Trends in Active Ageing Index

By Asghar Zaidi

AAI International Seminar
16-17 April 2015
Overview

1. Introducing the Active Ageing Index project
2. Five key messages from the Analytical Report
3. Strengths and Limitations of the AAI
4. Future work areas
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Introducing
Active Ageing Index Project
1.1 Key features of the AAI project

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

II. Jointly managed by UNECE, European Commission’s DG EMP and European Centre Vienna, during its 1st phase (2012-13);

III. The second phase (2014-15) is currently undertaken at University of Southampton;

IV. Advised by the AAI Expert Group, comprising diverse group of international experts.
1.2 Objectives of the AAI project

I. To produce high-quality, independent, multi-perspective data on active ageing;

II. To draw unique policy insights for each country from the comparative experiences of European countries (EU and non-EU);

III. To highlight the contributions of older people in different dimensions;

IV. To identify the potential of older people that might go untapped.
1.3 Analytical framework of the AAI

**Active Ageing Index**

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.

**Domains**

- **Employment**
  - 1.1 Employment rate 55-59
  - 1.2 Employment rate 60-64
  - 1.3 Employment rate 65-69
  - 1.4 Employment rate 70-74

- **Participation in society**
  - 2.1 Voluntary activities
  - 2.2 Care to children and grandchildren
  - 2.3 Care to older adults
  - 2.4 Political participation

- **Independent, healthy and secure living**
  - 3.1 Physical exercise
  - 3.2 Access to health services
  - 3.3 Independent living
  - 3.4-3.6 Financial security (three indicators)
  - 3.7 Physical safety
  - 3.8 Lifelong learning

- **Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing**
  - 4.1 Remaining life expectancy at age 55
  - 4.2 Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
  - 4.3 Mental well-being
  - 4.4 Use of ICT
  - 4.5 Social connectedness
  - 4.6 Educational attainment

**Actual experience of active ageing**

**Capacity to actively age**
Datasets used for the AAI indicators

**Indicators available from four prime datasets**
- EU Labour Force Survey
- European Quality of Life Survey
- EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions
- European Social Survey

**2 indicators ‘RLE at 55’ and ‘HLE at 55’**
Joint Action: European Health & Life Expectancy Information system (JA EHLEIS)

‘Use of ICT by older persons aged 55-74’ (4th domain)
- Eurostat ICT survey
Five Key messages

Active Ageing Index 2014
Analytical Report
April 2015
Key message 1: Affluent EU Member 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 the top of each domain and indicators, also falling short of goalpost.
### Key message 3:
AAI scores for men are higher than women, especially where employment and incomes are involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank 2014-AAI</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Participation in society</th>
<th>Independent living</th>
<th>Capacity for active ageing</th>
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Key message 4: Active ageing has been increasing in the EU, despite economic crisis and austerity measures.

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

Strengths and Limitations of the AAI
Strengths of the AAI

A transparent numerical exercise, with a potential to provide strong policy insights to address common longer term challenges of population ageing.

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

Added value in terms of composite multidimensional analysis in addition to uni-dimensional individual indicator analysis.
Limitations of the AAI

Data quality requirements high restricting comparability (across countries and over time)

Aggregation methodology restricts analysis of trade-offs between different indicators of AAI!

Trends and gender-disparities affected by the cohort effect!

No information as yet on inequality in active ageing!

Nation level analysis hiding away subnational differences, although the analytical framework on offer already being used for a subnational breakdown!
4

Future work areas
Within the 2\textsuperscript{nd} phase, the AAI to be extended to non-EU countries: NO, CH, IL, USA and Canada

In MOPACT, further work on the subgroup analysis of certain dimensions (across \textit{education} groups, across \textit{age} cohorts, across \textit{disability status})

Further analysis of results in terms of breakdown of AAI changes across domains and indicators
Thank you

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