



COMMUNITY KNOWS NO AGE

SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE AGING



This data was taken from the research "The position of older persons in Serbia – social context, data review and research results", that was conducted by the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality with the support of the United Nations Population Fund .

Community is its people. Regardless of gender and age, each person contributes to the betterment of the community in which they live, with their diverse talents, efforts and abilities.

Demographic picture of Serbia

The demographic picture of Serbia changes from year to year. As a consequence of the aging and urbanization, the structure of the population in rural areas is changing, but also the quality of life in the community.

Due to the change in the number and structure of the population and the accelerated aging, the state and society face new challenges: to prevent possible poverty growth, alleviate incomplete coverage of social and health services protection, overcome the physical distance of health, social and cultural institutions, reduce discrimination, and inform and digitally educate all citizens. Older members of our society face difficulties every day, they are mostly taken care of by their families and neighbors, and they are often left without any help from the authorized institutions and the local community.

These challenges can be solved together by the state, society and the local community.

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IS THE BASIS OF A RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY

Involvement of older persons in all aspects of everyday life, as well as the development of local policies, influence the building of a more responsible society. The local community has a very important role in creating and implementing active aging programs that contribute to increasing personal satisfaction, but also carries responsibility for the physical and mental health of older persons. By cooperating with all relevant actors – social and health care institutions, education, culture, and civil society organizations at the local level, as well as cooperating with other actors throughout society, we create a community that equally cares for each member of our society and allows them to actively participate in it.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS. By controlling funds and earmarked transfers to local communities, with an even and continuous distribution of funds for care services for older persons, the local community gets the opportunity to participate more actively in the lives of its citizens.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES that need to be established in communities where are lacking or improved in others where exist include: assessment and planning services, community-based daily services, independent living support services, counseling-therapeutic and social-educational services, and accommodation services for older persons, for which significantly more funds need to be allocated at the national and local level.



According to the estimates of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, the trend of depopulation continues, which means that the population growth rate, compared to the previous year, is negative and amounts to -5.4. According to the last census (2011), as many as 160 local self-governments have a negative natural increase.



83% of older persons do not use support services for senior citizens. Only 9% use mobile services or home medical care, and 4% use help at home services.

The need to increase the availability and steadiness of health care was emphasized, especially for citizens from the most remote and rural areas. Integrated services at the local level, which include the help of geronto housewives (help at home), palliative care and care of patients in terminal stages of disease, have not been developed to the required extent.



Senior citizens see the long wait for specialist examinations as the biggest problem in terms of health care – 68%. Then they single out: lack of specialist doctors (42%), distance of health care institutions (35%), poor health care service organization (31%), as well as inadequate attitude towards older persons in health care institutions (28%)

FORMING MOBILE TEAMS FOR SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE. At the local level is one of the ways to overcome the challenges that older persons face on a daily basis. Also, better infrastructure and an adapted environment improve the availability of health and social care for older persons.

INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY. The fight against discrimination, the inclusion of older persons in local actions, engagement through work, education, volunteering, art and recreation in the local community, promotes their role, but also increases the capacity of society.

Respect for the human rights of senior citizens means their true inclusion in the community at all levels and in all areas, while respecting the principles of equality, but also the heterogeneity of this social group.

PROVIDING INFORMATION AND MORE COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE. of rights and obligations, raising the level of digital literacy, more services tailored to the needs of older people, tailored training, are some of the characteristics of inclusive communities adapted to older persons.

Through adapted spaces, appropriate support services, intergenerational solidarity and cooperation, and opportunities for training and work, the local community becomes a more beautiful place to live.

Every day can be better in a caring community.



Only 14% of older persons are involved in the work of the local organization (club, associations, local community, local self-government), while 86% percent are not involved at all.



63% of surveyed citizens believe that new communication technologies can improve the quality of life for older people.

EQUALITY FOR ALL GENERATIONS