

Building an evidence base for active ageing policies: Active Ageing Index and its potential

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Brussels, 16–17 April 2015

Organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Population ageing is a worldwide phenomenon and policy challenges associated with it are of growing importance. Ensuring active participation of older people in the economic, political and social lives of their societies is one of the goals of the [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing](#) (MIPAA), a global framework outlining policy vision to cope with population ageing, adopted in 2002. The [2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations](#) also encouraged policymakers and other stakeholders in the Member States of the European Union to take steps towards enhancing opportunities for active ageing in the areas of employment, participation in society and independent living.

In order to design successful responses to the challenges of population ageing, there is a need for a sound evidence base, and in particular, for evidence that allows for comparisons and policy learning across different institutional settings.

The [Active Ageing Index \(AAI\)](#) developed in 2012 aims to serve as an **evidence tool**:

- to monitor (and compare) active ageing outcomes at different levels: international, national, and subnational
- to indicate the untapped potential of older people for more active participation in economic and social life and for independent living
- to promote a more active role and greater autonomy of older people in ageing societies
- to use for mutual learning and advocacy of most appropriate active ageing related policy measures.

The index is constructed from 22 individual indicators that are disaggregated by gender and grouped into four distinct domains. The detailed information on AAI including Methodology paper can be found [here](#).

UNECE and the European Commission's DG EMPL are organising an International Seminar on “**Building evidence base for active ageing policies: Active Ageing Index and its potential**”. The seminar will be dedicated to the studies focusing on how to achieve better

outcomes — measured, for instance, by AAI — through appropriate policies including those that address life course determinants of active and healthy ageing. The seminar aims to bring together researchers, civil society representatives, policymakers and other stakeholders. It will provide a multidisciplinary forum for those interested in the use of AAI and other research to enhance the knowledge about ageing and older people and lead to the development of better policies. Participation in the event is free of charge and open for all interested in the topic.

The topics of interest include the following:

- Comparing 2012 AAI results in two or more countries and identifying possible explanatory factors within the context of policy differences across the countries
- Identifying life course determinants of diverse active ageing outcomes observed in the AAI calculations
- Highlighting AAI as an effective monitoring and advisory tool for policymakers at subnational and local levels
- AAI disaggregation across subgroups and identification of potential for better outcomes
- Evaluation of AAI as an effective evidence base for policymaking purpose
- Contextual analysis and clustering of countries to identify factors underlying active ageing outcomes and capacities for active ageing.

The authors are invited to submit an abstract (max 800 words) by **15 September 2014 18:00 GMT**. The abstracts and papers should be submitted in English. The research material included in the paper must not be already published or submitted for publication. Submission should be made by the author who will attend the seminar. Authors can submit no more than two abstracts where they are named as the primary author; however there is no limit on the number of abstracts a person can appear on as a co-author.

Please send the abstracts using the [Abstract Submission Form](#) to aai@unece.org clearly indicating “Call for papers – Active Ageing Index and its potential” in the subject of your email.

The authors will be notified about acceptance of their submission by 15 October 2014. Once the abstract is accepted the full paper should be sent by 19 January 2015.

Three best papers entered by early career researchers will be awarded. To be eligible for the award one should demonstrate enrolment in a PhD or post-doctoral programme.

The papers will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Originality and innovative approach applied
- Methodological quality
- Policy relevance
- Contribution to further development of the AAI methodology

The best papers will be evaluated by the independent evaluation board chaired by Professor Sarah Harper, MA (Cantab.) Cambridge; DPhil (Oxon) Oxford, Professor of Gerontology at the Oxford University and Director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing.