls and illiterate adults

Measures under this theme concern adult literacy. In Austria help is provided to adults to complete unfinished education. Ireland has a programme for free-of-charge adult literacy. Poland refers to the implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning. Centres for adult education have been established across regions in Tajikistan. Vocational training is available, for example, in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Some employers in the social economy sector suggest specific employment opportunities in Belgium. Specific attention is given to disadvantaged groups in Albania.

Lifelong learning initiatives have been adopted in Croatia, and retraining courses for jobseekers (through the Labour Office) are offered in the Czech Republic.

Comprehensive sexuality education and SRH

The main way this issue is being addressed is by revising curricula. Ireland and Turkmenistan, for example, report that the issue is included in core subjects such as Biology and Anatomy, or in new subjects such as 'Healthy lifestyle' for grades 8–11 in Armenia and 'Basics of health' for grades 1–9 in Ukraine.

Another approach is to raise awareness with booklets and other printed material, films and information through mass media. Teachers enrich their knowledge with specific workshops.

Information and campaigns on population issues and gender-based violence

Campaigns to raise awareness are being implemented across UNECE countries. More specific campaigns are discussed in previous sections related to population and sustainable development issues as well as gender-based violence.

Incorporating life-planning skills in formal education

Questionnaires provide a variety of information on this issue. It is present in the subject 'World and personality' in Bulgaria and 'Education for career and ability for life' in Albania. Healthy lifestyle issues are incorporated in the national education plan and curriculum in Georgia. Curricula addressing this issue are designed along with teacher and relevant training materials for teachers in Ireland. 'Decisions for a healthy lifestyle' is a curriculum currently being prepared in the Republic of Moldova.

The slowest progress of implementation concerns reaching out to young people with SRH information in non-formal education, vocational training and to those who are out of school (Annex A, Table 8.5). It is important to note that reaching out to out-of-school youth with SRH information showed the least progress, indicating the need to focus on this group in future policies.

Persistent and emerging priorities

There were a few aspects under this section that countries reported as priority issues for the next 5–10 years. Below is the list of the most frequently mentioned priorities, arranged in three groups: improving the quality of education, broadening the scope of education, and promoting specific forms of education and disciplines.

Improving the quality of education

• Provision of higher-quality education (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Turkmenistan). Sweden seeks to improve the quality of education including by providing evidence-based knowledge. Spain is oriented towards increasing academic performance.

• Citizens' education (education towards active citizenship) is advocated for in Croatia and Finland.

• Introducing modern technologies: digitalization, information communication technologies and improved infrastructure are high on the agenda in Albania, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

• Improving teachers' qualifications, teaching and evaluation icf teachers, and improving the potential of teaching personnel were stressed (Cyprus, France, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

• Armenia, Kazakhstan, Latvia and Romania emphasized the need to allocate an adequate budget to education.

Broadening the scope of education: inclusion in education, access to education, education at all ages

• Increased access to education either for all levels or specifically for higher education was mentioned as a priority in the questionnaires of Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Denmark, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and the United States. Croatia indicated support to children and adolescents with special needs. Inclusive education was indicated as an important topic by the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ireland.

• Early dropout, especially from secondary education, is an important issue for the next 5–10 years. It was emphasized in the questionnaires of Austria, Belgium and Bulgaria (planning a reduction to 11 per cent by 2015), Denmark, Norway, Romania, Spain and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

• Lifelong learning is being widely addressed with relevant policies. It is not among the issues raised in the ICPD PoA but emerges as an important priority in the future. It was indicated by Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania and Poland ("make lifelong learning a reality") among others. It is also a priority item on the agenda of the EU.

Promoting specific forms of education and disciplines

• Strengthening vocational training (Croatia, Latvia, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Spain and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The link between vocational education and the labour market is emphasized. The Spanish questionnaire highlights this in particular. Latvia states the need for "modernization of the infrastructure and the content of vocational education, in relation to the new technologies and innovation, to tackle possible future skills shortages and mismatches."

• Improving specific subjects was reported as a priority: technical education in the Czech Republic; natural sciences and technologies in Norway; and the Portuguese language, mathematics and sciences in Portugal.

• Internationalization of education is intended in Latvia; the importance of international knowledge is emphasized in Sweden; and learning foreign languages in Spain.

• Environmental education discussed in Section 1 should be added here. Civic education needs more emphasis.

> The Danish questionnaire raises an important problem: "Reducing the gender gap in academic results, thus improving the conditions for boys, who are currently lagging behind." Boys are doing worse than girls not only with regard to dropout rates but also in the quality of their learning. This was not envisaged as an issue by the ICPD PoA, which focuses on better access to education for girls.

Government partnership with civil society organizations

The ICPD PoA in its Chapter XV, 15.1 explicitly states: "To address the challenges of population and development effectively, broad and effective partnership is essential between governments and non-governmental organizations."

The survey collected information about partnership with CSOs, posing a specific question in each section of the questionnaire. Tables based on the response to these questions are included in Appendix B. The questionnaire asks about government partnership with CSOs; about the type of CSOs and about the area of their involvement. Up to three CSOs were considered, so the total number of CSOs in a table does not reflect the number of CSOs in the region that deal with the relevant topic.

Type of CSO

All responses indicate that NGOs, particularly national NGOs, are by far the most frequent type of partner CSO. There are relatively more international NGOs in areas involving adolescents and youth (Annex B, Table 2.9), international migration (Annex B, Table 4.10), family and well-being (Annex B, Table 5.10) and education (Annex B, Table 8.11). The number of partnerships with international NGOs in the area of sustainable development is relatively high because this area relates to issues that go beyond national boundaries. The reported number of international NGOs in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women (Annex B, Table 7.12) is relatively low. This is rather unexpected, because it is a traditional area of activities for national and international NGOs.

Youth groups are rarely included as partners of governments. It is startling that no partnership with youth groups is included in the areas of internal and international migration (Annex B, Tables 3.12 and 4.10), although the bulk of migrants are people aged 18–30 years who migrate for reasons such as continuing education or employment. Youth groups are mentioned relatively more frequently in relation to persons with disabilities (Annex B, Table 2.31).

Academic and research centres are the fourth form of CSOs considered in the survey. The most frequently mentioned partnerships are on issues of international migration and gender equality. No partnership with these centres was reported under the topic of persons with disabilities (Annex B, Table 2.31); only one centre was indicated in the area of HIV/AIDS (Annex B, Table 6.30), and two in the area of education (Annex B, Table 8.11). This is rather unexpected, because education and investment in human capital play a crucial role in population and development, and governments are expected to value relevant scientific information highly.

Cultural organizations/associations, associations of employers, councils, trade unions and NGO platforms are also mentioned as partners.

Area of involvement

The survey responses indicate that the activity of monitoring and legal counsel is the least cited as an area of partnership between governments and CSOs in all sections. Monitoring and legal counsel require high-level expertise, and governments may wish to consider co-funding the CSOs that need resources to perform this activity.

A relatively low level of attention to monitoring has been noted several times in the report. Evidently this is an area that calls for stronger consideration by both governments and CSOs.

Another area in which governments and CSOs work together less frequently is research and data collection. This is an activity which is inherent to CSOs of academic or research centres.

Awareness-raising and social mobilization is an area where CSOs are very active. It helps citizens to be aware of their human rights and the available choices for crucial decisions in their life. The same is true of 'education and training'.

Advocacy and policy formulation is another area which is frequently addressed by NGOs and other

CSOs. This is an area where partnership with governments seems to be particularly strong.

Facilitators and barriers

Whenever countries reported progress, or the lack thereof, in the questionnaire, they were asked to comment on the facilitators that had made progress possible or the barriers that had delayed or impeded the implementation of policies, programmes or actions. The review of responses across all sections of the questionnaire and across all country questionnaires showed that:

• the most frequently reported facilitators were effective partnership with stakeholders at the national level, actions taken/support provided by the government to different organizations, and involvement of civil society and community organizations; whereas the global financial and economic crisis, national budget constraints and the existing economic/political environment were often mentioned as barriers; and

• the private sector and public–private partnerships were also mentioned as a facilitator in a few questionnaires, while a number of questionnaires reported the complexity of the legislative system and bureaucracy as barriers. The lack of specialized teachers in schools or other specialized personnel in various institutions was also mentioned as a barrier in a few questionnaires.

Concluding remarks

It is important to note that the findings from the ICPD Beyond 2014 global survey are limited because the information reported by the countries is restricted to the headings and titles of policies, strategies and programmes that were described therein. No inference could be made on their effectiveness, and the implementation progress is reported as assessed by countries in the questionnaires.

Despite these limitations the survey results in the UNECE region reveal a significant commitment to the ICPD PoA.

The review of country responses to the survey showed that countries across all UNECE subregions have made quite good progress in implementing the provisions of the ICPD POA, primarily at the policy and the institutional level. In the western part of the region (i.e. the old EU Member States and non-EU developed countries), implementation of the policies, strategies and programmes regarding the range of issues related to population dynamics, SRH and SRR, gender equality, urbanization and migration had been initiated either before or soon after the adoption of the PoA in 1994. The other subregions have made tremendous investment and achieved commendable results in introducing policies and establishing institutions to address the above issues during the years of transition and over the last decade. It is worth mentioning that ICPD PoA issues have been addressed through a variety of policy instruments.

The policy and institutional framework adopted across all UNECE subregions has to a large extent reflected the ICPD PoA premise of human-centred development and an approach based on human rights, and has significantly invested in the provision of basic health, education and social services aimed at the fulfilment of dignified life. This has occurred at a time when societies in the UNECE region have been witnessing momentous economic, social and cultural change affecting social behaviours and values and demographic dynamics and outcomes at both the micro/behavioural and macro/structural levels.

The questionnaires have revealed that while policies, strategies and programmes have been made available across the board, access to such programmes and services has not been entirely universal in all the subregions. The questionnaires have indeed identified various sources of inequality, particularly in the eastern part of the region.

A number of persistent and emerging issues have been highlighted throughout the review and have been outlined taking into account the circumstances and contexts of the different subregions. They are addressed in more detail in Chapter 3.