Active Ageing Index 2014
A Legacy of the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

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The latest report released by the UNECE / European Commission during the AAI International Seminar, 16-17 April, 2015

Three data points covered:
2008
2010
2012
Acknowledgements

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The material does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the funders.
Overview

1. Introducing the Active Ageing Index project
2. Five key messages from the latest AAI Analytical Report
3. Strengths of the AAI – Insights for EGM on Ageing
4. Future work areas
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Introducing Active Ageing Index Project
Key features of the AAI project

I. Initiated during 2012, to contribute to activities of EY2012 and to MIPAA for its 10th anniversary;

II. During its 1st phase (2012-13), the project was undertaken at European Centre in Vienna; the 2nd phase (2014-15) at Southampton University;

III. Advised by the AAI Expert Group, comprising diverse group of international experts and stakeholders (including AGE Platform Europe)
Objectives of the AAI project

I. To produce high-quality, independent, multi-perspective evidence on active & healthy ageing;

II. To highlight the contributions of older people in different dimensions of their lives; and in the process identify the potential of older people that goes untapped;

III. To offer policy makers comparative evidence and encourage them use it to develop strategies for making progress on active and healthy ageing.
Analytical framework
22 indicators, 4 domains

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

Domain: Employment
- Employment rate 55-59
- Employment rate 60-64
- Employment rate 65-69
- Employment rate 70-74

Domain: Participation in society
- Voluntary activities
- Care to children and grandchildren
- Care to older adults
- Political participation

Domain: Independent, healthy and secure living
- Physical exercise
- Access to health services
- Independent living
- Financial security (three indicators)
- Physical safety
- Lifelong learning

Domain: Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing
- Remaining life expectancy at age 55
- Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
- Mental well-being
- Use of ICT
- Social connectedness
- Educational attainment

Actual experience of active ageing
Capacity to active age
Selection of indicators

• **Focus on current generation of the older people:** to reflect experiences accumulated over the life course;

• **Measuring outcomes:** to focus on outcomes rather than processes and underlying explanatory factors;

• **Objectivity:** Choices discussed with experts from different backgrounds to ensure their policy relevance;

• **Sustainability:** to monitor progress towards active ageing over time;

• **Flexibility:** to offer a flexible framework for countries and their regions/municipalities to replicate the EU version;

• **Comparability:** Various comparisons ensured, e.g. over time, across countries, and between women and men.
Datasets used for the AAI indicators

19 Indicators available from four prime datasets

- European Quality of Life Survey, 2007/8 and 2012/13
- European Social Survey, mainly wave, mainly R4, R5 and R6

2 indicators ‘RLE at 55’ and ‘HLE at 55’

‘Use of ICT by older persons aged 55-74’ (4th domain)
One key exclusion is: the AAI not intending to measure the quality of life and well-being of older people. No such value judgement should be drawn that greater economic and social activity necessarily enhances welfare for older people.

Global AgeWatch Index
Measuring well-being and QOL of older people
Developed by working with team at HelpAge International
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Five Key messages

Active Ageing Index 2014
Analytical Report
April 2015
Key message 1: **Affluent EU States in the Northern and Western Europe have had greater success**

Also, stability observed in the relative position of EU countries over the period 2008-2012.
Key message 2: Top-ranked countries not at top of each domain and indicator, falling short of goalposts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Participation in society</th>
<th>Independent living</th>
<th>Capacity for active ageing</th>
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<td>Sweden 43.4</td>
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</table>

EU28 avg. | 33.9 | 27.8 | 17.7 | 70.6 | 54.1

The goalpost 57.5 | The goalpost 54.2 | The goalpost 40.6 | The goalpost 87.7 | The goalpost 77.7

70% 66% 48% 90% 84%
Key message 3: AAI scores for men are higher than women, especially where employment and incomes are involved.
Key message 4: Active ageing has been increasing in the EU, despite economic crisis and austerity measures.

On average, an increase of nearly 2 points in the EU, while an increase of nearly 3 points or more in nine EU countries (during 2008-2012).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank 2014 AAI</th>
<th>2010 AAI</th>
<th>2012 AAI</th>
<th>2014 AAI</th>
<th>Change 10-14 Overall</th>
<th>Change 10-14 MEN</th>
<th>Change 10-14 WOMEN</th>
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<td>EU28 avg.</td>
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<td>27.6</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key message 5:

A push towards active ageing does not imply a worsening of older people’s quality of life, and it brings real benefits to the economy.

No cause-and-effect direction implied!
3

Strengths of the AAI
A transparent numerical exercise, helping to identify policy priorities for each country to address common longer term challenges of population ageing.

Detailed cross-country comparisons of domains and individual indicators to help identify successful and innovative policy instruments.

Added value in terms of composite multidimensional analysis, but also offering substantive data on many individual perspectives of active and healthy ageing for in-depth country-specific analysis.

Framework now used in various EU countries to also undertake sub-national analysis (e.g. Poland, Italy and Germany).
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Future work areas
Further work on the subgroup analysis of certain dimensions (across education groups, across age cohorts, across disability status) – MOPACT

Further work on inequality in active ageing, by using individual-level AAI – MOPACT

Extension for other non-EU countries, already done for US (with AARP), now for CA, NO, CH, IS, TK, and SB

Further analysis in terms of breakdown of AAI changes across domains and indicators, and in the process develop AAI to serve as a policy evaluation tool!

Further analysis of AAI indicators to reflect human rights and quality of life of older people! – 6\textsuperscript{th} OEWG
Thank you

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The results and their interpretations are my responsibility and my co-authors of the AAI Analytical Report. The UNECE or the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained here.