

The Active Ageing Index for Canada, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland

The calculation of 22 indicators of AAI, its domain scores and overall value for the four countries in question was undertaken within the research area of activities of AAI project. The calculations were implemented under a consultancy contract with the Southampton University and led by prof. Asghar Zaidi.

The idea behind this research activity was to explore possibilities of calculating AAI based on the data produced in UNECE countries from outside the European Union (EU) but with statistical systems not entirely different from the EU one and at least partly covered by the surveys used for the original AAI.

Given the lack of readily available data for Canada, Norway and Switzerland the work of the research consultant included extensive consultations with national statistical offices and other relevant agencies, as well as focal points on ageing in the named countries.

Computation of AAI for *Canada* turned out to be the most problematic given it is not covered by any of the surveys used for calculation of AAI for the EU countries. The research consultant worked closely with the Statistics Canada and the International Longevity Centre Canada. These provided data for the majority of the indicators for the year 2010 (that is for 2012 AAI). The consultant urged the Statistics Canada to do the calculations using the more recent data, i.e. from the year 2012. The indicator 3.6 No Severe material deprivation appeared not possible to calculate. This should not prevent, however, the calculation and use of the third domain score and the overall AAI, given the weight of the indicator, and the fact that there are two more indicators referring to the financial security, namely 3.4 and 3.5. The main data sources used for Canada are Labour Force Survey, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, National Household Survey, Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA), and General Social Survey. The available results would have placed Canada at the second place in comparison to 28 EU countries. The comparison however is limited. Canada has particularly high results in Social participation and Capacity for active ageing domains.

Calculations for *Iceland* did not present difficulties as the country is covered with all the same surveys the EU countries are. Data are missing for the indicators 2.1–2.4 and 4.3 for the year 2007, as Iceland was not participating in the second wave of EQLS. Similarly, Iceland did not participate in the fifth wave of ESS in 2010. The AAI results for Iceland are very high in comparison to 28 EU countries. The only domain where Iceland has the result 0.5 points below EU maximum is the third domain; in the other three domains, results for Iceland are higher than for EU, which would result in the overall AAI score of 51.5 points. For comparison Sweden, the leading country among EU, has 44.9 points as overall AAI value.

Calculations for *Norway* were somewhat limited by the fact that Norway was not covered by the third wave of EQLS. The calculations are still possible on the basis of the 2007 EQLS. The research consultant also looked at possibilities of using alternative data sources for the concerned indicators, namely 2.1–2.4, 3.1 and 4.3, for which he used SILC and Health Interview Survey (2.1–2.4) and ESS (3.1 and 4.3). If these indicators are calculated based on second wave of EQLS, the results for Norway would place it above leading country in EU (Sweden) with 45.9 points for overall AAI, with the only domain score not higher than the maximum among the EU countries being Social participation. If the alternative sources are used, this domain score would be 1.2 points lower, not significantly influencing the overall AAI.

Calculations for *Switzerland* were limited as the country did not participate in EQLS at all. The research consultant worked in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Sciences (FORS). The following sources were used: Indicator 2.1 — Swiss Household Panel Survey, 2012; Indicator 2.2 — Family and Generations survey, 2013; Indicator 2.3 — Health survey, 2012; Indicators 2.4 and 3.1 — ESS; Indicator 4.3 — Special module of SILC, 2013. In comparison to EU Switzerland would be at the same place as Sweden with 44.9 points for overall AAI.