

Aging in a society in transition

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Propositions

Aging in a society in transition:

Socioeconomic conditions, health status, social networks and social participation of older people in the Republic of Kosovo

Naim Jerliu

1. Aging populations call for an urgent need to reshape and restructure social and health care systems worldwide. It is important to arrange supra-national coordination and cooperation activities in order to ensure effective and prompt exchange and dissemination of good and best practices. **(this dissertation)**
2. Global ageing, in developed and developing countries alike, will dramatically alter the way that societies and economies work. Economic aspects of the aging effect, including the introduction of innovative cost-containment mechanisms, should be effectively and promptly addressed in all countries of the European region. **(this dissertation)**
3. Due to increasing health problems and the loss of current compeers, older people may be at a particularly high risk for social isolation and loneliness. **(this dissertation)**
4. In post-war settings and transitional countries of the Western Balkans including Kosovo, which has undergone a huge social disruption, family ties and connections with close friends may tend to compensate for the lack of social integration, social cohesion and social participation. **(this dissertation)**
5. "Invest in young people today by promoting healthy habits, and ensuring education and employment opportunities, access to health services, and social security coverage for all workers as the best investment to improve the lives of future generations of older persons." **(Ageing in 21st Century: A Celebration and A Challenge. UNFPA Report 2012)**
6. The health of the people is not only a health sector responsibility; it also embraces wider political issues such as trade and foreign policy. Tackling this requires political will to engage the whole of government in health. **(The 8th global Conference on Health Promotion, 2013)**
7. Shifting the mindset of policy-makers, health providers and members of the public from one that sees health in terms of combating illness to one mainly focusing on promoting health and well-being is the key to the future. Success requires political support, technical and administrative innovation and changes in how financial resources and other assets are deployed. **(Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General. World Health Organization)**
8. Our 21st century health landscape is shaped by growing global, regional, national and local interdependence and an increasingly complex array of interlinking factors that influence health and well-being. We are all challenged, for example, with the task of making sense of and integrating the many different actors and sectoral services (such as housing, water, energy, food and health care) needed to keep ourselves, our families and our populations healthy and happy. **(Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe)**
9. "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty."
(Mother Teresa)
10. "Love and appreciate your parents. We are often so busy growing up; we forget they are also growing old." **(Unknown)**