

AGEING POLICIES ON A LOCAL LEVEL

ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMMES FROM THE PARADIGM OF ACTIVE AGEING

ABSTRACT

The demographic ageing is one of the biggest challenges in modern societies. Public Policies struggle with the urgency of finding appropriate solutions to the demands arising from the increasing survival rate of older generations. It requires the preparation of responsible bodies on various levels of local governance. The goal of this research is to identify and analyse strategies and political orientations supporting ageing, considering the characteristics and needs of the elderly, in order to inform and adjust social policies and respond in an innovative way to the demands and challenges of contemporary mature societies.

To achieve this goal, we carried out three separate studies based on an integrated approach of “active ageing”. The first study addressed the characterization of population 50+ from SHARE. The second study was based on an enquiry to population 65+ in two socioeconomically distinct Portuguese municipalities. The third study comprised the analysis of local policies on the same territorial units that demanded the development and implementation of an instrument.

The results helped to demonstrate the intervention needs, of which the answers need to be rethought, considering the new challenges for individuals and communities. The research has also enabled the focus on priority axes of intervention for the studied communities.

Key-words: Ageing, Public Policies, Local Governance, Active Ageing, SHARE, Well-being, Local Organizations, Old Age, Elderly