

Regardless of age or gender, each person, with their interests, abilities and experiences – is unique. By creating and implementing a national aging policy, we provide an opportunity for people of all generations to be active, to contribute to the development of our society, but also to feel satisfied, fulfilled and accepted.



# DIGNITY 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 .

## Demographic future of Serbia

Demographic aging of the population is one of the characteristics of modern society.

The Republic of Serbia is one of the countries in which the demographic aging of the population is very pronounced as a result of a decades-long negative balance between fertility and mortality rates, as well as migration trends.

**Serbia** 45% of older people from the village state that they do not have access to cultural facilities at all, compared to 16% of older people from the city.

## Strategy on Aging for the years

The National Strategy on Aging had expired in 2015. Some groups of older persons face various problems such as: poverty, insufficient access to and coverage of social and health care services-which is especially evident during emergencies, unlicensed providers of social welfare and health care services, a lack of data and records on older persons and their needs, discrimination and insufficient digital literacy.

These and other challenges can be overcome by adopting a new national strategy aimed at exercising the rights of and providing support to older persons, establishing an action plan for its implementation and allocating financial resources for its realization.

### A comprehensive policy to support older persons is an investment in the future of our society.

The strategic document defines: measures and actions to improve the economic situation of older persons, conditions for obtaining the rights to social and health care services, especially in the rural and underdeveloped areas, measures to suppress prejudice and combat violence against older people, activities to increase intergenerational solidarity, development of skills and capacities, digital literacy and greater involvement of older persons in all aspects of community life.

### Active involvement of older people in decision-making processes and implementation of activities is a prerequisite for the success of an integrated aging policy.

**SUPPORT FOR FINANCIAL SECURITY IN OLD AGE** can be achieved by adjusting the pension system, the cash benefits system and the labor market; by aligning pensions and other cash benefits with rising living costs, regulating access to early retirement, adjusting jobs and working hours to a more diverse workforce, hiring older workers and by developing supplementary pension savings.



According to the data of "Statista", the Global Research Platform, from 2019.

## Improving social and health care services

According to the data of the Republic Institute for Social Protection from 2019, the number of adult beneficiaries of social welfare care has increased by **25.2%** in the last ten years. This indicates a need to create a comprehensive long-term care policy and develop closer cooperation between social and health care systems, encouraging the provision of integrated services within these systems, while adapting existing and creating new ones.

A specific challenge is the insufficient coverage of support services, lack of services at the local level (live-in-housewives, palliative and institutional care, integrated social and health services), support to informal caregivers, difficult access to primary health care institutions in rural areas, etc.

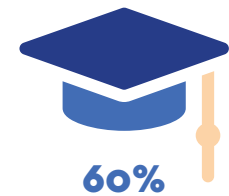
When mitigating the negative effects of crisis situations, the importance of improving health services is strictly emphasized.

## Reducing discrimination against older persons

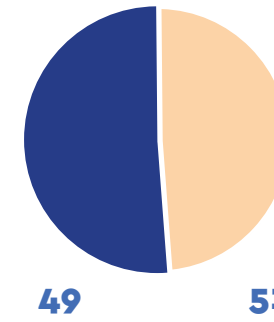
**VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND NEGLECT** of older persons is a specific phenomenon, caused by different factors, including, among other things, the dominant prejudice that older persons are a less valuable social group. The total number of reports of violence has been increasing in recent years, with women being the most vulnerable. A specific form of abuse is economic abuse, to which as many as 13.5% of older people are exposed. Two-fifths of respondents agree with the opinion that discrimination against older persons is present in society.

An important role in reducing discrimination and encouraging intergenerational cooperation and understanding is played by educational programs.

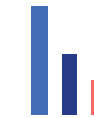
**By protecting older people from discrimination and violence, while fully respecting all specifics and heterogeneity of this age group (women, older people in rural areas, those in residential institutions, people with disabilities, etc.), we protect the rights of everyone.**



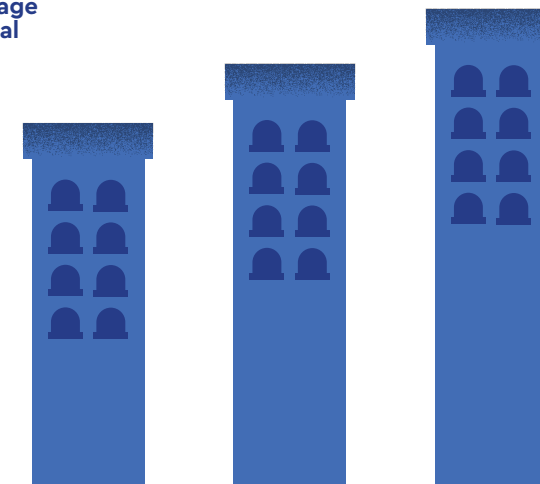
60% of respondents believe that it is possible to reduce inequality through the educational process.



Half of older persons (49%) believe that health care is fully available to them, while the other half (51%) have health care partially accessible, accessible with great difficulty or completely unavailable.



62% of respondents believe that older persons are exposed to neglect, while only 16% believe the opposite.



## Improving the living conditions of older persons and social participation

In order for older persons to be actively involved in social processes, it is necessary to ensure physical functionality, an appropriate lifestyle, easier access to different aspects of community life and social inclusion. This includes adequate public transport and barrier-free infrastructure, especially in rural areas, but also support with participation in social and cultural lives, work or volunteering.

## Promotion of active and healthy aging

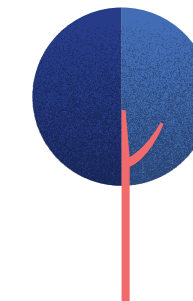
Active and healthy aging include a number of activities that improve the quality of life of older people. By promoting healthy habits in adulthood (diet, physical and mental activity), we make each individual happy and healthy. Digital literacy enables greater involvement in social activities. In this regard, it is necessary to develop an action plan for digital education of older persons especially in rural areas, which is crucial for achieving sustainable solutions through generations.

Being informed, seeking for information and lifelong learning provide older persons with the opportunity to exercise their rights and to be actively involved in social processes, which further contributes to the improvement of intergenerational understanding and cooperation.

56%

56% of senior citizens have no knowledge of any organization, institution or individual representing or protecting their rights and position.

Through new opportunities, cooperation with older representatives of society, the professional and local communities, we design, research and build the future of our society.



The life of each of us can become more beautiful with the right decisions.

EQUALITY FOR ALL GENERATIONS



45% of older people from the village state that they do not have access to cultural facilities at all, compared to 16% of older people from the city.



43% of older people do not use the Internet, and out of 57% of those who use it, more than 90% do not use e-services. People living in rural areas do not have the ability to buy devices or technical capabilities to use IT devices.