**Abstract**

**RS-113**

**Title:** **«** **Development of proposals on measures of demographic and family policy, and on promotion of active longevity»**

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**Objects of the research** are measures of demographic, family and active ageing policies in Russia.

**Goal of the research** is to develop proposals for measures of demographic and family policies, promotion of active longevity.

To achieve the goal, the following methods were used: (a) a desk analysis and synthesis of existing expert and scientific literature in Russian and English on the research topic; (b) examination of federal and regional legislation; (c) descriptive analysis and multivariate statistical analysis of micro-data of population surveys and statistical indicators; (d) the index method (in accordance with the UNECE international multi-dimensional Active Ageing Index (AAI)) adapted to Russia databases; (e) micromodelling; (e) collection of data using the method of formalized interviews using survey tools (a special block of questions in RLMS-HSE questionnaire for calculating the active ageing index).

**Empirical base of the research.** Legislation examination was performed on the base of demographic and family policies legal acts, social services adopted at the federal and regional level and located in «Consultant» and «Garant» bases, on the official websites of the Federal executive authorities, constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the official website for posting information about state (municipal) institutions (bus.gov.ru). The basis of the desk studies conducted for this project were World Health Organization, OECD and European Commission reports and publications indexed in scientific citation bases such as Scopus and WoS. The data were also used from the official website of Russian Federation Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat). The calculating of AAI for 2017 was based on the RLMS-HSE (2017), Rosstat micro-data such as Selective supervision of quality and availability of services in education, health care and social service, assistance of employment of the population (three waves conducted in 2013, 2015, 2017), Сomprehensive monitoring of living conditions (three waves conducted in 2011, 2014, 2016).

 **The results of the study:**

1. Analysis of demographic and family policy measures, which were introduced in Russia at the end of 2017, shows that main systematic problem of the new measures package is mixing of family, demographic and social policy tasks. At the level of declared tasks and public presentation, these measures aimed at stimulating fertility, which is emphasized by the definition of target groups, while meaningfully all the adopted changes (except the extension of maternity (family) capital program (MCP)) are combat poverty measures. As a result, a significant number of families are left outside the scope of the poverty alleviation policy, as the focus is made on «new» children, and relatively small groups of the population have been selected as recipients.
2. The share of people who have MCP certificate and used it is about 50%. The main and virtually the only way of the funds application in almost all Russian regions is the improvement of living conditions. According to the Russian Federation Pension Fund, 95% of claimed funds were spent for these purposes in Russia, and only a third of them purchased or built housing without attracting loans. The main reason for not using the MCP is the impossibility of improving the family’s living conditions even with the involvement of it due to low family incomes. In accordance with the results of simulation based on Rosstat sample survey in 2016, about 55% of certificate holders couldn’t improve their living conditions with use of MCP and personal savings according to the most conservative estimate. For a significant number of families, the improvement of housing conditions, including mortgage programs, is not a first order necessity in comparison with unfavorable income situation. Before solving this problem, it is necessary to solve the problem of poverty and low incomes.
3. A comparative analysis of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) and its indicators for the Russian Federation and the EU countries revealed key barriers and points of possible growth for the potential of active longevity in Russia. The dynamics of AAI in 2010-2017 was negative, partly due to changes in the methodology of calculated indicators, partly due to decrease in the level of employment, material security and social activity deterioration. The strengths of active longevity in Russia are the achieved level of education, involvement in intra-family social activity and physical security. The potential for the further development of active longevity is to increase life expectancy and improve the health of the elderly, increase the availability and quality of provided medical services. The insufficient development of infrastructure for older generation requires attention in the fields of physical culture and sport, education, volunteering and social activities and leisure. Russian important feature is the strong differentiation of elderly people according to the degree of active longevity individual potential realization, which is determined by gender, age and level of education. It is worth to note that intra-family and extra-family activities carried out respectively at the meso-level (family) and at the macro level (society) do not interfere each other - the more actively a person engages in one type of social activity in Russia, the higher his possibility to participate in another one. The structure of the index can be used as a roadmap for shaping the political agenda at regional and municipal levels, as well as for organizations working with elderly, allowing them to identify areas for development with the goal of fully supporting realization of the elderly’s potential.
4. A review of publications from international peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as expert reports by the World Health Organization, showed that the state of health in old age, life expectancy and the rate of aging largely depend on controlled factors such as lifestyle and self-preservation behavior, treatment for medical help and state of the environment. The best level of health indicators in old age are shown by more educated individuals, people with high incomes and good living conditions, who have maintained social contacts. The health status review of the elderly in Russia indicates the insufficiency of available empirical data and scientific works in this field first. Since the beginning of the 2000s, there were conducted several epidemiological surveys for elderly with a wide range of evaluated indicators (including geriatric syndromes), but all of them are local in nature, the population of individual cities or urban areas was surveyed. Lack of representative health and functional status data of the elderly for the country as a whole makes it difficult to plan medical and social services for older people. According to available data, elderly in Russia experience everyday restrictions more often than the population of developed countries, including suffering from problems with movement, uncompensated hearing loss, and depression. With a comparable prevalence of fragility (weakening of body functions because of aging), the proportion of pre-fragile (with individual manifestations of fragility) among the elderly (65+) in Russia is higher than in European countries.
5. Analysis of the Russian social services system showed that it does not satisfy the demand for social services and does not meet modern standards of care for people with disabilities. The share of people who receives home-based and institutional social services is significantly lower than in developed countries. There is a queue for inpatient care. There is high proportion of people who needs home-based care. This need in social service clients for medical services is not met. Legal framework changes (the introduction of the new Federal Law 442-FZ, December 28, 2013 «On the Basics of Social Services for Citizens in the Russian Federation») led to the increase in co-payments among the population. The number of free social services recipients in the first year of the new law (2015) decreased by 27%. The most significant reduction in the number of social services recipients occurred in the oldest age group (from 70% to 43%), which is associated with a significant increase in individual incomes of pensioners who have crossed the milestone of 80 years. To saturate the existing demand for social services, the capacity of the system must be doubled at least.
6. Despite the considerable variation in care systems for dependent older people and people with disabilities in almost all countries, family members mostly provide the care for the elderly and disabled people. According to the experience of other countries, three levels of state support can be distinguished. There are measures aimed at direct support of guardians (benefits, counseling and training for guardians); measures that indirectly support guardians (services for elders (disabled) in need of care); institutional measures of state support for guardians that define the «game rules» in the implementation of kinship care (the legal regulation of kinship care is adopted in a given country). In general, experts are often criticize governmental cash payments as a way to support a guardian engaged in kindred care. As one of the main undesirable consequences of this measure, guardians risk falling into the trap of low profitability or entering the shadow sector of the economy, having little incentive to participate in formal employment receiving this kind of payment. In this regard, it is necessary to implement measures aimed at enhancing the ability of guardians to combine work and kindred care.
7. Prepared proposals for measures of demographic and family policy, promoting active longevity, includes: (1) Improving the rules for assigning and providing payments for the first and second children introduced in 2018 such as changing the order of recording family income testing the need criterion, extending the repayment period benefits at least up to 3 years. (2) Creation / development of a social housing segment for families in need of improving housing conditions in addition to the development of preferential mortgage lending programs. (3) Expansion of the social contract technology application in measures of social support to families with children provision. (4) Development of a conceptual document to fix the official definition of the active longevity and its main components content. (5) The active ageing index is the official tool for monitoring social policy in relation to the older generation and Russia's progress in the field of active longevity, which requires the inclusion of questions in Rosstat regular surveys that allow the AAI to be fully calculated. (6) Organizing and conducting regular representative epidemiological surveys of the elderly for the country as a whole. (7) In order to improve the availability and quality of social services, the social services system should develop in several directions: (a) the development of modern and economically advantageous hospital-substituting technologies that enable people with limited mobility to receive care services in the place he lives, (b) an active policy to stimulate kinship care, which, on the one hand, implies an adequate financial reward for a person who is forced to undertake socially significant care for elderly relatives and, on the other hand, the introduction of a respite technology that allows the person who provides ongoing care to have a short rest, (c) expanding the non-state sector of social services, in particular NGOs, which often provide unique services that are not available in public institutions.

**Degree of research results implementation.** The research was conducted in the interests of the Russian Federation Government. According to the results of the project 5 analytical notes were prepared. The materials of this study were used in preparation for participation in meetings at the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation; in the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation; at meetings of the Council under the Government of the Russian Federation on guardianship in the social sphere, the Working Group for expert development of the concept of Active Longevity in Russian Federation, the working group of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives to create a long-term care system.

**Level of implementation.** Results and recommendations, formulated on the base of the conducted research, can be usedto advise public authorities and improving existing or developing legislation in the field of demographic, family and social policies measures in favor of older citizens and active longevity policies in order to increase their effectiveness.