



Active Ageing Index Project

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Active Ageing Indicators

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The material presented and its interpretation do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the funders.



Overview

1. Active ageing as a policy approach
2. Introducing Active Ageing Index (AAI)
3. Five key findings from the latest AAI Report
(for 28 EU countries)
4. Active Ageing Index and its relevance to the work of OEWG on Ageing

Two key messages



1. Active ageing is a right for older persons, beneficial not just for older persons but also for their families and communities and societies in which they live;
2. The work of the AAI shows that a fuller realisation of AA remains an aspiration, even in the most developed welfare states of the EU;
 - ✓ **Convention on Rights of Older Persons will help promote active and healthy ageing and in the process turn longevity into an asset, leading countries to a more sustainable path of social and economic development.**



Important caveats

1. Active ageing indicators do not capture fully the rights of older people – additional rights-specific indicators are essential.
2. The Active Ageing Index (AAI) if analysed taking into account information on rights can offer a framework (methodology) for the baseline assessment and monitoring of rights of older people.



1

Active ageing as a policy approach

Active ageing as a policy approach

- If population ageing is to become a positive experience, then the **increase in life expectancy must be accompanied by active and healthy years added to life.**
- The underlying idea is that **active and engaged people contribute to their own health, wellbeing and autonomy** as well as to the welfare of the society in which they live.
- AA include paid work as well as unpaid activities, influenced by policies and programmes of the governments and by our own behaviour (e.g. healthy living)

Recent Policy emphasis on active ageing (at the EUR level)

- I. Designation of 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.
- II. European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) – setting out the target to increase the average healthy lifespan of Europeans by 2 years by 2020;
- III. Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the 2nd 5-year review of MIPAA: ‘Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing’ (September 2012)

Policy emphasis globally (in the UN Commission for Social Development programme 2013-2015)

The focus is placed on ‘empowerment’, defined as

“the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes”.

The same UN Report goes on to say:

... ‘empowerment has to be promoted through people’s effective engagement in economic, social and political life, and the provision of adequate resources and assets’.

WHO (2002) Active Ageing Framework

‘Active ageing is the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age’ .

ILC-Brazil (2015) Active Ageing Policy Framework

...a rights-based framework, extending the 2002 framework by an additional pillar: **lifelong learning**.
emphasising the importance of four types of capitals:

- Health capital; Knowledge capital; Social capital and Financial capital



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Introducing Active Ageing Index

Key features of the AAI project

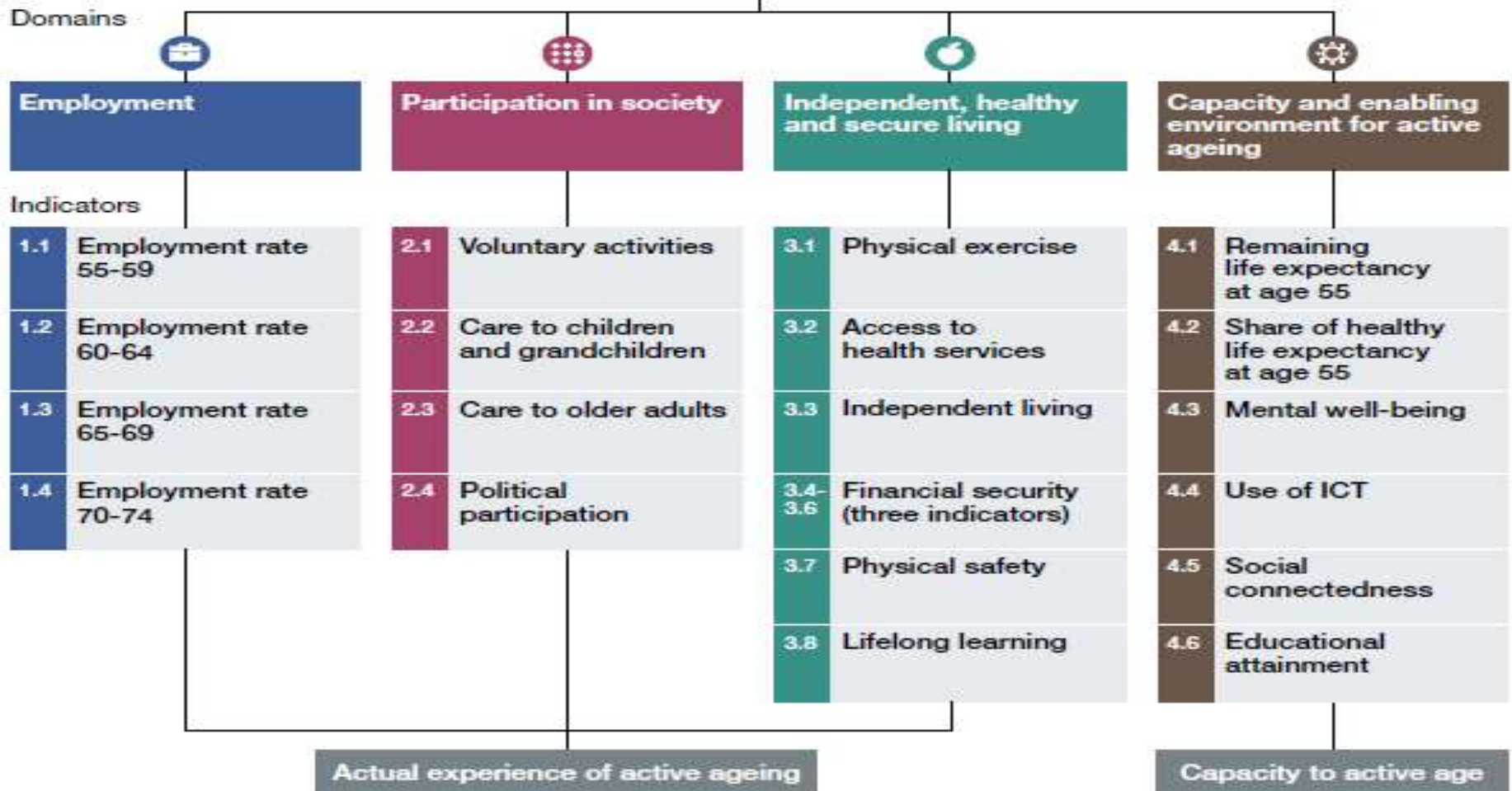
- I. Initiated during 2012, to contribute to activities of EY2012 and MIPAA for its 10th anniversary;
- II. Advised by the AAI Expert Group, comprising diverse group of international experts and stakeholders (including AGE Platform Europe)
- III. The purpose is to develop a comparative, empirical instrument on ageing that:
 - highlights the contributions of older people and identify the potential that goes untapped!
 - evaluates and monitor progress, and engage policy makers for mutual learning.

Analytical framework





22 indicators, 4 domains

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.



Selection of AA indicators

- Focus on human capital of older people, by **promoting positive paradigms of ageing** (rather than viewing older people as dependent)  ageing and development
- Indicators reflect the **rights as well as responsibilities** of older people (for example, the first domain presents a right to work, as well as a responsibility for longer careers)
- In many instances, low values of AAI indicators will reflect denial of rights of older people
 - Age discrimination  low employment
 - Healthcare services  independent living
 - Social protection  Secure living

Critical observations about the AAI

AAI indicators focus on outcomes rather than processes:

Legal instruments  Implementation  **Outcomes**

- Indicators chosen in consultation with AAI Expert Group, including older people reps (Age Platform Europe).
- AAI not intending to measure the well-being of older people, but the contributions of older people.

 see also Global AgeWatch Index which measures the QOL / well-being of older people, by HelpAge International

Datasets used for the AAI indicators

19 Indicators from four prime datasets

- ✓ EU Labour Force Survey
- ✓ European Quality of Life Survey
- ✓ EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions
- ✓ European Social Survey, mainly wave

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



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Five Key findings

Active Ageing Index 2014 Analytical Report April 2015

Key message 1: Affluent EU States in the Northern and Western Europe have had greater success

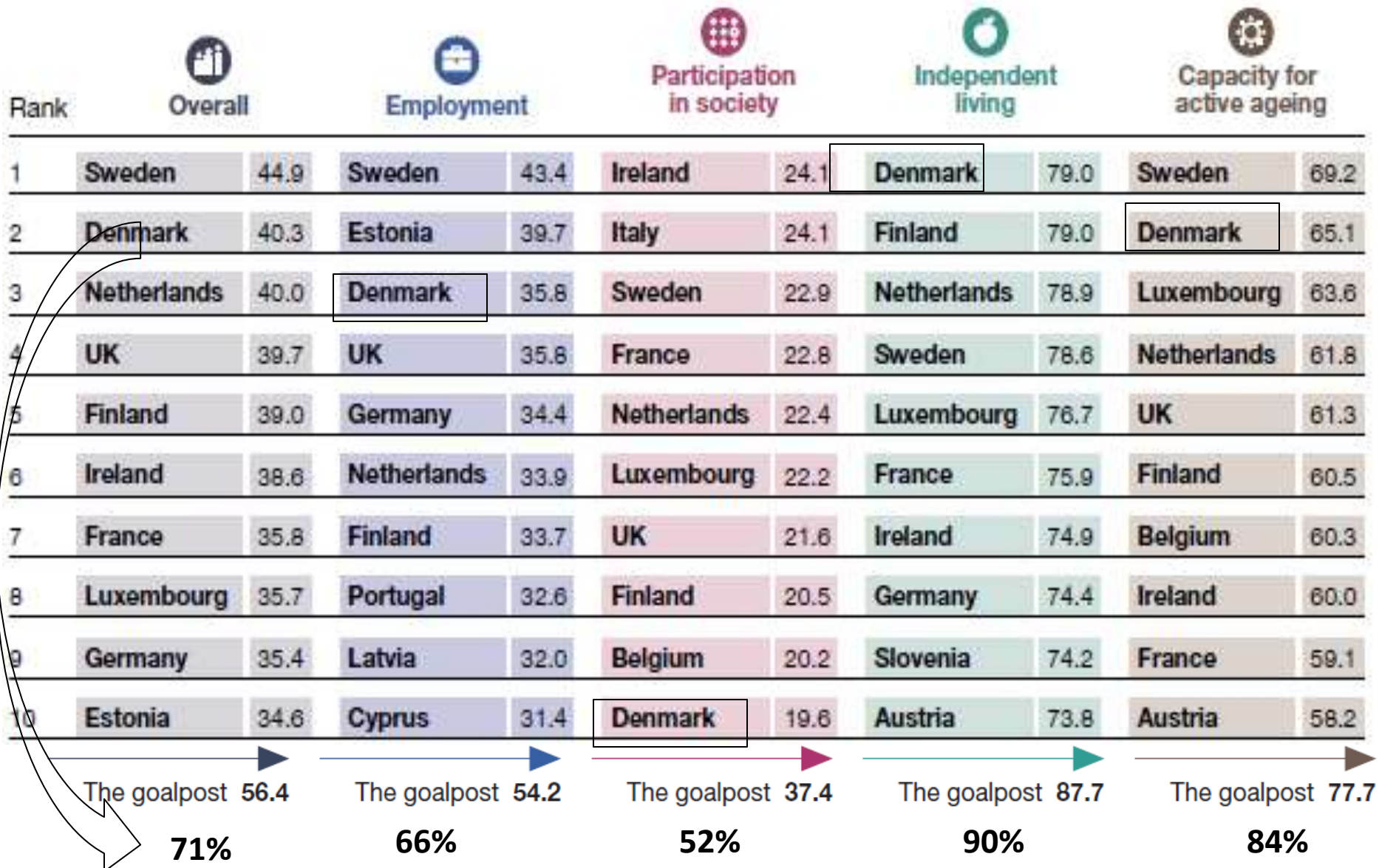
2014 AAI	Country
44.9	Sweden
40.3	Denmark
40.0	Netherlands
39.7	UK
39.0	Finland
38.6	Ireland
35.8	France
35.7	Luxembourg
35.4	Germany
34.6	Estonia
34.4	Czech Rep.
34.2	Cyprus
34.1	Austria
34.0	Italy
33.7	Belgium
33.5	Portugal
32.6	Spain
31.6	Croatia
31.5	Latvia
31.5	Lithuania
31.5	Malta
29.9	Bulgaria
29.8	Slovenia
29.6	Romania
28.5	Slovakia
28.3	Hungary
28.1	Poland
27.6	Greece



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



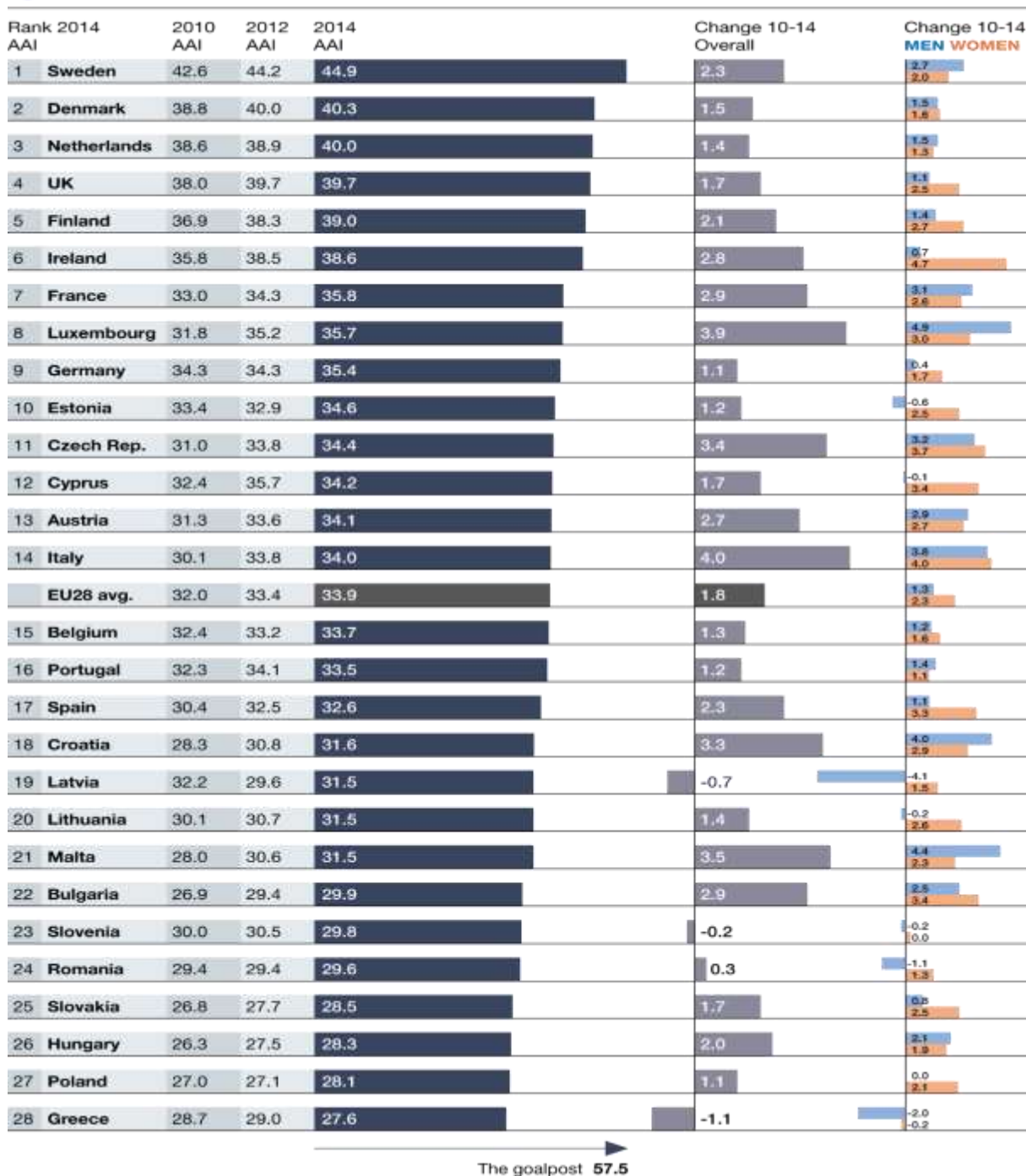
Key message 3:
AAI scores for men are higher than women, especially where employment and incomes are involved

Gender gap 2014		Employment	Participation in society	Independent living	Capacity for active ageing
Rank 2014-AAI		+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +
1	Sweden	7.1	0.8	1.9	0.7
2	Denmark	9.1	2.6	0.2	0.5
3	Netherlands	13.8	1.9	2.4	2.1
4	UK	10.6	1.7	1.5	1.5
5	Finland	1.5	3.4	2.2	2.8
6	Ireland	12.3	3.8	3.4	0.3
7	France	3.8	2.1	4.0	1.8
8	Luxembourg	7.6	8.9	2.8	3.0
9	Germany	9.3	1.9	3.3	0.5
10	Estonia	0.8	1.8	3.0	6.1
11	Czech Rep	12.4	4.1	1.7	1.9
12	Cyprus	18.1	1.0	2.8	6.1
13	Austria	11.0	2.1	0.9	1.8
14	Italy	13.1	0.5	2.7	2.6
	EU28 avg	9.5	0.1	2.8	0.5
15	Belgium	7.6	3.0	3.9	1.3
16	Portugal	11.2	0.0	2.5	2.8
17	Spain	8.5	2.2	2.8	1.4
18	Croatia	11.6	1.5	4.5	2.1
19	Latvia	2.4	6.3	3.8	1.2
20	Lithuania	5.3	2.0	1.9	2.6
21	Malta	22.9	1.1	1.2	1.5
22	Bulgaria	6.0	0.4	7.5	0.5
23	Slovenia	9.2	1.7	2.5	0.3
24	Romania	10.5	1.6	4.0	2.9
25	Slovakia	10.6	1.3	2.7	1.1
26	Hungary	6.0	0.6	2.9	1.3
27	Poland	12.5	2.3	3.2	2.0
28	Greece	13.1	3.7	3.4	3.2

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).

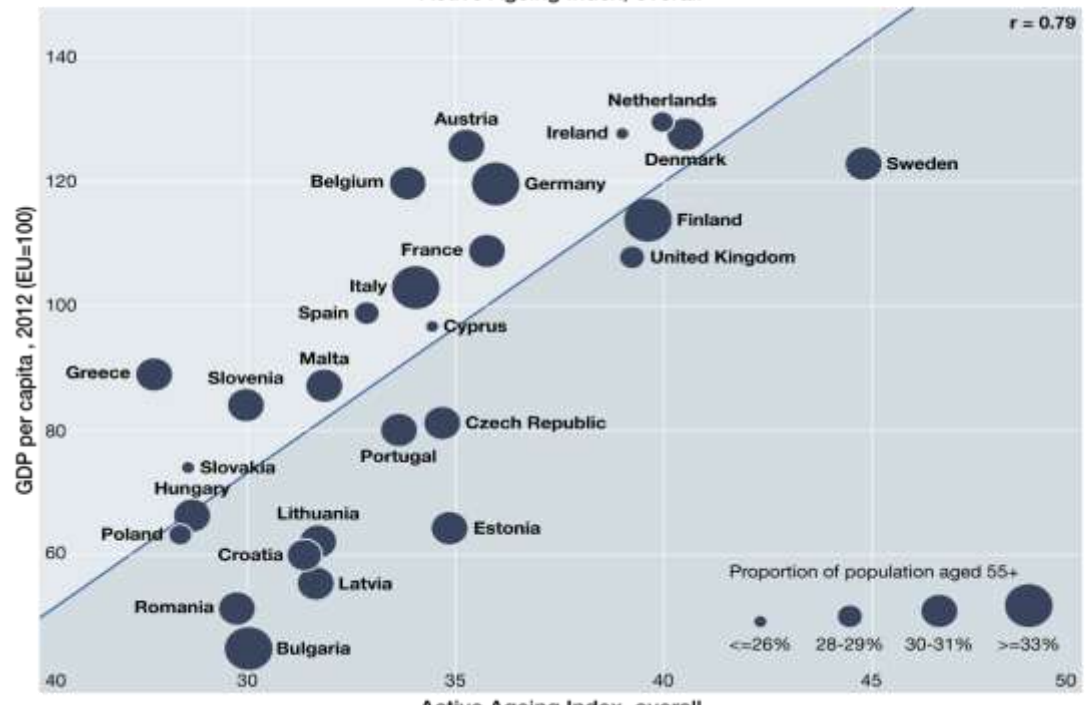
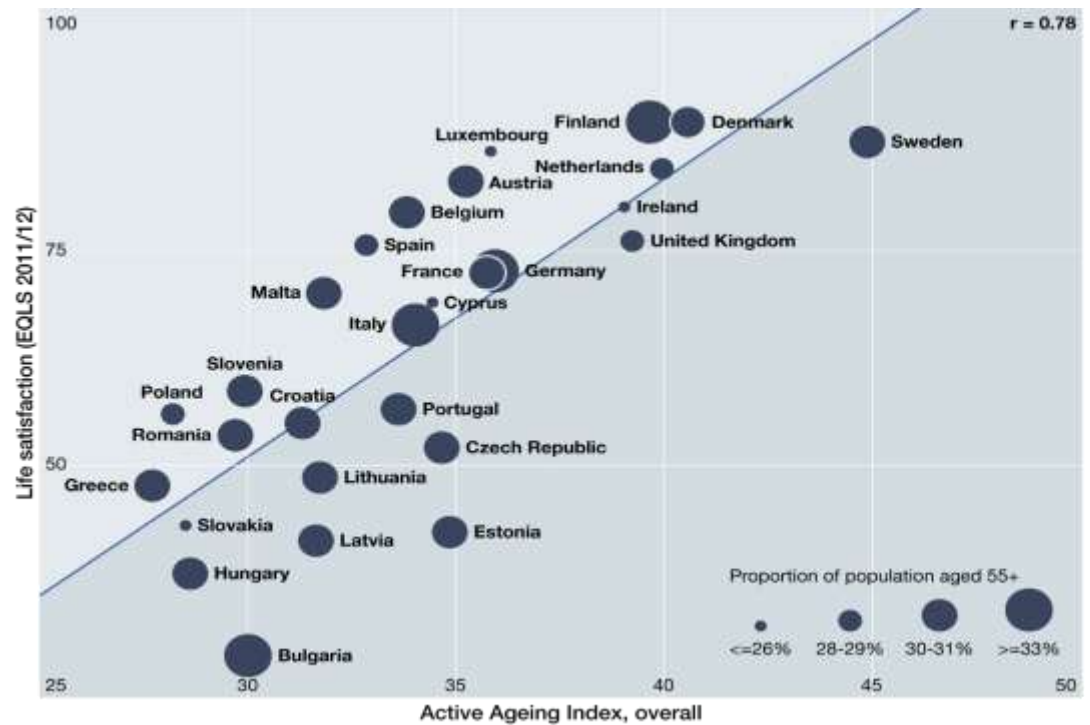
iii Active Ageing Index 2010, 2012 and 2014-AAI



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!





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Active Ageing Index and its relevance to OEWG on ageing



1. The active ageing strategies empower older people helping them fulfil their full potential and improve their quality of life
 - ✓ this is also one key purpose of the new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons!
2. The AAI framework helps identify specific priorities for each country to identify where the potential of older people is not realised, and how much?
 - ✓ The AAI framework (if analysed taking into account information on rights) can be used to highlight where a legislation or its implementation for the rights of older people remain unfulfilled!



3. The AAI framework provides a detailed cross-country comparisons of domains and individual AA indicators and help identify successful and innovative policy instruments.
- ✓ The AAI framework (if analysed with rights-specific indicators) offers us a methodology that can be used to identify good practices in achieving rights of older people!



Thank you

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For more information, see: UNECE/ European Commission (2015) “**Active Ageing Index 2014: Analytical Report**”, Report prepared by Asghar Zaidi of Centre for Research on Ageing, University of Southampton (UK) and David Stanton, under contract with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva), co-funded by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (Brussels).