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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Federal Social Insurance Office**

# **Swiss National Strategy for the Elderly**

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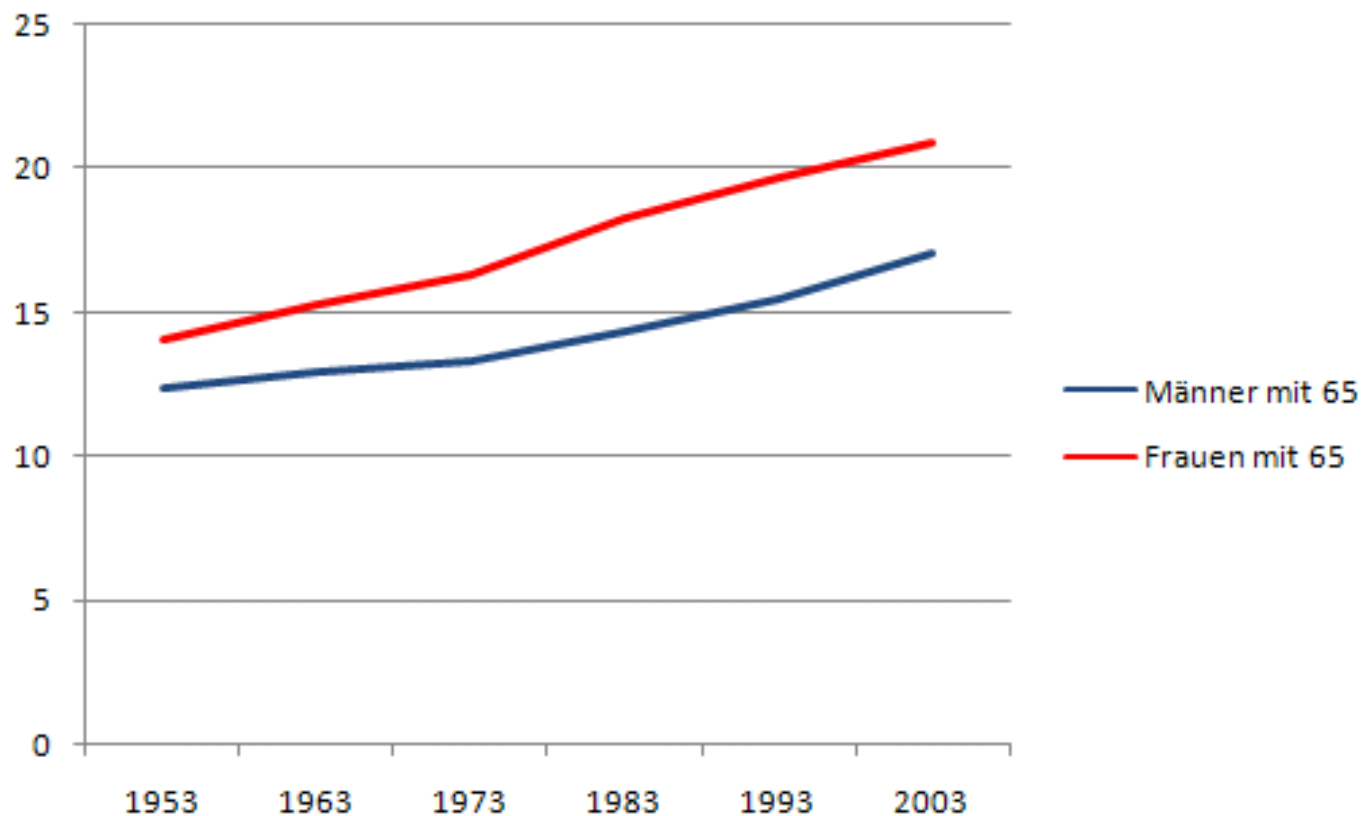


# Surrounding field of a national policy for older people

- context:
  - demography
  - social changes
  - economic developments
- federalism (federal state – 26 cantons)



## Life expectancy at the age of 65





# Developments in our society

- raising mobility, decreasing numbers of children and increasing instability of families  
-> impact on social situations in old age
- individualisation and multicultural background  
-> differentiated needs
- dissolving of standard curriculums and the transition to flexible age limits  
-> impact on the buildup of our retirement provisions
- (still) rather little access to information technologies by older people



# Economic developments - and its effects for older people

- Financial and economic crisis in Europe: Social insurances – especially the old-age provisions come under pressure.
- Tendency to early retirement has been reversed – transition to flexible age limits
- Shift of unemployment to the older workers?
- Exposure to poverty in old age is rising again
- Social and economic disparities growing within the older generations



## **Strategy for a swiss policy for the elderly - Report published by the Swiss Federal Council in 2007**

- Laid down what was to be done in different policy fields and who should do it (federal state, cantons or local authority).
- Recommendations were made with a view:
  - to use and support achievement potential
  - to foster participation and a self-determined lifestyle
  - to allow for different circumstances and to meet diverse needs
  - to attend to perspectives of longer curriculums and different generations
  - to promote but also to demand solidarity
  - to handle areas of conflict – ex. to supply needs vs. possible costs



# Elements of the *national* policy for the elderly in Switzerland (1)

- Social Security (old age insurance and pension schemes; three pillars)
- Health and medical care (Federal Office of Public Health)
  - Health promotion policy
  - Compulsory health insurance
  - Long term care insurance
  - Strategies against dementia and for palliative care
- Regulation of the economy
  - Labour market (ex. gainful employment in old age)
  - Transition to retirement



# Elements of the *national* policy for the elderly in Switzerland (2)

- Social framework requirements (ex. service level agreements with organisations for the elderly population)
- Physical environment
  - Living conditions (ex. low priced living space, age-based building activity)
  - Urban and regional planning
  - Mobility, public transport
- Social engagement and participation
- Strategy of the Federal Council for an Information Society in Switzerland: Information technologies to be used for the benefit of all (Action plan 2012 – 2015 – focus on elderly and people without access to Internet)





# Engagement of the *cantons* for the elderly

- Responsible for the home care (SPITEX) and the care in the nursing homes
- Implementation of the federal strategies and policies
- Develop their own overall concepts for old age and how they will meet the challenges associated with it



# AAL Policies in Switzerland

- Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology is promoting and funding AAL-R&D programmes in Switzerland and calling for proposals
- No national strategy for AAL policies; with regards to content, concrete programmes falls mostly within the realm of cantonal competence (integrate often end-user organisations, operators of nursing homes)
- Funding conditions for Swiss AAL participants (PPP: 50%-50%; for large companies 75% - 25%)
- Switzerland assigns around 4 million Euros to AAL programmes a year