

SoLiLL

Project Group “Bread and Housing“ in České Budějovice

Housing in the old age

Care for seniors and their housing

Péče o seniory a jejich bydlení

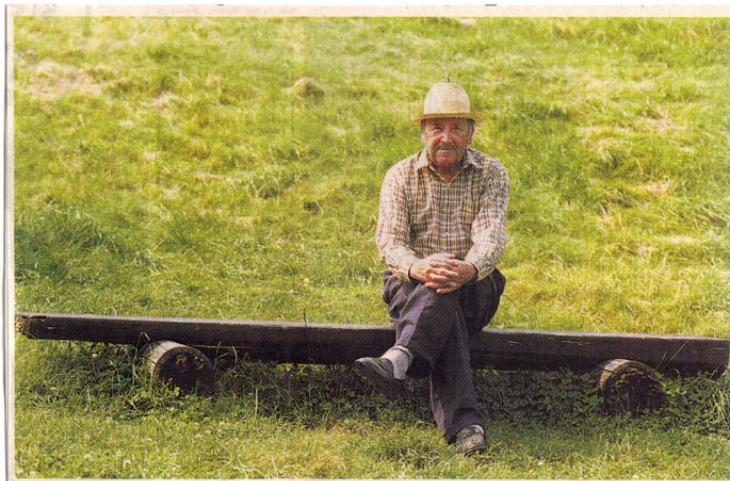
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Foreword

In recent years, it has become apparent that the world is getting older. In Europe, the biggest increase has been among the group of people who are older than 80 and who are most dependent on social support. The predominant factor that leads one to call the population old is that 7% or more of all residents are 65 years old or older. The Czech Republic belongs among the 3 oldest countries in Europe. For every three citizens in retired age there are only 2 people in working age. In the countries of the European community there are about 60 million people who are older than 65 years. Demographic assessments assume that this number will increase until 2004, when the total is estimated to reach 100 million.



**Photo: Old Age*

Estimated increase in the group of people in the Czech Republic who are older than 65:

Year 2010	14.4% of all citizens
Year 2020	18.8%
Year 2030	20.9%

Recent Trends

Throughout the world, it has become a priority to try to expand the ability for older citizens to live independently. Therefore, emphasis is put mainly on the improvement of services, individual care and conditions in institutions. More and more, the best way is considered to be assuring a good quality of life in an environment, people are used to, preferably their own apartments and houses. Such an approach, of course, assumes a wide variety of available services, which seniors can use according to their individual needs and wishes. The independence of living is assured by the building of specially equipped or barrierless homes. If this approach is no longer acceptable because of health, social or other reasons, the elderly person can be placed in an institution.

Taking Care of seniors in the Czech Republic

In recent days, different forms of ambulatory services are available, as well as institutional care. For independently living citizens, many different agencies provide in-home care. They offer services paid by health insurance, such as administering medicine, nursing, rehabilitation, and others. In addition, there are services not paid by insurance; for instance, lunch delivery, shopping, cleaning and accompaniment at visits to the doctor.

Institutional care is diverse and according to individual's health and social situation.

Pensions are designed for self sufficient or handicapped pensioners. They live in independent apartments or rooms, usually equipped with their own furniture. Pensions work mainly in conjunction with nursing homes, providing individuals with access to their services, but not requiring that they be used.

Retirement homes provide residents living in their own rooms or apartments with lunch or lunch delivery, cleaning and health care according to individual needs.

Nursing homes provide complete nursing and health care for their residents. They are the most common mode in our country. Living here is managed by certain internal order and offers less privacy than the institutions described above.

Day care centers provide places for senior to come in the morning for various activities. In the evening, they return to their families.

Respite care centers provide a place for elderly and ailing people who normally live with their children or other relatives who are temporarily away from home.

Hospices are institutions for terminally ill people. The institutions identified above are usually public, but private and church-owned institutions are also emerging.

Charity houses

Christian seniors family homes, also called homes for the golden years, provide places for old and ailing people through Czech catholic charities.

In different forms and numbers, citizens of the county of Ceske Budejovice can use such institutions.

Conclusion

The quality of care of seniors is a measurement of good or poor state policy, moral culture, and better or worse intergenerational relationships. Younger generations should realize that by improving the care of seniors today, they are preparing the conditions for their own old age.