

# **Exploring the Active Ageing Index (AAI), a Tool Not to Waste the Potential of the Elderly**

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## **Abstract**

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

AAI is an initiative undertaken by the UNECE, the European Commission (DG Employment), Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the European Centre within the framework of the 2012 European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations.

This index allows to measure and monitor national progress in ensuring activity and quality of life of the ageing populations in the European Union and in other UNECE countries. More specifically, it quantifies the extent to which older people can realize their full potential in terms of total and healthy life expectancy, participation in the economy, in social and cultural life and in terms of independent living.

AAI can be used as a practical tool by policymakers, researchers and stakeholders to identify areas where appropriate policies can realize the above active potential of older people.

In this paper, after defining active ageing, the methodology of elaboration of the AAI is illustrated and discussed, in a multidimensional approach consisting of 22 indicators grouped into 4 domains: employment, participation in society, independent, healthy and secure living, and capacity and enabling environment for active ageing. The choice of explicit and implicit weights to be assigned to individual indicators when aggregating them to a domain specific index and to individual domains when aggregating domain specific indexes to the overall AAI.

A comparison of the overall AAI across the EU countries will be discussed, and the countries classified accordingly. Likewise, a comparison with an AAI that is being proposed for China by Chinese researchers will be conducted and the results discussed.

**Keywords:** Active Ageing; Index; Untapped potential; Multidimensional approach; Weights