"Ambition keeps me young. In order to achieve something great during your life, you have to be ambitious and to fight for your dreams every single day, otherwise you will fall!"

Neagu DJUVARA (1916-2018)
Romania - Key Takeaways from TDD

1. **We did not know that some highly developed countries are contending with a high rate of decline in their fertility rate.** The implications of the aging trend are extremely vast and appear in the most unexpected areas (for example, from the use of public spaces to the level of tax revenues);

2. **Aging has to be beautiful!** The community has to do more for the elderly than paying pensions and subsidies for public transportation.

3. **PPPs can really work in practice!** In some cases, PPPs can be a suitable / feasible solution to deliver qualitative public services, if the national legislation in this respect is adequate.

4. **We learn better through direct experiences!** The age-simulation exercise was eye-opening. Now we understand better the accessibility / mobility limitations of the elderly and/or disabled, as well as the frustration that comes with them.

5. **The sense of belonging keeps us young!** Communities play a crucial role in improving the quality of life for the seniors. On the other hand, aging should not be seen as a burden, but as an opportunity for the community.
1. There is need for in-depth studies / analysis / prognosis to determine the dynamic and the impact of aging on local communities.

2. We need to rethink the range of social services to be delivered to the elderly and disabled citizens.

3. We must put the new PPP legislation to use in the area of social infrastructure and services.

4. Public spaces need to become not only accessible, but also identify areas that provide opportunities to socialize, have fun, practice sports etc.

5. Public policies must address the real needs of different stakeholder, in a flexible way that makes room for local specificity;

6. The focus on "hard" interventions should shift to more creative, soft-oriented actions to address aging-related issues.
Romania - Actions to be Taken

**Short-term:**
- Dissemination of Japanese experiences and good practices in integrating aging-related actions in public policies among different stakeholders in Romania (central and local public institutions, NGOs, academia etc.);
- Exchange of staff and good practices between the associations of municipalities from Japan and Romania in dealing with aging on different pillars (eg. housing, public spaces, public transportation, social and medical care etc.).

**Medium-term:**
- Elaboration of guidelines for the renewal of public spaces in urban areas, in order to make them more accessible, inclusive and attractive to different categories of citizens, including elderly and disabled;
- Developing masterplans to attract private investments (especially FDIs) in urban agglomeration confronted with rapid aging due to the outmigration of the local labor force;

**Long-term:**
- Revision of national technical norms for public and residential buildings (eg. condominiums) in order to answer to the specific needs of the increasing number of seniors and disabled, based on the international good practices (including Japanese ones) that are applicable to the Romanian context.
Romania - Lending and TA Active or Needed

• **Technical Assistance Under Consideration:**
  - MRDPA might request WBG for further support (following the previous RASs) in areas such as cost standards for different public investments (e.g., social infrastructure, mobility, accessibility etc.), EU funds absorption or urban renewal.
  - Braila-Galati Conurbation is considering a RAS that aims to provide technical assistance mostly oriented towards revitalizing this aging urban agglomeration (developing business-support infrastructure, renewing public and green spaces etc.)
  - Arad City Hall is thinking of a RAS that might incorporate a broader approach in transforming the city into an attractive destination for young skilled labor force (asset management, urban planning, administrative capacity, marketing & PR, Smart City)

• **Investment Work Under Consideration:**
  - The Municipality of Arad is currently discussing a potential loan with WBG for the rehabilitation of the centralized heating system that will benefit directly at least 20,000 people aged 65+. 
Romania - Support Needed

- **World Bank:**
  - Expertise in the areas covered by potential futures RAS contracts (e.g. urban renewal etc.);
  - Funding for the implementation of different resilience measures.

- **TDLC Program (Japan)**
  - Japanese expertise on any aging-related topic would be highly appreciated (eg. legal advisory, engineering, stakeholder involvement etc.)
  - Twinning programs between Romanian and Japanese cities facing aging challenges;
  - Support in identifying potential Japanese companies interested in PPPs with Romania (eg. housing, multifunctional community centers etc.);
  - Targeted training for public servants working in the central and local public administration on how to elaborate, implement and monitor interventions aimed at making communities more resilient to the aging phenomenon.

- **Knowledge Products (Case Studies, Policy Notes, etc.)**
  - Methodological guidelines on the impact assessment of aging on local communities / economies (eg. prognosis / models).
Only 5 days....and already falling in love with Japan!!!

どうもありがとうございます