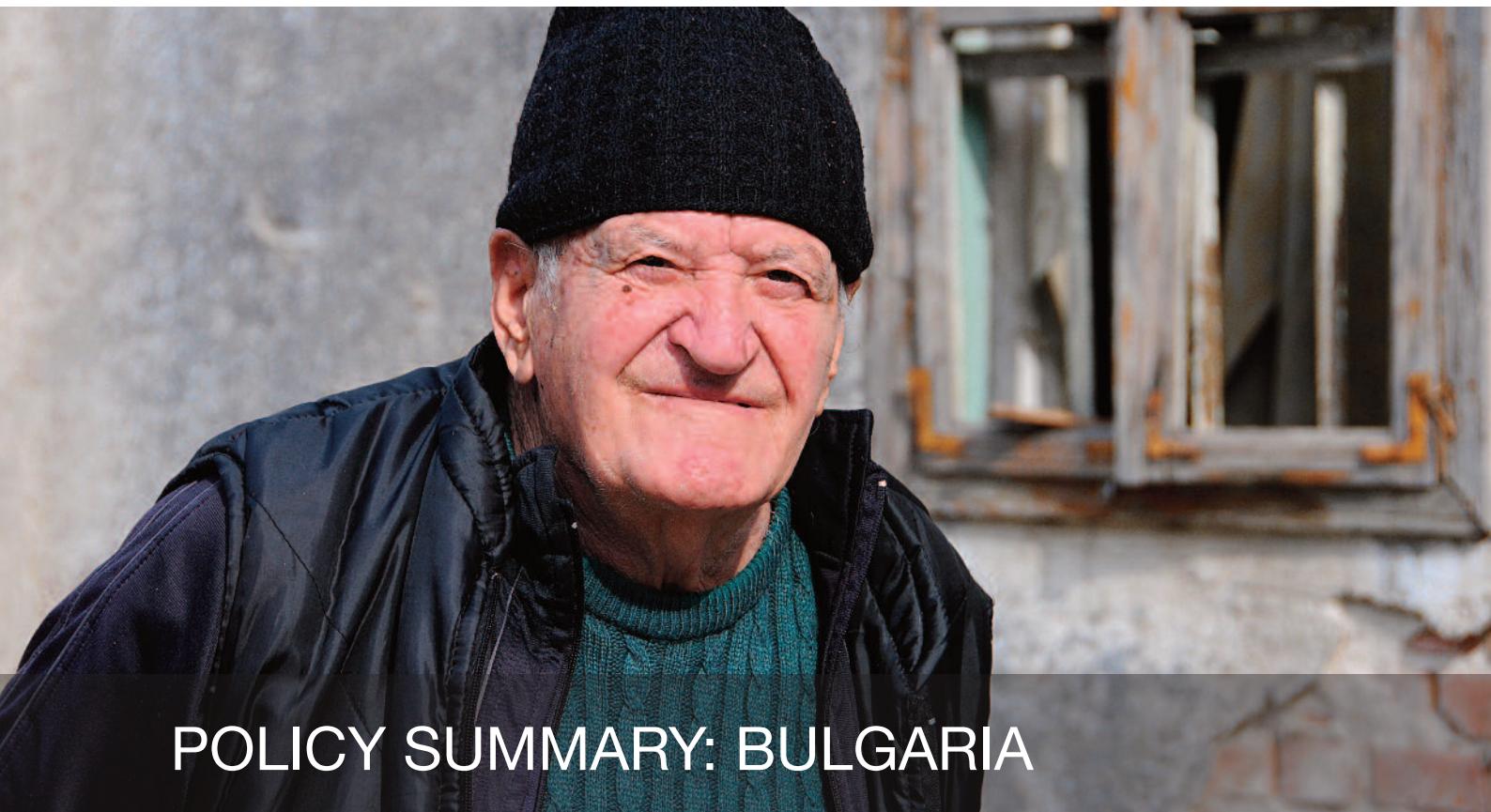


Quality and cost-effectiveness in long-term care and dependency prevention



POLICY SUMMARY: BULGARIA

Improving LTC and ensuring equal access to social services for the elderly

Petko Salchev, National Center of Public Health and Analyses, Sofia

September 2017

Policy theme	Deinstitutionalization and provision of more community- and family-based services
Design and implementation level	National design, locally implemented. Measures are implemented by the Social Inclusion Directorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Policy objective	Development and modernization of long-term care, and to ensure equal opportunities for access to social services for the elderly. Development of the 'silver economy'.
Start date – End date	2012–2030

Aims

The adoption of the National Strategy for Long-term Care by the Council of Ministers in 2014 that envisages the establishment of a network of accessible and good quality services in the community and at home, aimed not only at the deinstitutionalization of the elderly and people with disabilities, but also preventing them from being institutionalized again. The main objective of the strategy is to create conditions for independent and dignified life for the elderly and people with disabilities by improving access to and quality of social services, expanding these services throughout the country and encouraging interaction between health and social services. The strategy is oriented at the implementation of

an integrated comprehensive policy on long-term care and development of integrated cross-sectoral services.

Work on a new Social Services Act (draft) began in 2014. This aims to improve the system of financing and provision of social services, the planning and quality of these services and the development of systems for monitoring and control on the effectiveness of the services offered.

A framework for a future multi-annual national program for active aging related to the promotion and development of innovative forms of long-term care preventing people from being institutionalized again has been envisaged.

Implementation

Rapid quantitative expansion of community-based social services for the elderly and people with disabilities and reduction of places in specialized institutions, though more slowly for the period 2012–2014. State

budget funds for all social services (as delegated state activities – both community-based and specialized institutions) increased for the period mentioned above.

Target group

Elderly people, people with disabilities, vulnerable groups living in poverty, home helpers, volunteers, carers.

Eligibility criteria

No eligibility criteria have been specified.

Resources	Social services funding in Bulgaria is both centralized and decentralized. The financial resources for social services development and support are stipulated in chapter VII of the Social Assistance Act and include the following sources: state budget, municipal budgets, national and international	programs, donations from local and foreign individuals and legal entities, 'social support' fund, etc. Please see page 2 of the Bulgarian country report 'Emerging Policy Developments in Long-term Care'.
Performance assessment and monitoring	At national level by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Council of Ministers.	The monitoring and assessment are prepared by the MLSP while the final decision is made by the Council of Ministers.
Evidence of success (outcomes, quality, satisfaction, awareness)	Report on the National Concept on Promoting Active Aging of the Elderly in Bulgaria (2012–2030) in Sectoral Policies (2012–2014), adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers in 2015 (in Bulgarian),	www.mlsp.government.bg/ckfinder/userfiles/files/politiki/demografska%20politika/otchetti%20i%20planove/Monitoring%20report%20on%20active%20ageing%202012-2014.pdf www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=764
Transferability/ uniqueness	The heterogeneity of the schemes funded makes it difficult to draw conclusions about its transferability, at least at this stage.	
Is this an emergent practice? Degree of innovation	Long-term care policy in Bulgaria through expansion of social services is still in its infancy.	The Council of Ministers seeks to expand and develop the whole system (policy).
Sustainability	Intended to be sustainable.	
Academic literature on this action	www.mlsp.government.bg/ckfinder/userfiles/files/politiki/demografska%20politika/otchetti%20i%20planove/Monitoring%20report%20on%20active%20ageing%202012-2014.pdf www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=764 [both in Bulgarian]	
Documents	See section above	