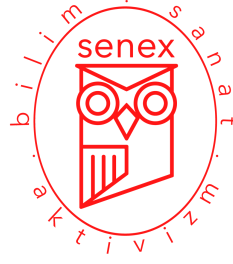


# SOCIAL INCLUSION

## of older people in Türkiye

02

SENEX HUMAN  
RIGHTS SERIES



# SOCIAL INCLUSION

## of older people in Türkiye

SENEX HUMAN  
RIGHTS SERIES

02

SUBSTANTIVE INPUT FOR  
UN OEWG13  
2023

ÖZGÜR ARUN • BANU K. ARUN

ASSOCIATION FOR AGING STUDIES PUBLICATION



# Social Inclusion of Older People in Türkiye

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**A special call was published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the beginning of January 2023. This call focused on the social inclusion of older people.**

The UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) invited member states, non-governmental organizations and all concerned parties to the debates to be held on April 3-6, 2023. The substantive inputs of member states, non-governmental organizations and other concerned parties were to be discussed in the focus of the social inclusion of older people at the 13th meeting of OEWG. Its aim was to protect and strengthen the human rights of older people.

When we heard about this call, we wondered what kind of practices, legal regulations and policy frameworks exist in Turkey regarding social inclusion for older people. Can older people take part in social life without being discriminated against? Has any training been provided on older people's rights and ageism for professionals working to establish and implement legal regulations and policy frameworks?

Do central and local governments make room for older people for their active participation in social life? How are the available resources used so that older people can exist in all areas of social life without discrimination? In this book, you will find a refined discussion addressing all of these questions.

The research we carried out in response to the call of the UN enabled us to speak to the difficulties faced by older people in their participation in social life in Turkey.

However, we can better understand why the responsible institutions failed to develop any strategy, policy and practice; equality data is not available in Turkey's official statistical program. We were surprised by the lack of a data source focused on social inclusion as much as the gaps in the legal framework. We hope that the discussions we present in this book will likewise surprise you.

We thank the individuals and institutions that supported our research. Dear Adem Arkadaş-Thibert, while informing us about the call, read the report we submitted to the UN and shared his suggestions. Jason K. Holdsworth, North American representative of the Senex: Association for Aging Studies, who is familiar with aging in Turkey, has read and carefully reviewed this book. We thank each of them for their unique contributions.

Both during our research and during the process of designing and disseminating it as a book, the Etkiniz European Union Program provided support. Once again, we would like to thank the Etkiniz experts for their support.

Besides researchers, we hope that our discussions in this book will reach three main actors: policy makers, local government experts and rights advocates. To ensure that older people effectively enjoy their rights, these three actors need to mainstream a human rights-based approach. We hope we have presented our research in a manner that assists our intended audience with further content helpful towards that end.

Özgür Arun and Banu K. Arun  
2023



# INTRODUCTION





# Introduction

**The UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) requested concrete contributions focused on the Social Inclusion of Older People to discuss at its 13th meeting to be held on April 3-6, 2023.**

The substantive inputs of member states, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and other relevant parties will be evaluated in this meeting in order to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons.

This special call for substantive inputs, which focuses on the social inclusion of older people, consists of 4 main questions. In order for concrete and comprehensive contributions to be made, all questions should be answered. In addition to the government's report from Turkey, only Senex: Association for Aging Studies responded to the UN's call in the field of civil society. In the following sections within this book, you will find the substantive input provided by Senex experts on 4 key questions as requested by The Chair of the General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

All of the analytical evaluations, presented by in this book on the social inclusion of older people in Turkey were handled, discussed and interpreted based on evidence. The legal provisions, policy frameworks and strategic documents included in the answers to all questions can be accessed via the links provided in the endnotes section.

It is instructive that non-governmental organizations, as well as governments, contribute to the UN's call on social inclusion of older people. Thus, it is possible to both learn about substantive inputs based on evidence and to recognize gaps between policy and practice. In this respect, it is very important to make a comparative reading by including the analytical reports of civil societies alongside the responses of governments. In order for interested parties to make a comparative reading, the last part of this book includes the official report presented on behalf of the Republic of Turkey. Thus, Turkey's official report, as submitted to the UN, has been added without any changes.

It is easy to understand the paradigm difference when you read Turkey's official response in comparison with other states' reports and civil society contributions. The difference between hopeful aspirations and concrete proposals as well as an overarching vision for the future can be grasped. Approaches that fail to mainstream gender and fail to recognize the determination of social class cannot be egalitarian either.

It should not be forgotten that the basic structural principle for the strengthening of the rights of older people at the national, regional and global level is based on equality. Among the main actors that will implement policies developed with equality data are central and local governments. In order to make cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, it is inevitable that central and local governments will be the main actors. Inclusive and participatory local governments can take steps to ensure social inclusion. However, the main responsibility of central governments is to reduce poverty and to establish equality in order that all kinds of discrimination might be overcome.

In this book, we aim to provide information and insights to policymakers, practitioners and advocates in the field of aging studies while reminding governments of their responsibilities in the discussions. We hope that all the ongoing discussions at the UN will be a precursor to an international convention on the rights of older people.



**NATIONAL LEGAL AND POLICY  
FRAMEWORK**





**What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country that explicitly focus on older persons who are marginalized on the grounds of their sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status? (This may include addressing older populations on frameworks dedicated to other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants, minorities, homeless people etc.; or addressing marginalized groups within frameworks devoted to older persons)**

Starting from the first articles of the Turkish Constitution, the principle of equality is stated before the law is mentioned. The rights of older people, who are considered among the socially and economically vulnerable groups, are guaranteed by legal provisions. For example, Article 61 of the Constitution emphasizes that the rights to be provided to older people who need support shall be regulated by law.<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact, legal guarantees for the participation of vulnerable older people in social, economic and cultural life are provided in full in labor laws,<sup>2</sup> all laws related to commercial activities,<sup>3</sup> consumer rights,<sup>4</sup> and in rights of communication and city administration. For example, in the law enacted on the regulation of retail trade,<sup>5</sup> it is

**The rights of older people, who are considered among the socially and economically vulnerable groups, are guaranteed by legal provisions.**



Photograph 1. Grandmother and grandson  
Source: Senex | Association for Aging Studies

stated that older people should also be taken into account when arranging the common areas of shopping centers (article 11). The law on consumer protection<sup>6</sup> rules that commercial advertisements that exploit the lack of experience and knowledge of vulnerable groups, including older people, threaten their safety and prevent their healthy participation in public life, cannot be made (article 61). It is noteworthy that in the law on the right to communication<sup>7</sup>, the right of older people to have access to information and news is guaranteed (article 4).

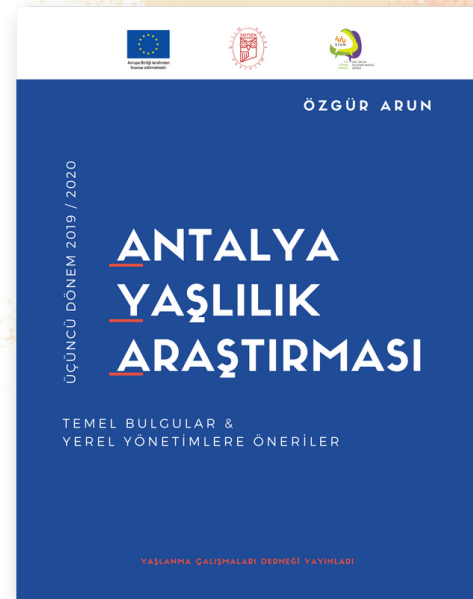
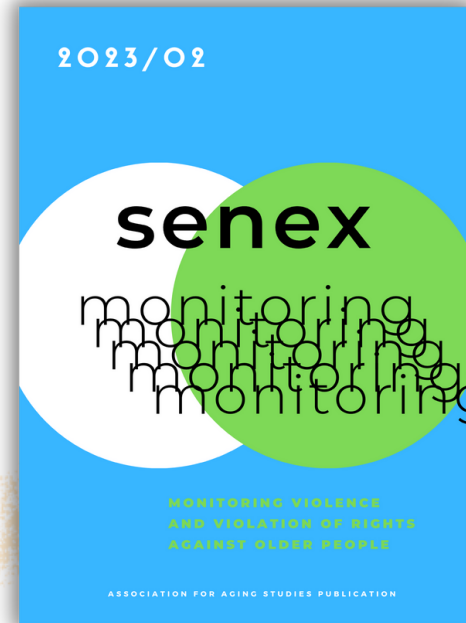
Although there is no effective measure or legal regulation addressing older people who experience age discrimination in a destructive way, older people are not recognized as belonging to cohorts that can be excluded and marginalized. Older people are considered as a 'homogeneous and needy' social segment within the written rules such as laws, regulations, and directives.

**Older people are considered as a 'homogeneous and needy' social segment within the written rules such as laws, regulations, and directives.**

Despite all the legal provisions listed, the obstacles to recognition of the existence of older people in public spaces with their heterogeneous identities and authentic voices continues to exist. They are subject to violations of their rights due to the obstacles preventing their participation in social, economic, and cultural life. For example, in Senex Monitoring: Monitoring of Violence and Violations Against Older People research,<sup>8</sup> because many older people are prevented from using public transportation, they cannot access their right to work or their right to health care and are prevented from existing in public spaces.

In one of the current cases of violation of rights identified by Senex Monitoring, older people living in Antalya report that buses providing public transportation services do not stop when they see them. Despite all legal regulations, as evidenced by the statement, “the buses don't stop when they see my cane”, the right of disabled older people to participate in social life is effectively blocked.

Ongoing longitudinal research findings from the Antalya Ageing Study (AAS)<sup>9</sup>, supports evidence that the right of older people to access and use the city is violated due to age discrimination. The data of AAS when last conducted shows that ageism increased from 4% in 2013 to 7% in 2016 and 11% in 2020. In addition, while older people report the most important obstacles to their participation in





social life, they state that they are discriminated against because of sexism (4%), ethnic discrimination (5%), religious discrimination (8%) and political views (16%), and that they are treated unfairly. Additionally, older people living at risk of poverty are even more marginalized. The AAS points out that among poor older people, ethnic discrimination increased to 8%, sexism to 10%, religious discrimination to 13%, ageism to 18%, and the rate of those who were discriminated against due to their political views to 24%. However, in the 11th Development Plan,<sup>10</sup> which determines Turkey's basic development strategy and covers the years from 2019 to 2023, the main objective was stated to be the participation of those at risk of social exclusion in social and economic life, improving their quality of life, improving income distribution, and reducing poverty (article 624). By setting realistic targets for social and economic development in the next 5 years and implementing them inclusively by strengthening civil society and international cooperation, Turkey can ensure the eventual realization of the rights of its older people, as well as aging people.

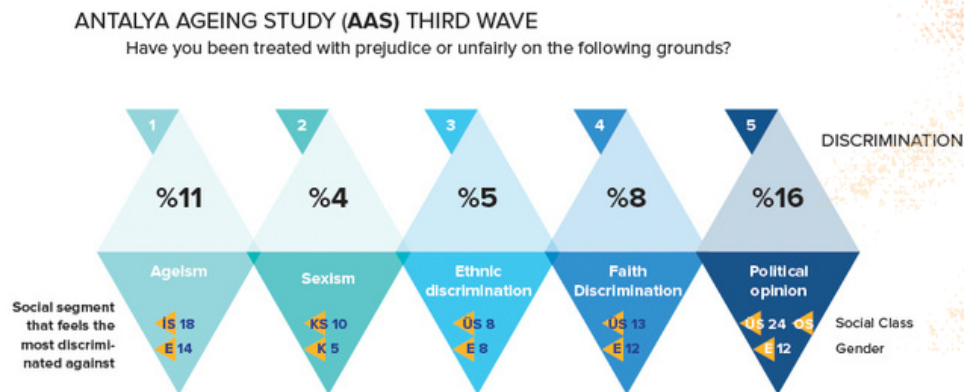


Figure 1: Multiple Discrimination Against Older Persons  
 Source: Antalya Ageing Study<sup>9</sup>



2

EQUALITY



## What legal age limits exist in your country that prevent the full and equal participation of older persons in societies in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, financial goods and services, or others?

According to the public servants law,<sup>11</sup> there is no upper age limit for employment in the public sector (article 40). However, judges, prosecutors, officers and non-commissioned officers are not included in the provisions of this law. In addition, although there is no legal age requirement to be employed in the private sector, in practice the employment age varies according to the sector and education level. There are also occupational laws that set the requirements for entry into a profession. For example, in order to become a notary, it is necessary not to exceed the age of 40 (article 7).<sup>12</sup>

In order to develop knowledge, skills and competencies in the field of education, lifelong learning opportunities are offered to older people. On this subject, courses are organized by the provincial organization of the central government, local governments, and non-governmental organizations. In addition, with three amnesties promulgated in the last ten years, individuals who left the field of higher education have been given the right to continue their higher education from where they left off, regardless of the age limit.

**Although there is no legal age requirement to be employed in the private sector, in practice the employment age varies according to the sector and education level.**

There are no legal barriers to older people's use of financial instruments and services. However, the banking sector imposes an upper age limit, especially for loans and private health insurance. In general, the age of 60 is accepted as the upper age limit, restricting the granting of loans or obtainment of health insurance. In complementary health insurances, 60 years of age is more strictly accepted as the upper limit. People over the age of 60 may only be offered loans under special conditions and their insurance premiums subject to increase with age.

In the field of health care, there is generally no legal upper limit in the process of accessing health services. However, it is necessary to be 60 years old as a condition to be admitted to a nursing home<sup>13</sup> and to be 65 years old to receive an old age pension<sup>14</sup>.

**The banking sector imposes an upper age limit, especially for loans and private health insurance.**

# 3

SEGREGATION AND  
**INCLUSION**



# 3

## What measures are in place, if any, to ensure that older persons in institutions segregated from their communities – such as institutional care systems or prisons – can continue participating in their society?

Protection boards have been established to support older aged convicts in psycho-social and economic matters such as social cohesion, finding a job, and finding a home after their release.<sup>15</sup> However, there is no information on how many older women and men have been provided with support by the Probation Department, which is affiliated with the General Directorate of Penalties and Detentions of the Ministry of Justice.<sup>16</sup>

The last activity report of the Ministry of Justice, General Directorate of Penalties and Detentions was published in 2016.<sup>17</sup> According to this latest activity report, there were 77 older women and 2590 older men over the age of 65 in detention and as convicts across Turkey. However, since there is no activity report since 2016, there is no information on the current data of older aged detainees and convicts.

There is also no data on support for older detainees' or older convicts' regarding continued participation in society following release. In addition, the Ministry of Justice's latest strategic plan covering the years 2015-2019 does not present any strategy regarding

**There is no data on support for older detainees' or older convicts' regarding continued participation in society following release.**

older detainees and convicts<sup>18</sup>. The Ministry of Justice does not have a strategic plan covering the post-2019 period.

In Turkey, the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MFSS) is responsible for the services provided in nursing homes. MFSS provides information about older people who receive services in nursing homes. According to MFSS, 27,947 older people benefit from nursing homes in Turkey.<sup>19</sup> However, data on older people receiving nursing home services are not included in MFSS statistical bulletins. In addition, there is no information, practice or developed strategy offered by MFSS regarding the continuity of the participation of older people in their communities who receive nursing home services.

Both in academia and in the field of civil society, no predictions have been made regarding these issues for older people to continue participation in their communities. Nor is there any strategy or information provided by the responsible institutions, civil society or academia to present the current situation regarding the participation of older people receiving nursing home services in their communities, or to identify the needs of the detained and convicted older persons regarding their participation in their communities after their release.

**There is no information, practice or developed strategy offered by MFSS regarding the continuity of the participation of older people in their communities who receive nursing home services.**

# 4

**PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION**

# 4

## States have an obligation to use maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. What is the share of national public expenditure budget targeted to older persons as a distinct group?

In Turkey, the general budget proposal is submitted by the Presidency, discussed at the Parliamentary Budget Committee, and after it is enacted, its procedures are continued by the Ministry of Finance. The share allocated for active and healthy aging within the 2023 budget of the Directorate of Presidency Strategy and Budget has been determined as 396 billion TL.<sup>20</sup> Apart from this information, the amount of the special share allocated for older people in the 2023 budget is not known. Although the general budgets of public institutions such as Ministry of Family and Social Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education, which also provide services to older people, are known, information on the shares reserved for older people in the budgets of the administrations is not published. The scientists and non-governmental organizations working on issues pertaining to older people in general, and older people in particular, are unable to obtain information about the share allocated from the general public budget for older people.

**The amount of the special share allocated for older people in the 2023 budget is not known.**



# Endnotes

1 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=2709&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

2 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=6331&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

3 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=6585&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

4 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=6502&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

5 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=6585&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

6 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=6502&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

7 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=5809&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

8 You can follow the link to access Senex Monitoring reports.  
<https://monitoring.senex.org.tr/en/publications.aspx>

9 Arun, Ö. (2020). Antalya Yaşlılık Araştırması Üçüncü Dönem, 2019 / 2020 Temel Bulgular ve Yerel Yönetimlere Öneriler. Yaşlanma Çalışmaları Derneği Yayınları.

10 Development plans can be accessed at this link <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/kalkinma-planlari/>

11 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuatmetin/1.5.657.pdf>

12 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=1512&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

13 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/File/GeneratePdf?mevzuatNo=4414&mevzuatTur=KurumVeKurulusYonetmeli&mevzuatTertip=5>

14 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.2022.pdf>

15 <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.5402.pdf>

16 <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/BirimDetay/16>

17 <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/BilgiDetay/19>

18 <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/BilgiDetay/20>

19 <https://www.aile.gov.tr/eyhgm/sayfalar/istatistikler/engelli-ve-yasli-istatistik-bulteni/>

20 <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2023-Yili-Merkezi-Yonetim-Butce-Kanunu-Teklifi-ve-Bagli-Cetveller.pdf>

# 5

SUBSTANTIVE INPUT OF

**TÜRKİYE**

# Substantive Input of Türkiye

Inputs of Turkish Republic are posted as received.

**Republic of Türkiye**

**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Guiding questions for the thirteenth session

## **Focus Area 2: Social Inclusion**

### **The Scope:**

Social inclusion is a precondition for the ability of older persons to exercise multiple human rights. Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms of participation in society for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status through (1) enhanced opportunities, (2) access to resources (3) voice and (4) respect for rights.<sup>1</sup> From a human rights perspective, achieving social inclusion requires addressing the discriminatory structures that have led to exclusion, deprivation of resources and lack of opportunities identified in multiple international human rights instruments.

On one hand, the full social inclusion of older persons lays upon removing existing barriers and, on the other hand, on the adoption of measures that actively promote their inclusion. As such, the achievement of social inclusion is realized through the exercise of human rights that have already been or will be analyzed by the Working Group. These guiding questions are therefore geared towards addressing exclusively those areas that have not been, nor will be, addressed in other sessions of the Working Work.

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons have already been covered by the Working Group:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Neglect, violence and abuse
- Autonomy and independence
- Long-term care and palliative care
- Social protection and social security
- Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building
- Access to justice
- Right to work and access to the labor market
- Economic security
- Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons may be covered by the Working Group in a forthcoming session:

- Participation in the public life and in decision-making processes
- Accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)

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<sup>1</sup> UN DESA (2016) Report of the World Social Situation 2016

# Substantive Input of Türkiye

Inputs of Turkish Republic are posted as received.

## The guiding questions:

1. What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country that explicitly focus on older persons who are marginalized on the grounds of their sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status? (This may include addressing older populations on frameworks dedicated to other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, migrants, minorities, homeless people etc.; or addressing marginalized groups within frameworks devoted to older persons)
2. What legal age limits exist in your country that prevent the full and equal participation of older persons in societies in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, financial goods and services, or others?
3. What measures are in place, if any, to ensure that older persons in institutions segregated from their communities -such as institutional care systems or prisons- can continue participating in their society?
4. States have an obligation to use maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. What is the share of national public expenditure budget targeted to older persons as a distinct group?

Although services for older persons are provided by different public institutions, local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector in Türkiye, the main government body that is responsible for both carrying out the services and coordinating public and private institutions who engage services for older persons is the Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS). The General Directorate also coordinates the implementation of national policies and strategies in order to ensure that the older persons participate in social life effectively and without discrimination against all kinds of obstacles, neglect and exclusion.

In addition to the social services and social assistance provided to the older persons by the MoFSS, a rights-based approach has been adopted in the social policies on ageing. The ultimate goal of these policies is to ensure that older persons live an independent, high-quality, active and healthy life in the community in accordance with their preferences and human dignity on the basis of social inclusion.

In this context, "Ageing Vision Document and Action Plan", a high-level policy document, is being drafted up by the MoFSS, which will guide the policies, programs and services on ageing by 2030. It aims to enable individuals to actively participate in the active ageing process in every period of their lives, to strengthen the rights of older persons, to develop new service and support models for older persons with a rights and social inclusion-based approach, to strengthen intergenerational solidarity, and to present a new vision with a family and society-oriented approach. In the Document, objectives and activities are set in 7 policy areas for older



# Substantive Input of Türkiye

Inputs of Turkish Republic are posted as received.

persons: active and healthy ageing, participation in social life, age friendly cities and local governments, long-term care services, rights of older persons, multilateral cooperation and age-disaggregated data and monitoring. Ageing Vision Document and Action Plan is planned to be completed and shared with the public opinion in 2023, and it will be implemented in close collaboration with the relevant public institutions and organizations.

The goals and actions of 11th Development Plan (2019-2023), which is one of the high-level policy documents and prepared to contain holistic policies in the economic, social, cultural and health fields every five years in Türkiye, are based on the main axis such as active aging, social inclusion, intergenerational solidarity, developing institutional and legal infrastructure, data sources activities on aging, health services, long-term care. In this context, the policies and measures explicitly focus on older persons' social inclusion in the Plan are as follows:

- Diversifying and disseminating social service models within the framework of human-oriented social policies,
- Expanding quality, affordable and easily accessible care opportunities for children, persons with disabilities and older persons,
- Developing standards of care services for persons with disabilities and older persons and increasing the quality and quantity of personnel providing these services,
- Improving the interior and the environmental design to prevent falls and reduce incidents that older people may encounter,
- Enhancing the access of older adults to lifelong learning opportunities,
- Developing mechanisms that will enable older adults to stay in working life longer under certain conditions,
- Creating social spaces and environments where ideas and values can be transferred between generations,
- Supporting voluntary activities and projects that will increase intergenerational solidarity,
- Developing data-driven services and policies for aging population,
- Protecting public spaces in cities, especially open and green spaces; improving access and security; reconstructing it within the framework of human-nature relationship that is sensitive to women, children, older people and persons with disabilities,
- Enhancing access to healthcare services for older people, especially those living in rural areas, strengthening preventive and curative services for them,
- Expanding home healthcare services to increase access, efficiency and quality; ensuring the integration of intensive care, palliative care and geriatric services with home care services,
- Carrying out health follow-ups for older people, strengthening preventive and curative services for diseases that increase with age, increasing the number of centres providing geriatrics and palliative care services.

There aren't legal age limits that prevent the full and equal participation of the older persons in societies. Everyone is covered by the general health insurance and public health services are

# Substantive Input of Türkiye

Inputs of Turkish Republic are posted as received.

provided free of charge including older persons. Even though there is no general, legally defined maximum age for employment in Türkiye; while the age limit for civil servants working in the public sector is 65 in general, there is no age limit for employment according to the Labor Law No. 4857.

Educational activities for various age groups including older people are offered by central and local public institutions, and civil society organizations. The most common of these trainings are the courses that provide lifelong skills, knowledge and cultural development to individuals from different age groups at the Public Education Centres affiliated to the Ministry of National Education. These courses are given free of charge periodically at certain times of the year. These courses are designed to be accessible to all segments of society at the district and neighbourhood level.

Furthermore, universities in some of the provinces offer higher education programs for older persons within the framework of active aging and lifelong learning. These programs, namely 3<sup>rd</sup> Age Universities, enable the individual to spend the aging process as productive and meaningful as other stages of his/her life and to continue his personal development in a comprehensive way within the framework of the concept of lifelong learning. 3<sup>rd</sup> Age University is an important part of lifelong learning in Türkiye. Thus, it is expected that the education given to older people improves the health awareness, intellectual and physical activities and artistic capacities of them and encourage active participation in the local environment. 3<sup>rd</sup> Age University is seen as an opportunity for older people to integrate with the society and maintain their productivity.

In Türkiye, community-based care services are prioritized in order to ensure that older persons receive care services alongside their families and to ensure social inclusion. In this context, home care allowance, home support services, elderly living homes (which are a community based care model, rented apartments for older persons/couples to provide care services within the community) and day service centers are provided in addition to the institutional long-term care. Although long-term care services in Türkiye are rendered by different institutions and organizations such as municipalities, foundations, associations and private sector, the MoFSS is the main public authority that carries out services of the identification, protection, care, training and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and older persons.

Within this context, MoFSS provides not only quality long-term care services but also ensures the participation of older care recipients in social and cultural life. Various practices are carried out nationwide in order to increase the participation of older care recipients and their families

# Substantive Input of Türkiye

Inputs of Turkish Republic are posted as received.

in social life, to develop their independent living skills with digital technological instruments, and to encourage implementations aimed at increasing their quality of life. Practices such as organizing Bocce tournaments between nursing home residents (which have become a tradition in nursing homes), digital and financial literacy trainings particularly for older persons who receive care in nursing homes and Digital Bahar Project which aims to set up rooms equipped with digital technological devices within nursing homes.



# About the Authors



## Özgür Arun

Arun was born in a small village in Anatolia, Turkey and educated at Middle East Technical University (SOC'01). After graduating from METU in 2001, he moved to Berlin, Germany, continuing his research through 2002. After returning he filled an academic position at the Department of Sociology, METU (2004-2011), during which time he completed an MA and PhD. Arun is currently a full-time faculty member in the Department of Gerontology and he has recently been appointed associate director of the Mediterranean Civilisation Research Institute at Akdeniz University. He has conducted research on higher education, rural development, income and welfare, youth and unemployment, child labour, and disability. His most recent research and writings are on aging, intergenerational relationships, ageism and rights of older people. Arun is on the Editorial Board of The Gerontologist. Recently, he is the recipient of the 2017 “Rising Star” award by the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). He is co-founder of Senex: Association for Aging Studies.



## Banu K. Arun

Born in Ankara, she completed her primary and secondary education at Arı Private College and her high school education at Ayrancı High School. She holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Middle East Technical University and a Master of Science Degree from the Industrial Design Department of the same university. During university education, she engaged in many courses related to art, art history and sculpture, which are her areas of special interest. She still works as a lecturer at the Public Relations Department of Communication Faculty at Akdeniz University. She is co-founder of Senex: Association for Aging Studies.



# Notes



# SOCIAL INCLUSION

## of older people in Türkiye

"Can older people take part in social life without being discriminated against? Has any training been provided on older people's rights and age discrimination for professionals working to establish and implement legal regulations and policy frameworks? Do central and local governments make room for older people for their active participation in social life?"

In this book, we aim to provide information and insights to policymakers, practitioners and advocates in the field of aging studies while reminding governments of their responsibilities in the discussions. We hope that all the ongoing discussions at the UN will be a precursor to an international convention on the rights of older people."

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