**

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation***

***Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights***

***Italy contribution pursuant to the request of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on Ageism and Age-Discrimination***

***March 2021***

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Following to your query, Italian Authorities are in a position to provide the following information in relation to the request “Submission to the call for contributions on ageism and age discrimination – 2021”.

A comprehensive quantitative data collection on ageism is provided in our Country by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT). Elders.Stat is the data warehouse that collects and organizes statistical data produced by ISTAT on population ageing in its different aspects, in order to make them more accessible to any kind of user (policy makers, researchers, journalists, citizens). The amount of data available will be increased in the coming months with information on Culture, mass-media and new technologies, Health conditions, Prevention and health promotion, Informal care networks, Relations, Social participation, Satisfaction and interpersonal trust. Data are organized in a homogeneous and coherent way and they are constantly upgraded.

The last report published by ISTAT on 15 October 2020 on data collected within 31 December 2019 is focused on Social and health residential structures. The survey detects the supply of social and health residential facilities and the types of users assisted, to document more accurately both users and resources committed to this territorial assistance. In particular, the survey, which is carried out annually, surveys all public or private facilities that provide residential services (assisted accommodation with overnight stay) of a social welfare and/or social-health kind. These facilities provide accommodation for people in need for various reasons: elderly people living alone or with health problems, people with disabilities, minors without guardianship, young women in difficulty, foreigners or Italian citizens with economic problems and social hardship, people who are victims of gender-based violence.

As per national programming measures, Italy does not have a National Action Plan on older persons yet. However, in 2019, the Italian Government launched a national coordination initiative, under the responsibility of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Family Policies, aimed at establishing a shared and participated model of intervention for the promotion of active ageing in Italy. This 3-year National Project for a Multi-level Coordination of Active Ageing Policies (http://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/invecchiamento-attivo/progetto-di-coordinamento-nazionale/) involves all governmental levels (Municipalities, Provinces, Metropolitan Cities, Regions and Central authorities), NGOs and representatives of academia.

The project addresses and contributes to the achievement of international policy goals linked to ageing, including the commitments made by the States within the framework of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy of the UN-Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS)namely: Mainstreaming ageing; Integration and participation; Economic growth; Social security; Labour markets; Lifelong learning; Quality of life, Independent living and health; Gender equality; Support to families providing care; Regional co-operation). It also promotes the achievement of 9 out of 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely those having specific implications for older people (No poverty; Good health and well-being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Decent work and economic growth; Reduced inequalities; Sustainable cities and communities; Peace, justice and strong institutions; Partnerships for the goals). . The project is also aligned with the Italian National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2017–2030, adopted on 22 December 2017.

As already mentioned, the project aims at creating a multilevel, co-managed coordination of Active Ageing (AA) policies, by involving a network of national and regional policy makers, experts, researchers and stakeholders in civil society. The ad-hoc consultation process established for this purpose helps the recognition of different interests and expectations on AA, fostering new solutions through the involvement, consultation and joint discussion of policy options. At the end of the period covered by the project, it is expected that the way is paved for an Italian AA Strategy to be elaborated and launched to ensure a long-term, sustainable impact on national and regional policy makers, civil society and research community.

The ultimate goals of this 3-year project ( are therefore: to (1) advance the knowledge about the current status of AA policies; (2) produce an evidence-based set of policy recommendations; and (3) provide advice to (regional and national) policy makers in adjusting their AA policies. The project is managed and funded by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Dept. for Family Policies, and carried out in collaboration with the National Institute of Health and Sciences on Ageing(INRCA) and the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP). In November 2020,a Technical Report of the project, entitled on “National multilevel co-managed coordination of active ageing policies in Italy”, was released and is aimed at providing the methodology for estimation of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) with Italian national data sources. In order to measure the level of active ageing and degree of potential realization in all the 20 Italian regions, the data from ISTAT national surveys were used. The primary focus of the estimation was to reduce possible discrepancies of the Italian regional Index from the original UNECE Active Ageing Index. The next step will consist in the compilation – through a consultative/co-decisional process - and release of the Guidelines for policy making on active ageing, with the aim of providing indications and recommendations for policy making in this field based on: the results of the analysis of good practices, and further inputs from the stakeholders’ network.

Within the framework of the international activities on ageing carried out by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Dept. for Family Policies in collaboration with the international organizations, particularly worth mentioning is that, in 2020, Italy officially offered to co-organize, completely fund, and host in Rome the 5th UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The Conference will therefore take place in Rome in May 2022, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the MIPAA/RIS. Besides following up on the implementation of the 2017 Lisbon Ministerial Declaration, the 2022 UNECE Ministerial Conference in Rome will provide the opportunity to take stock of the lessons learned, developments and achievements on ageing recorded over the last two decades and review the RIS while improving its links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Discussions on the structure of the event are still ongoing within the relevant UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, but the experts’ panels and ministerial roundtables will be focused on all MIPAA’s main aspects. The prevention of and fight against ageism and age-based discrimination will be mainstreamed into all the 3 sessions.

With special focus on the impact of the pandemic on older persons, it is a matter of fact that among the population groups most affected by the economic and social crisis following Covid-19 there are the elderly, people with disabilities, not self-sufficient, families in poverty who have suddenly seen - in the face of unchanged or fuelled needs - the spectrum of assistance services they could access and activities to carry out, due to the containment measures.

Concerning the elderly on 24 March 2020 the National Health Institute (*Istituto Superiore di Sanità* – ISS) started a national survey in cooperation with the Authority for the Protection of the Rights of People who are Detained or Deprived of their Personal Freedom (*Garante nazionale dei diritti delle persone detenute o private della libertà personale*) on the propagation of Covid-19 in Italian RSAs (e.g. hospices and institutions - the *Residenze Sanitarie Assistite*). The survey is aimed at monitoring the situation and adopting strategies to reinforce prevention programmes and principles. The survey is destined to the 3,400 RSAs mapped in Italy and is based on an online questionnaire gathering information on the management of suspect or confirmed cases of Covid-19 infections. Period reports showing the emerging results have been published on the ISS website. According to the third report – released on 14 April 2020 - 3,276 RSAs have been contacted for the survey, that is 96% of the mapped ones, covering the entire Italian territory. The managers of such facilities can introduce specific procedures to allow the visits in specific cases, adopting protocols to avoid the propagation of the infection. This regime was further confirmed by the Decree of the President of the Italian Government of 26 April 2020, introducing the so-called Phase 2 of the emergency.

As it was the case during the first wave of the pandemic, in Italy the Decree of the President of the Italian Government of 24 October 2020 established that the possibility for family members and other visitors to have access to institutions and hospices for older people can be limited, depending on the decisions and protocols adopted by the institutions’ directors to limit the virus propagation.

In Italy, the public debate during the considered period focused on the opportunity to introduce lockdown measures on grounds of age. More specifically, on 30 October the Institute for International Politics Studies (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale – ISPI) released a study , assessing the impact of an age-selective lockdown. According to the study, the country cannot afford a complete lockdown since its consequences on the economy would be devastating. Imposing a lockdown only to some age-groups – the study considers the hypothesis of home confinement of people aged 60+, 70+ or 80+ - would have a milder impact on the economy (since these are the age groups less represented in the Italian workforce) and relieve the pressure on the Italian healthcare system (since these are the population sub-groups who most likely need assistance at the hospital in case of infection, differently from other age groups who are more likely to recover at home). This point of view does not seem isolated. The Governor of the Liguria region posted a Tweet suggesting that an age-selective lockdown would be a viable option, also considering that the Elders are not necessary to the Italian productive and economic system since most of them are retirees . The Governor later on apologised for the unsensitive language: he also stressed, though, that Elders represent the highest percentage of people that need hospitalization because of the Covid-19 and that the healthcare system risks to collapse if the propagation rate is not properly controlled . In the meanwhile, at local level this kind of measure was already adopted: the municipality of Volturara Irpina imposed the home confinement to people aged 70+, except for health assistance and other urgent reasons.