1) INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

- This work reports outputs of a master’s degree thesis developed at UNLA/Bs.As. (2016-2017). The purpose of the research is two-fold, so based on a mixed-method analysis: a) evaluate the availability of appropriate secondary data to replicate the AAI over time, and b) analyze the stakeholders’ assessment of the AAI as an appropriate public policy tool; for this purpose semi-structured interviews were used.
- Availability of secondary data is not enough to replicate the AAI in Uruguay, if there is not a favorable socio-political context to allocate resources for its implementation as a sustained effort over time and vice-versa.

3) RESULTS

a) Secondary data

- Available for 22 indicators, with varying degrees of equivalence (following 1), respecting construct validity (see pie graph).
- Likewise, the data sources (surveys) are not updated at the same frequency or may not even have a foreseeable replication.

b) Stakeholder assessment (Academics, Policy Makers and Civil Society)

- Previous knowledge of the AAI is rather superficial in most of the interviewees.
- The greatest conceptual affinity to the Active Ageing approach was found in the Civil Society, instead of among Academics or Policy Makers.
- The objections are related to: 1) the term “active” is strongly associated to prescriptive modalities identified in some public policies practices, 2) the sense of self within participation and way of life is a distinctive element in the Active Ageing approach, however this is not captured in the AAI measurement.

Some measurement recommendations:

- Social participation activities (recreational, cultural, or leisure), are identified as a central element to improve the quality of life while maintaining a sense of self. Therefore, these should be included specifically in the AAI (in Domain 4).
- Independent living arrangement, as it is defined (3.3), does not capture political autonomy, which should be measured by a subjective response indicator. Specific surveys are recommended with the goal of designing an adequate indicator.
- An indicator of the social image of old age and ageing is noted as extremely necessary to capture the degree in which a society enables, or not, the empowerment of its older adults, and how it determines the individual autonomy (in Domain 4).

2) URUGUAY IN CONTEXT

- 19% of the Uruguayan population is 60 years or older (ECH 2017).
- Uruguay ratified the «Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons» (OEA, 2016), which is strongly aligned with the Active Ageing policy framework.

4) DISCUSSION

- Even though the country has already made a commitment to the Active Ageing policy framework, emerges from the interviews that currently this approach is not widely accepted in Uruguay.
- In order for the AAI to be a useful tool for Uruguay, the following is necessary:

I. To update specific surveys which were carried out only once.
II. To overcome the resistance identified among the Policy Makers and the Academics. This can be achieved through:
- taking into account their measurement recommendations,
- going in depth in the study of the Active Ageing implications as a policy framework and in the discussion of the symbolic meaning associated with the terminology.

III. To keep in mind that to remain in charge of our own lives as long as possible(3), the sense of self and the empowerment are the key. And it is possible to improve the measurement of these aspects.