Active Ageing Index at subnational level in Spain

Pilot Study

MATIA
INSTITUTO GERONTOLÓGICO

Sara Marsillas

- Aim of the Pilot Study
- Context of the regions in Spain
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions

Aim of the Pilot Study

Main aim:

- To calculate and analyse the Active Ageing Index (AAI) for Spain at subnational level (NUTS-2) for at least three points in time.

Specific objectives:

- To explore policy relevance of the calculation of the AAI at regional level (NUTS-2)
  - Is this tool useful for the regions?
  - Higher AAI scores – higher realisation of older persons' potential to contribute to economy and society .
  - Context and circumstances matter for the interpretation.

- To anaylise the methodological field and the adaptations.
  - Is it possible to calculate the AAI at the regional level in Spain, using secondary data from national surveys?

Context of the regions in Spain

Demographic challenges: population decline and population ageing.

Spanish population 46.4 million (January 2016)

- North-western regions – higher level of population decline
- Share of people aged 55+ : from 27.3 per cent to 30.7 per cent in the period 2008-2016.

People 55+:

- Higher share: Asturias, Castilla y León and Galicia (over 35 per cent in 2016).
- Lower share: Murcia, Balearic I. and Canary I. (below 27 per cent).
- Higher number: Catalonia, Andalusia and Madrid.

Source: National Statistics Institute (INE)

Context of the regions in Spain

Total fertility rate (TFR):

- Since 1.44 to 1.34 in 2008 and 2016 respectively.
- Highest TFR: Murcia, Navarra, Andalusia, Catalonia, Ceuta and Melilla (over 1.4).
- Lowest TFR: Asturias and Canary I. (1.04 and 1.06 respectively).

Life expectancy (LE):

- At birth: 81.3 in 2008 to 83.1 in 2016 (women 84.3 to 85.1; men 78.2 to 80.3).
- Highest LE: Madrid, Castilla y León, Navarra and La Rioja (over 83.5 years) and at age 55 (of 30.2 and above).

Source: National Statistics Institute (INE)

Context of the regions in Spain: economic

GDP per capita:

- Highest GDP per capita in 2007 and 2015: Madrid, Basque Country, Navarra and Catalonia.
- Lowest GDP per capita in 2007 and 2015: Andalusia, Extremadura and Melilla.

Pensions:

- In 2015: average pension 886.8 per month; retirement average pension over 1,000 euros since 2014.
- Regional disparities:
  - Highest pensions in the Basque Country, Asturias and Madrid, followed by Navarra, Aragón and Cantabria
  - Lowest pensions in: Galicia and Extremadura

Sources: Abellán & Ayala, 2012; Abellán et al., 2019; Herce, 2015

Context of the regions in Spain: economic

Labour market:

- Employment rate in age group 65-69: 5.9%
- Highest unemployment rates in 2016: Extremadura, Andalusia and Canary Islands.
- Lowest unemployment rate in 2016: Navarra, Basque Country or Aragón.
- A significant amount of people is retiring before the age of 65 (62.4 years)
- Retirement age:
  - Lower average actual retirement age in 2013 : Murcia (61.5), Canary Islands, Castilla y León (61.8) and Andalusia (61.9),
  - Higher average actual retirement age in 2013: Navarra (63.5) or Balearic Islands (63.4).

Sources: Abellán & Ayala, 2012; Abellán et al., 2019; Herce, 2015

Methodology: selection of data sources

Principles	1. Sustainability
	2. Comparability
	3. Objectivity
Relevant criteria.	Similar and adequate questions
	Stable replicability
	Sample sizes large enough

Methodology

Domains and indicators	Selected surveys		
Domain 1: Employment	2008	2012	2016
1.1 Employment rate 55-59	EPA 2008	EPA 2012	EPA 2016
1.2 Employment rate 60-64	EPA 2008	EPA 2012	EPA 2016
1.3 Employment rate 65-69	EPA 2008	EPA 2012	EPA 2016
1.4 Employment rate 70-74	EPA 2008	EPA 2012	EPA 2016
Domain 2: Participation in society			
2.1 Voluntary activities	ECV 2006	ECV SP 2015	ECV SP 2015
2.2 Care to children, grandchildren	Study of Older People 2010*	Study of Older People 2010*	Study of Older People 2010*
2.3 Care to infirm and disabled	Study of Older People 2010*	Study of Older People 2010*	ENS 2017
2.4 Political participation	ECV 2006	ECV SP 2015	ECV SP 2015

*Provisional data – until reception of the Time Use Survey data(INE)

Selected:

- National Statistics Institute (INE)
- Institute of Older people and social services (IMSERSO).

EPA: n = 160.000 (65.000 families por quarter)

ECV: n = 13.000 homes; 35.000 people

Study of Older People : n = 2535 people

Methodology (cont.)

Domains and indicators	Selected surveys		
Domain 3: Independent living			
3.1 Physical exercise	ENS 2006	ENS 2012	ENS 2017
3.2 No unmet needs of health and dental care	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.3 Independent living arrangements	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.4 Relative median income	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.5 No poverty risk	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.6 No severe material deprivation	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.7 Physical safety	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
3.8 Lifelong learning	EPA 2008	EPA 2012	EPA 2016
Domain 4: Capacity for active ageing			
4.1 RLE achievement of 50 years at age 55	Mortality data 2008	Mortality data 2012	Mortality data 2016
4.2 Share of healthy life years in the RLE at age 55	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016
4.3 Mental well-being	ENS 2006	ENS 2012	ENS 2017
4.4 Use of ICT	ICT Survey 2008	ICT Survey 2012	ICT Survey 2016
4.5 Social connectedness	ECV 2006	ECV 2015	ECV 2015
4.6 Educational attainment	ECV 2008	ECV 2012	ECV 2016

ENSE: n = 37.500 homes

ICT Survey: n = 25.000 homes

Methodology: calculation

- Methodology of the original EU-AAI followed as closely as possible.

- Only variations when questions and response categories were different from the original EU-AAI –> the most similar indicators were calculated.

Limitations

1. Sample size	• Low number of respondents (under 400) in regions with smaller population sizes. • Some regions needed to be aggregated in some indicators.
2. Comparability among regions	• Restricted: aggregated groups for certain regions in some indicators.
3. Differences from the original variables	• Alternative indicators were constructed. • The calculation of the AAI for Spain was also done.
4. Reliability	• Reliability of the data might be reduced due to the small sample sizes in specific indicators.
5. Time coverage	• The surveys selected for the calculation of the AAI were not in every case conducted in the same year.

Summary of indicators

Domains and indicators	Selected surveys		
Domain 1: Employment	2008	2012	2016
1.1 Employment rate 55-59			
1.2 Employment rate 60-64			
1.3 Employment rate 65-69			
1.4 Employment rate 70-74			
Domain 2: Participation in society			
2.1 Voluntary activities			
2.2 Care to children, grandchildren			
2.3 Care to infirm and disabled			
2.4 Political participation			

As original

Adapted

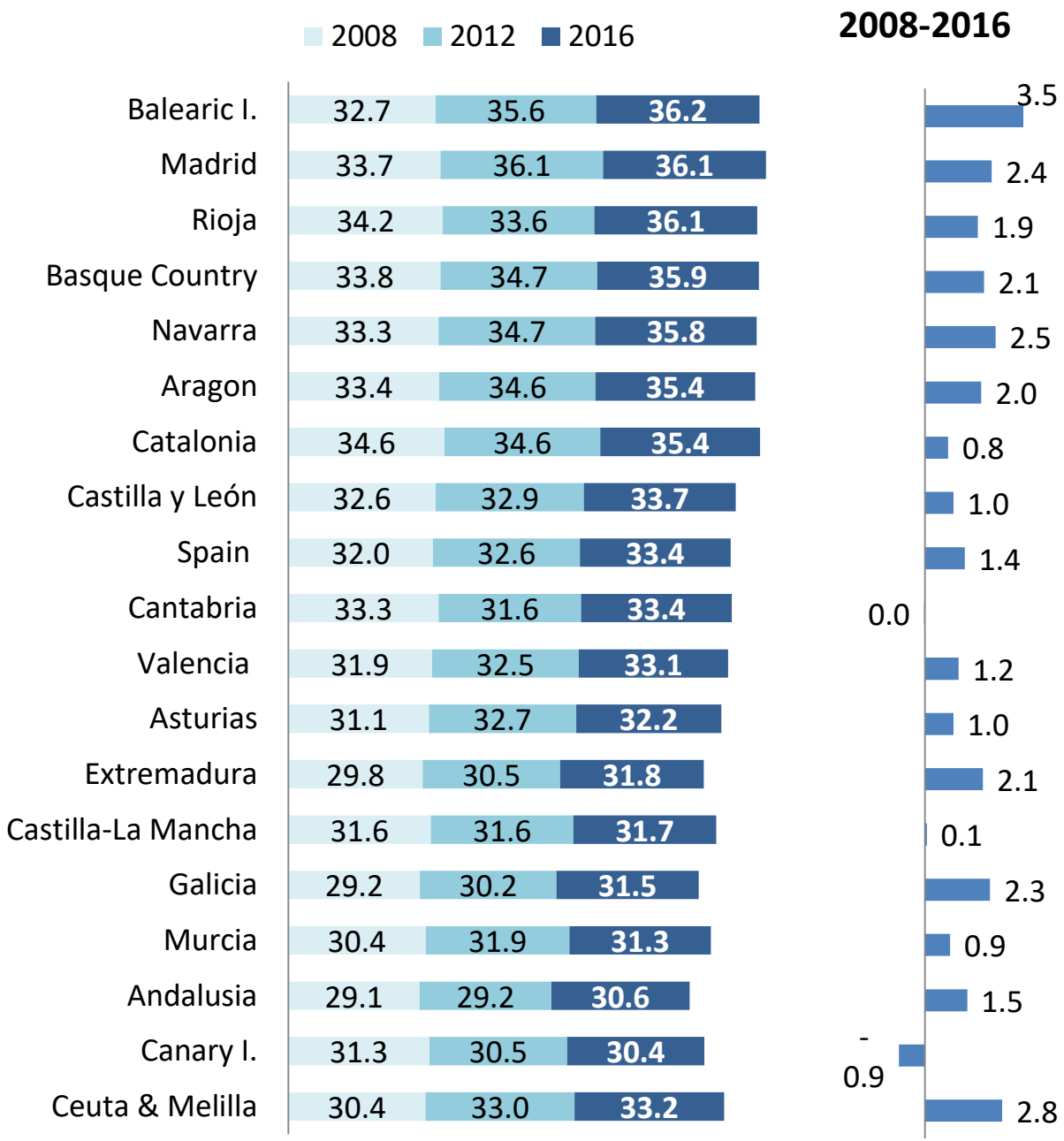
Summary of indicators

Domains and indicators	Selected surveys		
Domain 3: Independent living	2008	2012	2016
3.1 Physical exercise			
3.2 No unmet needs of health and dental care			
3.3 Independent living arrangements			
3.4 Relative median income			
3.5 No poverty risk			
3.6 No severe material deprivation			
3.7 Physical safety			
3.8 Lifelong learning			
Domain 4: Capacity for active ageing			
4.1 RLE achievement of 50 years at age 55			
4.2 Share of healthy life years in the RLE at age 55			
4.3 Mental well-being			
4.4 Use of ICT			
4.5 Social connectedness			
4.6 Educational attainment			

As original

Adapted

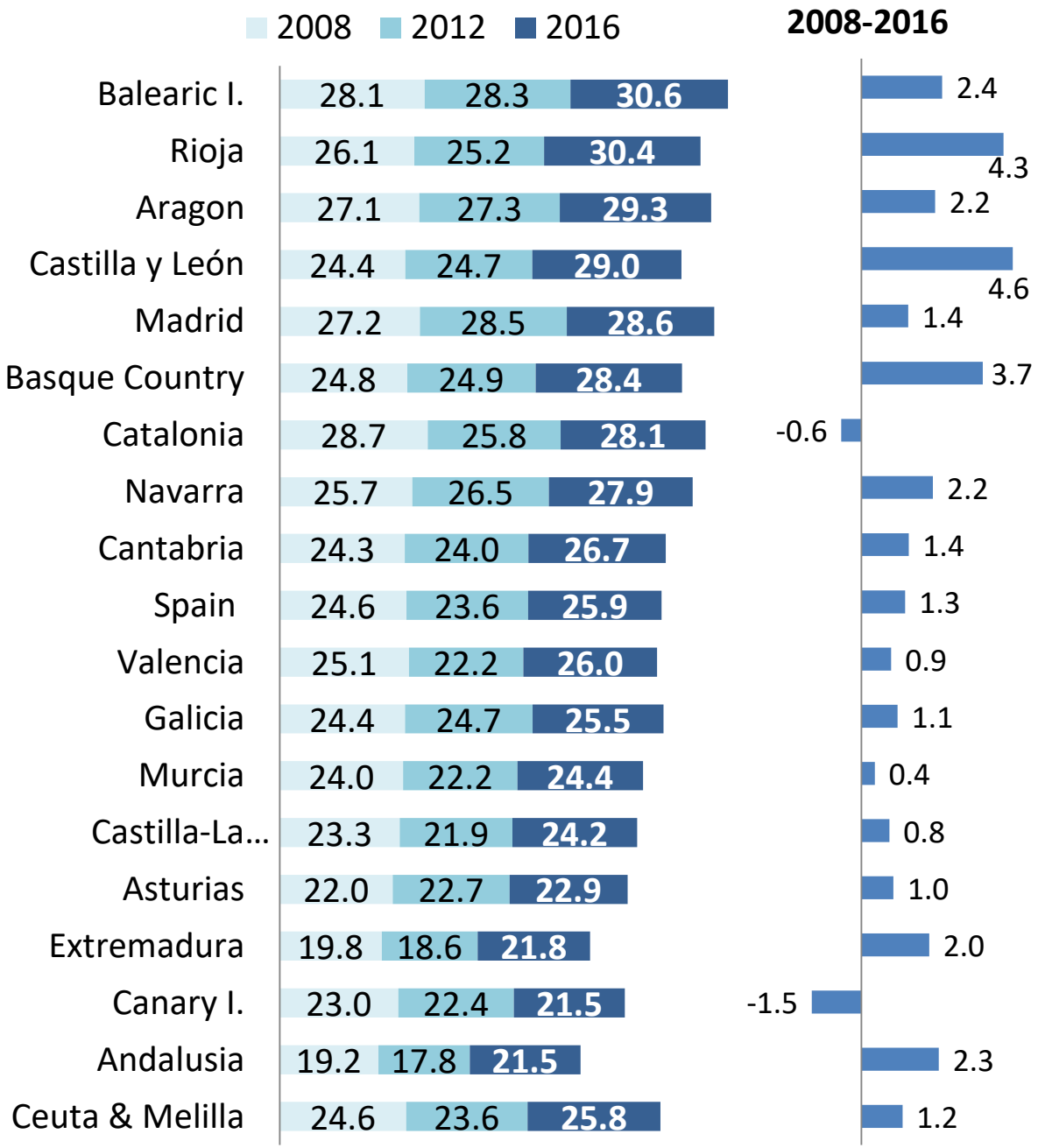
Results – Overall AAI 2008-2016



Positions changed slightly across the table.

Almost all the regions saw an increase in their overall AAI value.

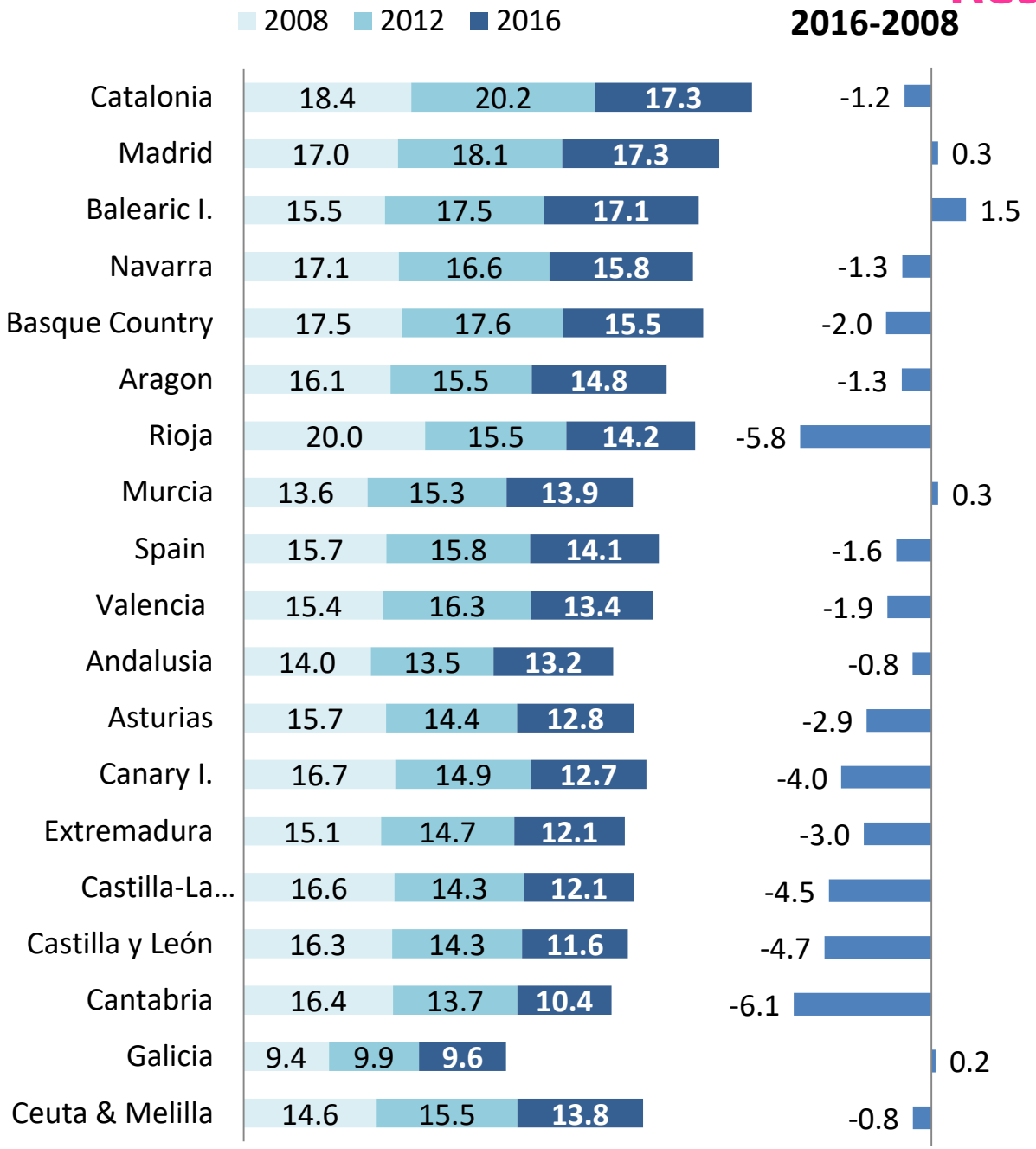
Results – Employment 2008-2016



Largest falls in employment in 2008-2012.

The majority of the regions were able to recover from the consequences of the crisis in terms of employment.

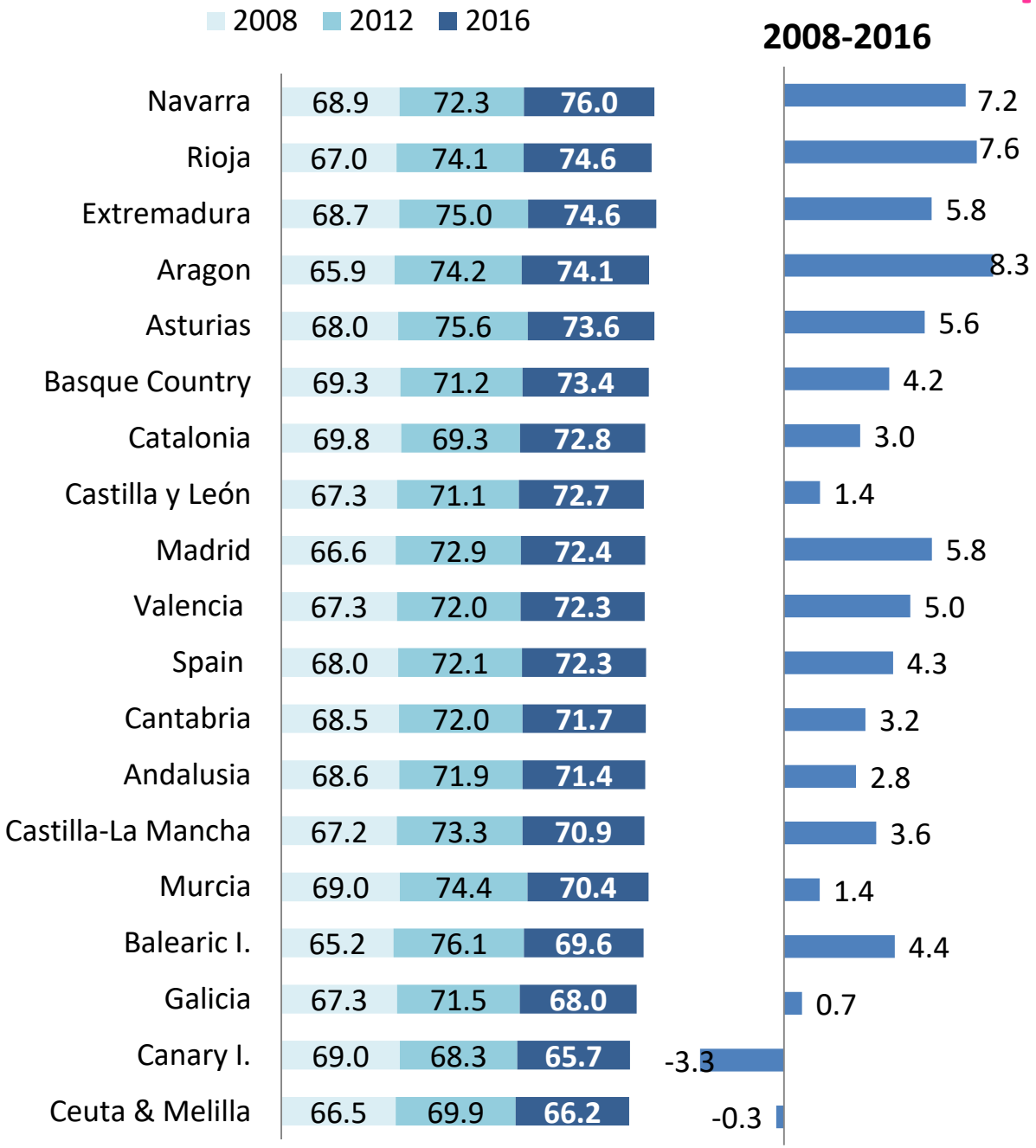
Results – Participation in society 2008-2016



No much change over time – limited data availability, question wording.

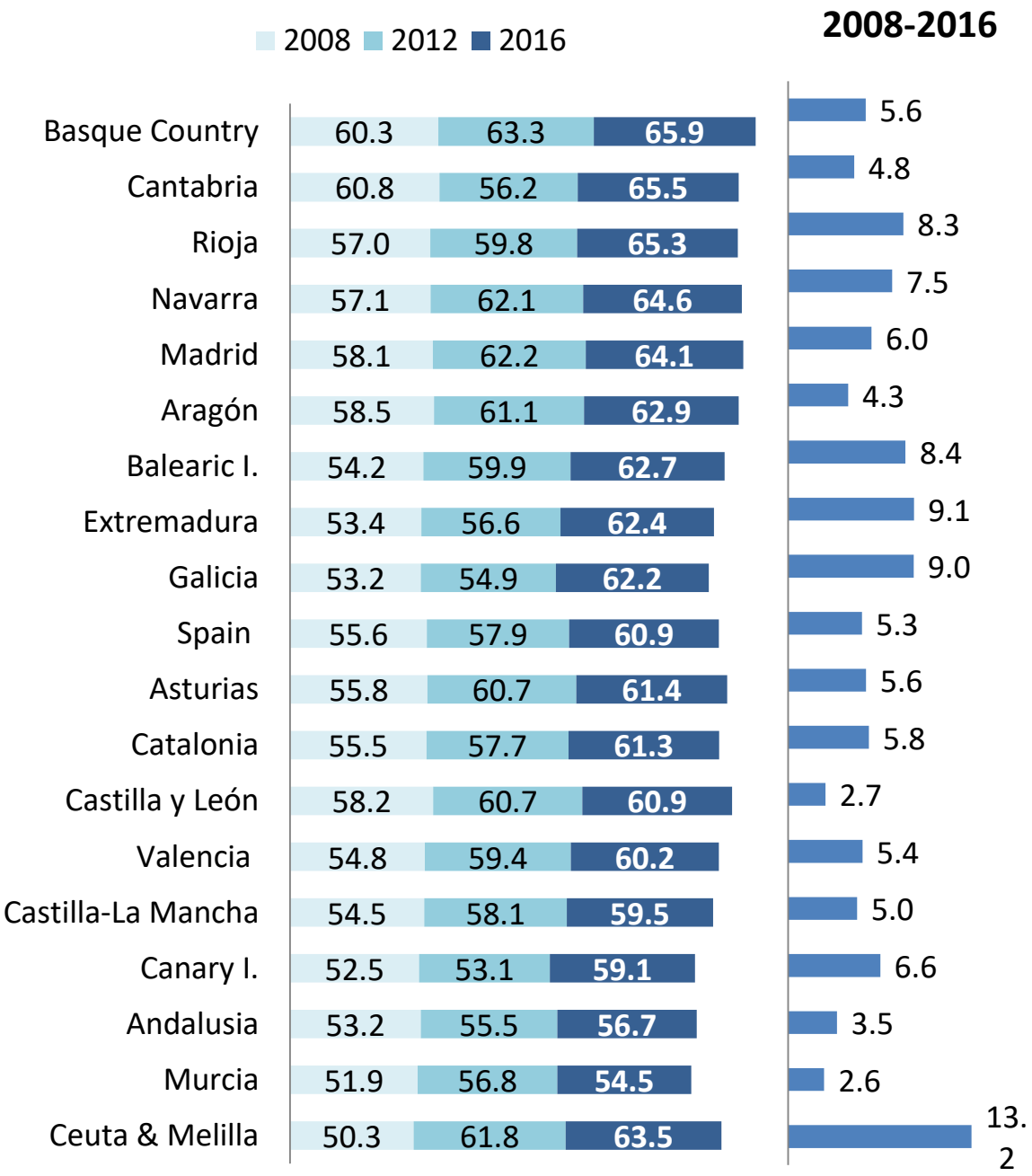
Madrid, Balearic I., Murcia and Galicia showed a slight increase.

Results – Independent living 2008-2016



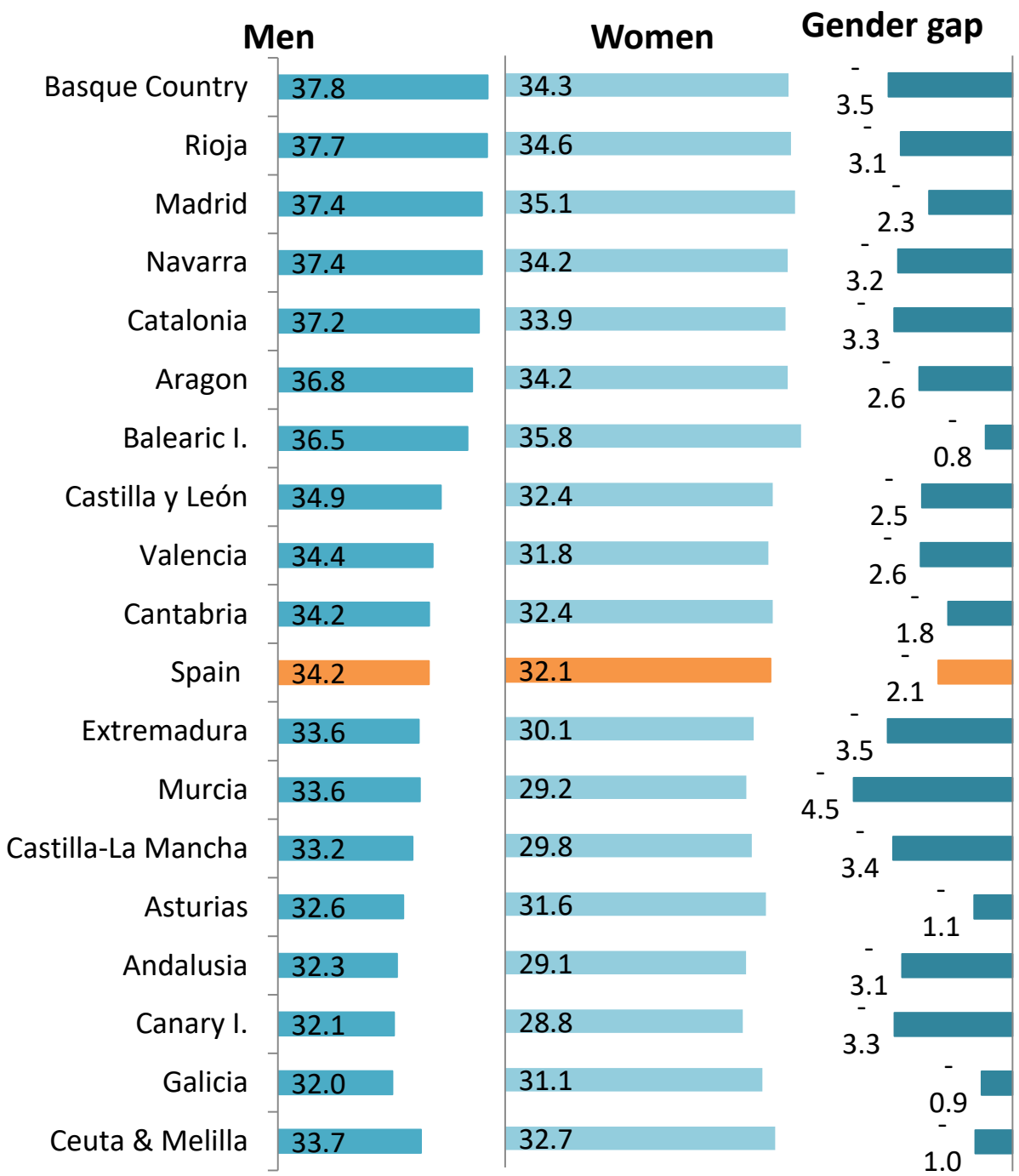
Increases observed in all regions, except for Canary I. and Ceuta and Melilla

Results – Capacity for active ageing 2008-2016



Positive evolution in all the regions.

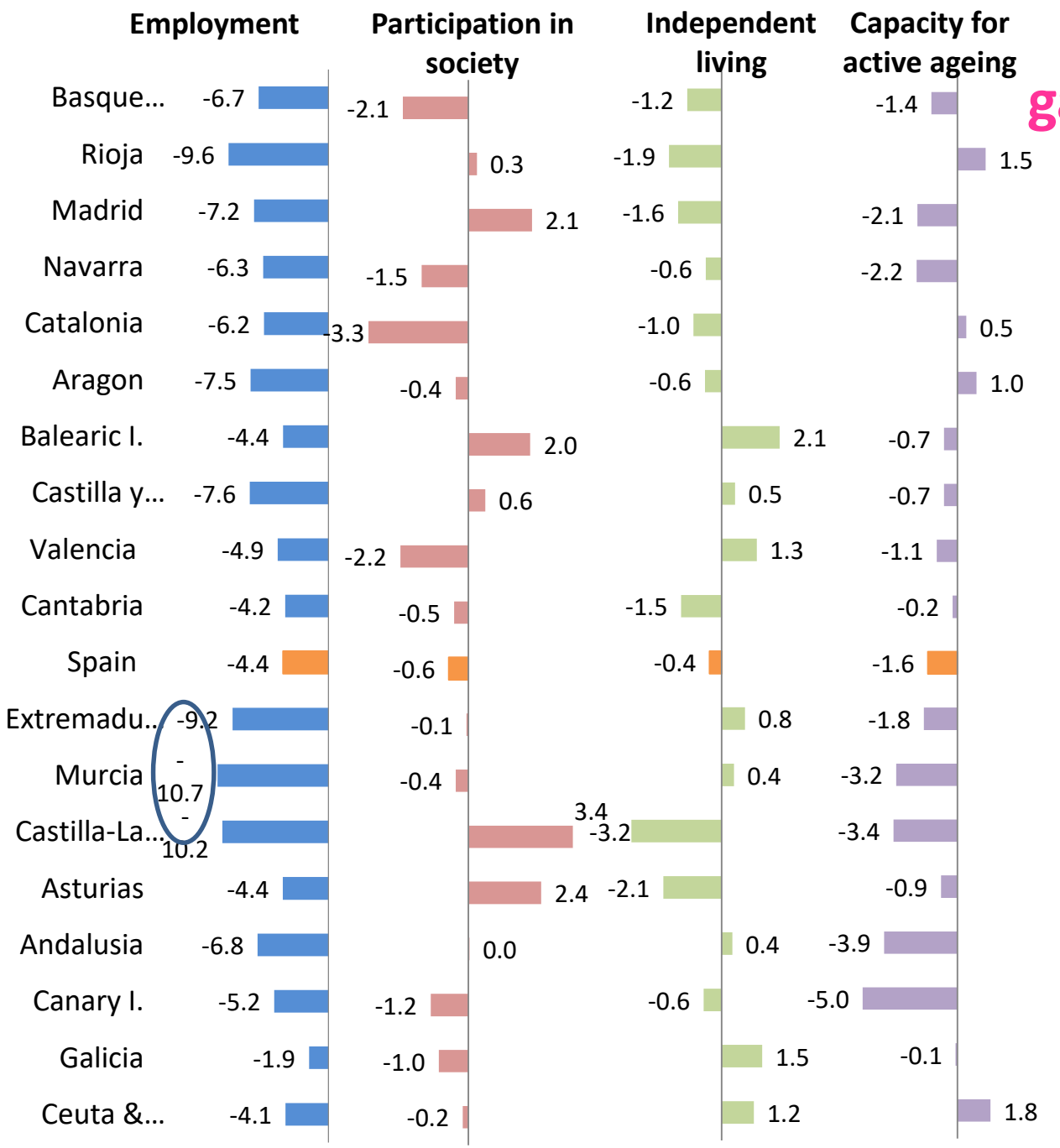
Results – Gender gap 2016



Gender gap still in favour of men.

- Murcia had the highest gap of –4.5 points.
- Balearic I. or Galicia had more similar results for men and women (<–1 point).

Gender gap decreased since 2008



Results – Gender gap by domain 2016

Gender gap highest in employment and capacity for active ageing.

Overall gender gap close to 0 (-0.2 and -0.4) in domain 2 and 3.

- Domain 2: higher scores in women than men in 7 out of 18 regions.
- Domain 3: Gender gap decreased since 2008.

Conclusions

Overall	Overall AAI

- A general increase of the overall Active Ageing Index in the majority of the regions throughout the period 2008-2016.
- Changes more pronounced for women than men in almost all the regions.

Domain	Employment

- The most noticeable positive trend. Modest recovery in older persons' employment from the financial crisis.
- Higher increase for women than men (some decreases observed in men).

Domain	Participation in society

- A decrease was observed.
- Decrease involuntary activities (2.1) and caring for infirm and disabled (2.3) and increase in the political participation scores.

Conclusions

Domain	Independent living

- Increase linked to the relatively higher position of older people in some indicators of financial security.
- Developments not related to the improvement of older people's income as such, but rather to the decrease in the income of the population aged 65 and below.

Domain	Capacity for active ageing

- A positive increase in all the regions
- Access to ICT and higher levels of education having the largest impact.
- The digital divide is decreasing progressively.

Concluding remarks

- Results can be seen as positive: the potential for active ageing is being enhanced(despite circumstances- crisis).

- Women showed higher increases in their scores compared to men, but they still fall behind –> efforts to reduce gender gap to achieve gender equality.

- Difficulties when relating the age policies to the results obtained (cohort effects, external circumstances).

Concluding remarks

- Opportunity to test whether this tool and framework for measuring and enhancing the potential of older people for active ageing could be used at NUTS-2 by using secondary data sources from national statistics operations in Spain: limitations.

- Important as the AAI has been becoming progressively a relevant tool in the EU to assess the development of the contribution of older people from a multidimensional perspective.

- Calculating AAI at subnational level is relevant, as many dimensions are affected by policies designed and carried out at local and regional levels.
  - Therefore this tool may encourage reflection and planning in the future → enhance contribution to society in all the regions.

Limitations may become opportunities

- This pilot study allowed evidencing those areas which should be improved in order to have better data to calculate this index.

- May it be interesting to take the AAI as a shared tool to monitor active ageing at NUTS-2 level (even beyond Spain)?

- This would require achieving a common statistical tool available for EU to cover the indicators of the AAI: debate and consensus.

Thank you for
your attention