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National Strategy for Active Ageing in
Bulgaria (2019 – 2030)

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Demographic processes and trends concerning elderly people in Bulgaria

- In demographic terms, the population ageing turns out to be a long-term and hardly reversible social process for all European countries, including Bulgaria. According to EUROSTAT projections, the share of population in the Republic of Bulgaria aged over 65 years of age will increase from 17,4% in 2010 to 32,7% in 2060.
- The current demographic situation in Bulgaria is characterized by continuous decrease and ageing of the population, low birth rates and high mortality rates.
- According to data of the Bulgarian National Statistical Institute (NSI) at the end of 2018, people aged over 65 years of age are 1 493 119, or 21.3% of the population of the country.

National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria (2019 – 2030)

Vision:

- Elderly people are an important and valuable resource of Bulgaria. They have a right to decent living and full participation in society's life, to good health and productive life, to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities, to equal treatment and to defense of their basic human rights.
- **The vision of the National Strategy for Active Ageing is connected with creating conditions and providing equal opportunities for dignified and adequate living.**
- The active ageing policy is a part of the national demographic policy and a part of the comprehensive policy for sustainable cultural, economic and social development of the country.

National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria (2019 – 2030)

Values:

The Strategy is based upon the following values:

- Independent living;
- Participation in society;
- Access to care;
- Dignity – to guarantee that elderly people live in secure environment, to protect their human rights, including against age discrimination in society.

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Principles:

- Lawfulness;
- Prevention;
- Covering the entire life cycle of human life;
- Effectiveness;
- Efficacy;
- Coherence;
- Sustainability of results;
- Mainstreaming ageing – integrating the ageing policies into all interrelated policies;
- Participation of local authorities;
- Innovativeness;
- Intersectoral cooperation;
- Civil participation and dialogue.

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Aims:

- The strategic aim is creating conditions for active and decent living of the elderly people through providing equal opportunities for their full participation in society's economic and social life.
- **The strategic aim is developed in four priorities**, which are composed in accordance with the main conclusions of analyses and statements in the framework of conducted regional round tables in the field of ageing.

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Priorities:

The priorities of the Strategy are defined as follows:

- **Priority 1: Promoting active ageing in the field of employment;**
- **Priority 2: Promoting active ageing in the field of participation in society;**
- **Priority 3: Promoting active ageing in the field of independent living;**
- **Priority 4: Building capacity and favourable environment for active ageing at national and regional level.**

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Priorities:

- There are detailed measures to each of the four priorities of the National Strategy for Active Ageing. The realization of the measures will be monitored through biannual plans and biannual reports for the Strategy implementation. **At the moment the first plan for the period 2019 – 2020 is ready and will be presented to the Council of Ministers.**
- Given the fact that the set priorities correspond to the four domains of the Active Ageing Index (AAI), thus the achieved results could be monitored and reported through the 22 indicators of the Index. The target values in terms of active ageing will be the average EU-28 values concerning the separate indicators of the Index.

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Implementation and Coordination:

- Responsible institution for the implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria will be the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, through its Directorate “Living Standard, Demographic Policy and Social Investments”.
- The successful implementation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing should be realized by the joint efforts of all stakeholders. That is why the Interinstitutional working group on demographic issues, incomes and living standard to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy will provide and maintain a constant working format for interinstitutional cooperation, including on the active ageing issues.

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Implementation and Coordination:

The members of the working group include broad range of representatives of the responsible institutions on the implementation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing, including representatives of:

- ministries,
- state agencies,
- the National Social Security Institute,
- the National Statistical Institute,
- the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,
- the Bulgarian Red Cross,
- representatives of municipalities,
- social partners, etc.

The members of the working group are updated annually, as each institution appoints two experts.

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Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The activities on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation are an important part of the quality realization of the Strategy.
- Each four years of the planned period (2019 – 2030) there will be conducted an evaluation of the National Strategy for Active Ageing in Bulgaria.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy will coordinate the process of evaluation of the Strategy and will promote stakeholders to take active part in it. In order to be most objective, the evaluation will be conducted by independent external expert.