REPORT OF THE SECOND WORKSHOP
"ADDRESSING DATA GAPS FOR ACTIVE AGEING INDICATORS"

I. Organisation and attendance

The workshop took place on 23-24 June 2016 in Minsk, Belarus. It was organised thanks to the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECARO); it was also supported by the UNFPA office in Belarus and hosted by the National statistical committee of the Republic of Belarus. The workshop was attended by 40 participants including 29 representatives — national focal points on ageing and specialists from national statistical offices — of 15 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States, namely Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; two invited experts from research institutes of Germany and the Russian Federation (Technical University of Dortmund, and National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow)); representatives of UNFPA offices of Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and EECARO, a representative of the World Bank and two representatives of the UNECE Secretariat.[1]

II. Objective

The workshop continued the work initiated at the first workshop held in November 2015, Geneva.[2] It aimed at evaluating the progress made by the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia (EECCA), and Western Balkans in filling in the statistical annex to national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) to be submitted by member States by 31 October 2016 and at providing expert consultations on methodology of calculation, possible alternative data sources and variables for specific indicators of active ageing. The latter were identified by the countries in response to the UNECE data and information request sent out prior to the workshop. Within this request the countries were also asked to fill in to the extent possible the statistical annex with the data available for 22 indicators of active ageing for three points in time — 2005, 2010, and 2015 (or closest).[3]

III. Brief summary

The workshop consisted of two main parts: plenary presentations and group work.[4]

DAY 1, 23 JUNE

The workshop was opened with welcoming address from the Secretariat, National statistical committee of the Republic of Belarus, and UNFPA office in Belarus.

The Secretariat gave a brief presentation on the third review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA and the progress in preparations for the ministerial conference to be held in 2017, including the timeline of the review process and the work of two groups within the Bureau of the Working group on Ageing on drafting the ministerial declaration and preparations for the conference itself.

The overview of the fourteen countries' replies to the data request was made by the Secretariat. It was noted that in comparison to the results of a data request made before the first workshop the submitted information was more precise. The most problematic indicators identified back in November 2015 are

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[1] See Annex 1 for the list of participants.
[2] See http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40393#/ for information on the first workshop.
[3] For the list of indicators see Annex 3 and http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/pau/age/Guidelines_-_List_of_suggested_indicators_2015.pdf.
[4] See Annex 2 for the workshop programme.

still problematic (see Table 1 below), however it was noted that several countries managed to identify data and calculate some of them (e.g. indicators 4.2, 4.3). Regarding disaggregation by sex, the overwhelming majority of the countries collect data and calculate indicators separately for men and women. In terms of time coverage the most challenging seem to be calculations for the year 2005, while years 2010 and 2015 are equally covered by available data.

Table 1. Problematic indicators, June 2016

Indicator	Number of countries that…			
	do not have data	use proxies	have data to calculate	calculate the indicator
4.3 Mental well-being	12	1	0	1
3.7 Physical safety	11	1	0	2
2.4 Political participation	11	2	0	1
2.3 Care to older people	10	2	0	2
2.1 Voluntary activities	10	3	0	1
3.6 No severe material deprivation	10	1	0	3
4.2 Healthy life expectancy	10	1	1	2
4.5 Social connectedness	10	4	0	0

The Belarus focal point on ageing presented the work implemented and the results achieved in identifying data and calculating the indicators for the national report. For 16 indicators the calculation was made either in accordance with the original methodology (indicators 1.1–1.4, 3.6, 4.1, 4.4, 4.6), or using variables with different level of proximity to the original ones (indicators 2.1, 2.2, 3.1–3.5, 4.5). For the indicators 3.8 and 4.2 experimental calculations were implemented. For four indicators, namely 2.3, 2.4, 3.7, and 4.3 the data were not available. For the indicator 2.4 a suitable proxy was suggested, but there is a problem with data access at the moment.

The Secretariat presented the overview of the potential data sources for the indicators in question. The presentation pointed to the work of the Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics and the recommendations made in their report; gave an overview of the data sources used for the European Union countries and potential sources suggested by other countries in the course of the first workshop; it also stopped on the potential of Time use survey data for the active ageing indicators, particularly on a possibility of implementing a light version of the survey. For the light version of the Time use survey, a list of suggested daily activities is provided (as opposed to the full version where respondents identify their activities themselves); the light version could be carried out via the Internet, and thus is less expensive and burdensome for respondents than the full version and could be implemented more often (e.g. every three years).

The invited experts gave a joint presentation on the methodology of the selected indicators as per the countries' request (namely 2.1–2.4, 3.4, 3.6, 3.8, 4.2, and 4.3), explaining the original methodology and suggesting alternative variables and data sources that could be used for each indicator. The representative of the Technical University of Dortmund also presented the methodological approach used within the pilot study of the Active Ageing Index (composed of the 22 indicators in focus) at local level in Germany, where several sources were used for each variable. The representative of the Higher School of Economics explained at length the original methodology of calculation of the indicator 4.2, particularly the application of the Sullivan method.

In the afternoon session, the group work took place. Countries' representatives were divided into three groups. Each group was asked to discuss the indicators of two domains (out of three — second, third, and fourth, as there were no particular problems with the indicators of the first domain).[5] For each indicator participants were asked to give information on:

1. Data availability for the requested time periods;
2. Source, including polls, surveys (national or international), census, etc.;
3. Frequency of data collection and publication;
4. Variables and data sources that could / are likely to be used for calculating indicators for which data are missing (if applicable).

DAY 2, 24 JUNE

The second day began with rapporteurs of each group making an overview of the discussion outcomes to the plenary. The list of suggested during the discussion data sources is presented in the Annex 5.

Group I discussed the indicators of third and fourth domains. There were no issues with data for the indicators 3.5, 4.1 and 4.4. For the other indicators the following sources could be used: census microdata; household income surveys; household quality of life surveys; time use survey (TUS); labour force survey (LFS); Generations and Gender Survey (GGS); administrative data; WHO global burden of disease; World Values Survey; Gallup World Poll; European Social Survey (ESS). The following points were stressed during the discussion: the WHO global data could distort national context and therefore need careful checking; in case of World Values Survey, Gallup World Poll, or ESS, reliability of data depends on which institute (organisation) was responsible for carrying out the survey; it is important to ensure reliability of private surveys; use of administrative data could lead to narrowing the proxies.

Group II discussed the indicators of second and third domains. Main issues that the countries face with these indicators are: low, in some cases, representativity of samples, with the high level of refusal; in some countries there is no possibility to include additional statistical data or run additional surveys (forbidden). Moreover, official statistics are often detached from the statistics users' needs. There is a lack of cross-sectoral statistics. Possible responses to the lack of data can be to develop an additional module containing the questions for the indicators in question and include it every five years in the existing surveys; to extend the coverage of existing surveys to the population aged 80; to carry out a specific survey that would include variables necessary for calculating the indicators in question.

Group III discussed the indicators of second and fourth domains. Majority of countries of this group are implementing changes to their statistical systems by introducing new surveys and new standards, mainly in line with the ones of the European Union. This concerns, first of all, collecting statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) and bringing LFS in accordance with the European Union requirements. There are no difficulties with collecting data for and calculating indicators 4.1 and 4.6. The indicator 4.2 is not challenging in terms of the methodology of its calculation, but it is in terms of obtaining data on daily activity limitation due to health problems or health status. Regarding the other indicators, two main options are either to add separate modules to existing surveys or establish new surveys. Both these possibilities are limited by the lack of resources — financial and human (capacities), and sometimes technological. However, given SILC implementation (upcoming in some cases) in the majority of countries in this group, data for many indicators, or at least for close proxies, should become available.

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[5] See Annex 4 for the group and indicators division.

Following the presentation of the group work by the rapporteurs, the Secretariat gave a presentation on the Active Ageing Index (AAI) — a composite measure built from the 22 active ageing indicators aiming to measure the untapped potential of older people to contribute to economy and society. The presentation stopped particularly on the methodology of AAI calculation and the results of the AAI pilot study for Turkey.

The general presentation of AAI was followed by those on the country-specific AAI results — from Serbia and the Republic of Moldova. The representative of the Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) gave a presentation on the process and the outcomes of the AAI pilot study (implemented by UNECE in cooperation with SORS) in Serbia. She provided some contextual demographical information about ageing in Serbia, and made a detailed overview of the data sources used and the AAI results by domains in comparison to the EU countries. Alternative variables had to be used for two indicators of AAI (3.7 and 4.5) since Serbia did not participate in ESS. For the others indicators the study followed the original methodology.

The representative of the Centre for Demographic Research, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, presented the AAI results for the Republic of Moldova, also in comparison with the EU countries' results. She provided an overview of the data sources that were used for the calculation of AAI indicators. The data sources differ from the original ones as the Republic of Moldova does not have the same surveys as the EU countries. The importance of a regular computation of the index, which would necessitate inclusion of 13 variables into either existing surveys or a separate social survey to be run every two years, was stressed. The regular computation of AAI will give guidance to policymakers on how to advance in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy.

The Secretariat, National statistical committee of the Republic of Belarus, and UNFPA office in Belarus thanked the participants, and closed the meeting.

IV.   Conclusion

According to the feedback received from the participants,[6] the workshop was well organised, provided good substantial material, and allowed for discussion and active participation. The participants found that the workshop helped to identify alternative variables and data sources for the indicators of active ageing, provided important information for the preparation of the statistical annex to the national reports on MIPAA implementation, as well as enhanced contacts between the participants. The presentations by experts and the work in groups were particularly appreciated. The Secretariat will upload the presentations given at the workshop at the web page http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42481#//.

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[6] See Annex 6 for the overview of the received feedback.

ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

 Second workshop "Addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators"

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ANNEX 2. PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

DAY 1, 23 JUNE

09:00–09:30   **Registration**

09:30–09:50   **Opening and welcoming addresses**
Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE
Zhanna Vassilevskaya, National Statistical Office of Belarus
Elena Kasko, UNFPA Belarus

09:50–10:00   **Third cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS implementation**
Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE

10:00–10:15   **Overview of the current status of data availability for the statistical annex to national reports on MIPAA/RIS implementation**
Olga Kharitonova, UNECE

10:15–10:30   **Belarus: preparations for the national reporting**
Hanna Zakreuskaya, Research Institute of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus

10:30–10:35   **Q&A**

10:35–11:05   **Overview of the data sources for the active ageing indicators**
Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE

11:05–11:15   **Q&A**

11:15–11:30   Coffee-break

11:30–12:40   **Methodology, data sources and possible proxies for selected indicators**
Jürgen Bauknecht, Technical University of Dortmund
Maria Varlamova, Institute for Social Development Studies, National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow)

12:40–13:00   **Q&A**

13:00–14:30   Lunch

14:30–17:00   **Work in groups** *(including coffee-break at 16:00)*

17:00   **Closing of day one and a cocktail reception**

DAY 2, 24 JUNE

09:00–10:00   **Each group's report on the outcomes of the group work**

10:00–10:30   **Discussion of the group work outcomes**

10:30–10:45   **Active Ageing Index (AAI)**
Olga Kharitonova, UNECE

10:45–10:50   **Q&A**

10:50–11:20   **Active Ageing Index in Serbia**
Gordana Bjelobrk, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

11:20–11:30   **Q&A**

11:30–11:50   Coffee-break

11:50–12:20   **Active Ageing Index in the Republic of Moldova**
Olga Gagauz, Centre for Demographic Research, Academy of Sciences of Moldova

12:20–12:30   **Q&A**

12:30–13:00   **Concluding remarks and closing**
Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, UNECE
Zhanna Vassilevskaya, National Statistical Office of Belarus
Gulnara Kadyrkulova, UNFPA EECARO

13:00–14:30   Lunch

ANNEX 3. LIST OF THE ACTIVE AGEING INDICATORS

INDICATOR	SUGGESTED VARIABLE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
1. Labour market (older people's contribution through paid activities)		
1.1. Employment rate for the age group 55–59	Same as indicator	Labour Force Survey
1.2. Employment rate for the age group 60–64	Same as indicator	Labour Force Survey
1.3. Employment rate for the age group 65–69	Same as indicator	Labour Force Survey
1.4. Employment rate for the age group 70–74	Same as indicator	Labour Force Survey
2. Participation in society (older people's contribution through unpaid activities)		
2.1. Voluntary work by older adults (aged 55+)	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) providing unpaid voluntary work through the organizations (at least once a week)	Relevant survey
2.2. Care to children, grandchildren by older population (aged 55+)	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) who provide care to their children and grandchildren (at least once a week)	Relevant survey
2.3. Care to older adults by older population (aged 55+)	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) providing personal care to elderly or disabled relatives (at least once a week)	Relevant survey
2.4. Political participation of older population (aged 55+)	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) taking part in the activities or meetings of a trade union, political party or political action group, or signing petitions, including email and online petitions	Relevant survey
3. Independent, healthy and secure living		
3.1. Physical exercise for older adults (aged 55+)	Percentage of people aged 55 years and older undertaking physical exercise or sport almost every day	Relevant survey
3.2. Access to health and dental care (for those aged 55+)	Percentage of people aged 55 years and older who report **no unmet need** for medical and dental examination or treatment during the last 12 months preceding the survey	Relevant survey
3.3. Independent living arrangements (for those **aged 75+**)	Percentage of people aged 75 years and older who live in a single household alone or in a couple household	Relevant survey
3.4. Relative median income (for those **aged 65+**)	Ratio of the median equivalised disposable income of people aged 65 and above to the median equivalised disposable income of those aged below 65	Income and living conditions statistics / relevant survey
3.5. No poverty risk (for those **aged 65+**)	100 – Percentage of people aged 65 years and older who are at risk of poverty (using the 50 per cent of median income threshold)	Income and living conditions statistics / relevant survey
3.6. No severe material deprivation (for those **aged 65+**)	100 – Percentage of people aged 65 years and older who are severely materially deprived (having an enforced inability to afford at least 4 out of the 9 selected items*)	Income and living conditions statistics / relevant survey
3.7. Physical safety (for those aged 55+)	Percentage of people aged 55 years and older who are feeling very safe or safe to walk after dark in their local area	Relevant survey
3.8. Lifelong learning (for those aged 55–74)	Percentage of people aged 55 to 74 who stated that they received education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey	Labour Force Survey

INDICATOR	SUGGESTED VARIABLE	POSSIBLE SOURCE
4. Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing		
4.1. Life expectancy at age 55	Same as indicator	Demographic statistics: Life Expectancy estimates
4.2. Healthy life expectancy at age 55	Same as indicator	Healthy life expectancy estimates
4.3. Mental well-being (for those aged 55+)	An index that measures self-reported feelings of positive happy moods and spirits	Based on WHO ICD-10 measurement
4.4. Use of ICT by older adults (aged 55–74)	Share of people aged 55 to 74 using the Internet at least once a week	ICT Survey or any other relevant survey
4.5. Social connectedness of older people (aged 55+)	Share of people aged 55 or more that meet socially with friends, relatives or colleagues at least once a week	Relevant survey
4.6. Educational attainment of older people (aged 55+)	Percentage of older persons aged 55 to 74 with upper secondary or tertiary educational attainment	Labour Force Survey / general statistics on educational attainment by age groups

* 1) to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills; 2) to keep their home adequately warm; 3) to face unexpected expenses; 4) to eat meat or proteins regularly; 5) to go on holiday; 6) a television set; 7) a washing machine; 8) a car; 9) a telephone

ANNEX 4. GROUP DIVISION

		Group I		Group II		Group III
Facilitator		Ms. Maria Varlamova		Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich		Mr. Jürgen Bauknecht
Rapporteur		Ms. Marianne Sakalova (UNFPA Belarus)		Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova (UNFPA EECARO)		Mr. Zeljko Blagojevic (UNFPA Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Language		Russian		English/Russian with interpretation		English
	Country / Org.	Name	Country / Org.	Name	Country / Org.	Name
	Armenia	Ms. Karine Kuyumjyan	Azerbaijan	Ms. Naila Verdiyeva	Albania	Ms. Emira Galanxhi
		Ms. Armine Saghatelyan		Ms. Sabina Valiyeva	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Ljiljana Santic
	Belarus	Ms. Hanna Zakreuskaya	Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Dinara Soorombaeva		Mr. Radoslav Ćorović
		Ms. Katsiaryna Karaletskaya	Republic of Moldova	Ms. Snigalitea Nasco	Georgia	Ms. Shorena Tsiklauri
		Ms. Darya Bartashevich		Ms. Olga Gagauz	Montenegro	Ms. Ivana Tanjevic
		Ms. Elena Borovskaya	Ukraine	Ms. Liubov Zadoienko	Serbia	Ms. Gordana Bjelobrk
		Ms. Olga Yakimovich	Uzbekistan	Mr. Oybek Rustamov	Turkey	Ms. Tuğçe Demir
	Kazakhstan	Ms. Ayaulym Sagynbayeva		Mr. Medet Tleuov	UNECE	Ms. Olga Kharitonova
	Russian Federation	Ms. Elena Vorontsova				
Indicators		3.1–4.6		2.1–3.8		2.1–2.4; 4.1–4.6

ANNEX 5. POSSIBLE SOURCES SUGGESTED BY COUNTRIES DURING THE GROUP DISCUSSION FOR THE SELECTED INDICATORS

Domain II. Participation in society

For the indicators 2.1–2.4 a specific survey was used in the Republic of Moldova — Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people. For the other indicators the suggestions were the following:

2.1. Voluntary work
- Time use survey
- SILC data on voluntary work
- European Social Survey (ESS)
- Special modules/question could be added to LFS, SILC, or household (quality of life) survey
- Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)

2.2. Care to children, grandchildren and 2.3. Care to older adults
- Time use survey
- Generations and Gender Survey
- Special modules/question could be added to SILC
- Research on Family Structure in Turkey

2.4. Political participation
Information on voting could be distortive as in some countries voting is mandatory; in some countries it is forbidden to ask about political affiliation

- Time use survey
- Public opinion barometer (Republic of Moldova)
- Adding relevant questions to SILC or other surveys

Domain III. Independent, healthy and secure living

3.1 Physical exercise
- Time use survey
- Household budget / income or quality of life surveys (the set of relevant questions could be included every 3-5 years)
- Administrative data (from municipalities or social service centres)
- Generations and Gender Survey

3.2 Access to health and dental care
In dealing with this indicator, it is important to keep in mind the reasons of not getting the treatment: e.g. lack of access or refusal to provide care. A specific survey was used in the Republic of Moldova — Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people. Other suggested sources include:

- Household surveys
- Administrative reports of the ministry of health — keeping in mind that those who did not ask for medical treatment will not be included
- Time use survey

3.3 Independent living

It is important not to exclude couple households where at least one person is 75 years old or older when calculating this indicator. A specific survey on ageing was used by Kyrgyzstan. Other suggested sources include:

- Household (budget) surveys
- Census
- Administrative data (only one-person households will be taken into account)

3.4 Relative median income

Countries use different equivalence scales; a need for methodology guidelines was stressed. The suggested source was sample household (budget) / standard of living surveys.

3.5 No poverty risk

The poverty measurement varies in different countries. For national purposes the share of people aged 65+ who do not belong to the category of "poor population" by the national methodology could be used. Main source for this indicator is the household (budget) survey.

3.6 No severe material deprivation

It was suggested, in case no data are available, to compile information based on questions on meeting various needs/demands (e.g. running water, heating, rent etc.). The methodology of this indicator calculation needs clarification. Kyrgyzstan could use the specific survey on ageing to calculate it, the other suggested source is the household (budget) survey.

3.7 Physical safety

It was stressed that it is difficult to find alternative variables since the indicator is based on a subjective assessment. The wording of the question is very important — the original one (from ESS) can be used as a basis. The Republic of Moldova used the Public opinion barometer to calculate this indicator. Other sources could be:

- Gallup World Poll (ensuring reliability)
- World Value Survey (ensuring reliability) using the variable "to what extent the environment the respondents live in (e.g. home) is safe/unsafe".

3.8 Lifelong learning

- Labour Force Survey
- Time use survey
- Standard of living surveys (on self-education, taking classes/courses)

Domain IV. Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing

4.1 Life expectancy at age 55

There are no issues with calculation of this indicator.

4.2 Healthy life expectancy at age 55

Sullivan method is used to calculate the indicator using the life tables and data based on a question on limitations in daily activities due to longstanding disease (subjective measure). It is possible to use questions on self-assessed heath status (not for international comparison). The following options were suggested for the data sources (and variables) to obtain information on limitations in daily activities, or health status:

- Household survey / Quality of life survey / SILC (questions on chronic diseases; difficulties with everyday activity implementation)
- WHO global burden of disease (measures years lost due to disease, disability)

- Census data
- Administrative data (on disability)
- Living Standards Measurement Survey
- World Value Survey (question "How can you evaluate your health?")

4.3 Mental well-being

It is not possible to identify very close proxies for all the original variables used for this indicator. As remote proxies questions on general life satisfaction, and feeling happy could be used. It is not recommended to use data on suicide level or rate of mental disease among older people for this indicator.

- European Social Survey (ESS)
- Generations and Gender Survey (GGS)
- Life satisfaction / quality of life survey, World Value Survey (some linked questions on general life satisfaction and feeling happy)
- Administrative data (limited scope of data — only on dynamics at national level (mental diseases, suicide, parasuicide etc.))
- Information on a number of calls to relevant hotlines (important to keep in mind that an increase in the number of calls could be linked to growing availability of such hotlines)

4.4 Use of ICT
- ICT surveys
- Living Standards Measurement Survey
- Census (on computer literacy — a remote proxy)

4.5 Social connectedness

The original question implies social contacts without any specific purpose; the questions on with whom the respondents carries out that or that activity would lead to distortions.
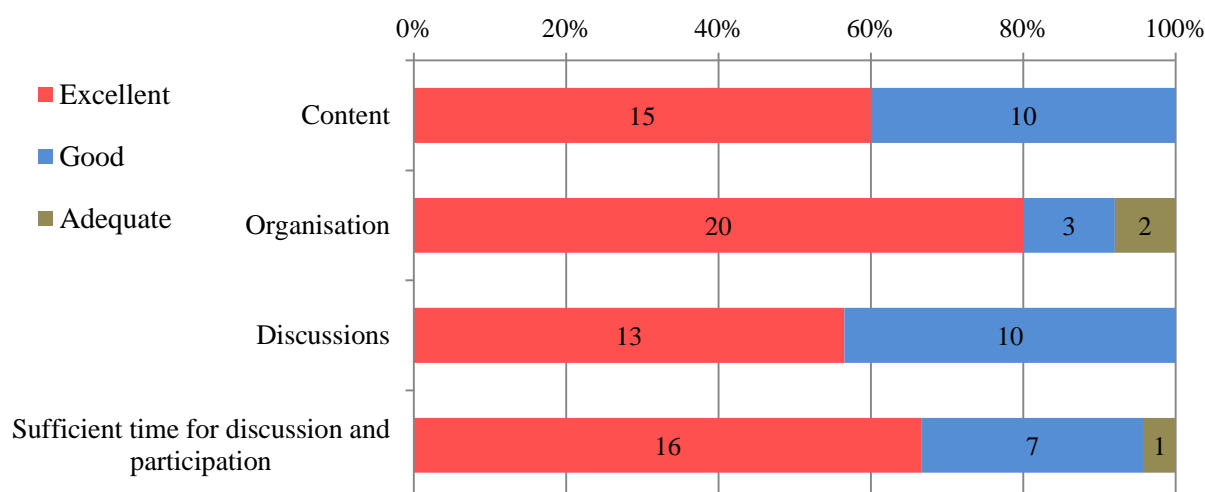
- Time use survey
- Household / Quality of life / Standard of living surveys
- Research on Family Structure in Turkey
- Living Standards Measurement Survey
- Adding relevant questions to Demographic and Health Survey
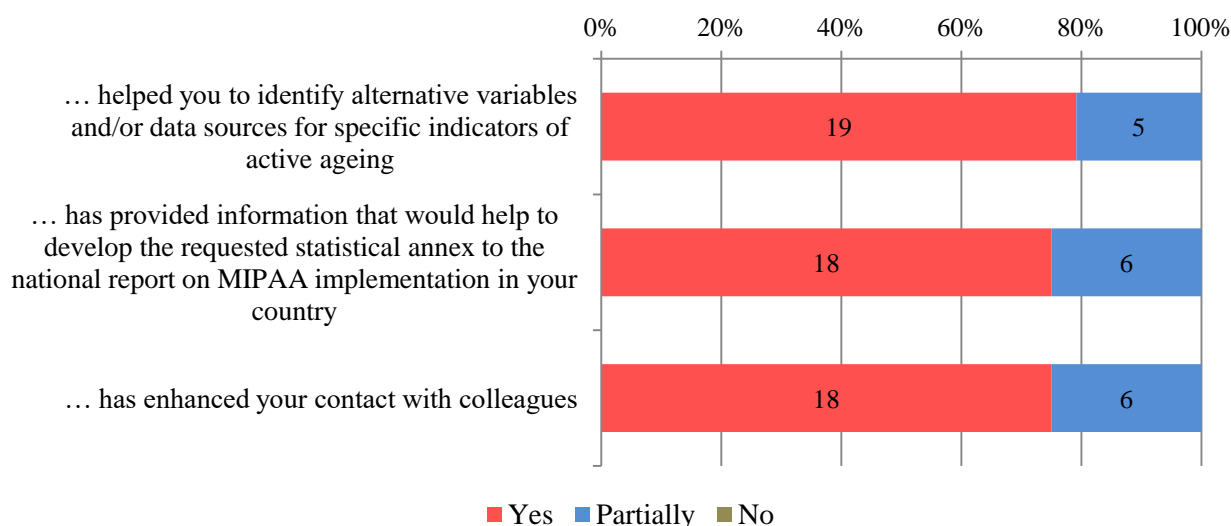
4.6 Educational attainment
- Labour Force Survey
- Large-sample surveys of living standards
- Census

ANNEX 6. OVERVIEW OF THE FEEDBACK

1. How do you evaluate the quality of the Workshop in general?

Category	Excellent	Good	Adequate
Content	15	10	
Organisation	20	3	2
Discussions	13	10	
Sufficient time for discussion and participation	16	7	1

2. The Workshop…

	Yes	Partially	No
… helped you to identify alternative variables and/or data sources for specific indicators of active ageing	19	5	
… has provided information that would help to develop the requested statistical annex to the national report on MIPAA implementation in your country	18	6	
… has enhanced your contact with colleagues	18	6	

3. Please provide feedback on specific sessions

	Excellent	Good	Adequate
Experts' presentations	17	6	1
Country presentations	12	10	2
Work in groups	17	8	