



Management Response

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation of the EC-UNECE project "Active Ageing Index II – Further development and dissemination" (implemented 1 August 2013–30 April 2016)		
Period of Review:	November 2016–February 2017		
Date of Evaluation Report:	13 March 2017		
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		20/11/17	
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		15.11.2017	
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		10.11.2017	

Note

The evaluation exercise of the project (AAI-II) was carried out after its termination and after the beginning of the follow-up project (AAI-III). In this regard, the follow-up actions and responsibilities include the activities already implemented under the AAI-III.

Recommendation 1:

The EC and UNECE should continue to support the project in a new phase to expand its geographical coverage and substantive scope. This could entail the project's 1) focussing further on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Western Balkans and Central Asia 2) continuing to respond to EU member States that show initiative to pursue their work on the AAI 3) continuing to fine-tune the AAI methodology and giving increased attention to AAI calculations at the subnational levels and 4) undertaking deeper analyses of AAI results for specific population groups, based on country demand.

Management Response:

The recommendation 1 is accepted by the Population Unit, and is partially implemented by the time of the Evaluation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The third phase of the AAI project (AAI-III) started in May 2016 and is foreseen to last through April 2019. Main objectives of AAI-III are to further develop the AAI methodology, in particular to enhance its flexibility and enable wider implementation; to further promote use of AAI as flexible tool providing evidence base for policymaking, analytical work and advocacy; as well as to provide support to countries in their attempt to apply AAI for their needs at both national and subnational levels. Project AAI-III includes activities aimed at assisting countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Western Balkans and Central Asia in calculating and applying AAI (e.g. pilot studies). The project activities include further research and analysis, including for specific population groups, methodology fine-tuning, continued dissemination and promotion of AAI, and providing consultations to stakeholders willing to use the index.

The implementation of these actions will be ensured by Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of the Population Unit (project manager).

Recommendation 2:

The project should continue to improve the technical and management aspects of the project by 1) maintaining its support to the Expert Group on the AAI 2) continuing to engage high-level international experts and consultants for specific substantive and technical contributions and 3) maintaining at the minimum the current structure of the project team/PMU

Management Response:

The recommendation 2 is accepted by the Population Unit and is partially implemented by the time of the Evaluation.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

1) Under the third phase of the project, the Expert group on the Active Ageing Index, established under the first phase of the project in 2012, is maintained. As of October 2017, two meetings of the Expert group were organised by UNECE in cooperation with the European Commission's DG EMPL (October 2016 and October 2017). At least one more meeting will be held.

2) UNECE has engaged the University of Southampton – UK as institutional contractor with Prof. Asghar Zaidi as lead researcher for implementation of a number of research tasks foreseen under the project, including revision of 2016 AAI results, revising the methodology description of AAI indicators, exploring alternative data sources etc. For implementation of specific analysis of AAI results for different population groups in Germany and Poland two institutional consultants were engaged: Technical University of Dortmund and Warsaw School of Economics respectively. For implementation of some of the activities, foreseen under the project, e.g. developing guidelines for using alternative variables for AAI indicators, creating a web-based visualisation tool, research consultants and contractors will be engaged.

3) The structure of the project team has not changed since the evaluation and will be maintained throughout the project.

The implementation of these actions will be ensured by Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of the Population Unit (project manager).

Recommendation 3:

In terms of knowledge management, the project should continue to support and facilitate the various forms of knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices on the AAI i.e. international seminars, country workshops, peer reviews, easy-to-understand publications and the Wiki-space

Management Response:

The recommendation 3 is accepted by the Population Unit which will continue to implement the outlined activities.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Several events aimed at improving AAI visibility and recognition, sharing actual experiences of its application etc. are foreseen under the AAI-III. A national seminar "Active Ageing Index in Italy: use and policy implications" was held in Ancona, Italy, on 11 May 2017. A side-event "Active Ageing Index: ways to realize the potential of living longer" took place on 21 September 2017 during the fourth UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Lisbon, Portugal. The Second international seminar on AAI will take place on 27–28 September 2018 in Bilbao, Spain. More events will be organised as foreseen under the AAI-III.

The wiki-space on AAI is and will be continually maintained and updated with new publications, papers, information about meetings etc.

The implementation of these actions will be ensured by Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of the Population Unit (project manager).

Recommendation 4:

The project should pursue a more visible dissemination and communication strategy for publicising the AAI concept and methodology. This could involve 1) giving more visibility at global and international events where there is a high level of government and political representation and 2) promoting the AAI-related work on social media platforms and by using modern ICT visualisation techniques.

Management Response:

The recommendation 4 is accepted by the Population Unit which will make efforts to increase the visibility of AAI among policymakers and will engage a contractor to develop professional visualisation tools for the index.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

Presentations on AAI are regularly given at relevant events involving policymakers. For example, UNECE presents the developments under the project to the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau (twice a year); a side-event at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing was held on 21 September 2017 (see above). More such events, including special sessions for policymakers at the Second International seminar on AAI in 2018, further meeting of the Working Group on Ageing and its Bureau, are foreseen under AAI-III.

UNECE publishes information on AAI using the wiki-space developed for the purpose and its Twitter account. In line with the Recommendation 4, contractor will be engaged in 2018 to develop a web-based tool for the AAI users.

The implementation of these actions will be ensured by Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of the Population Unit (project manager).

Recommendation 5:

Given the increasing interest of countries in the UNECE region in the AAI, the project should intensify and expand resource mobilisation efforts by seeking more collaborative partnerships to enable this expansion and to maintain an adequate-sized project management unit.

Management Response:

The recommendation 5 is accepted partially by the Population Unit. There are no fund-raising activities foreseen by the Agreement with the donor, who is contributing over USD 940,000. The Population unit continually works on intensifying cooperation with relevant stakeholders. The size of the AAI project team is and will be maintained throughout the project.

Follow up actions and responsibilities:

The project budget is set by the Agreement with the donor (European Commission) and is sufficient for the activities foreseen without additional fund-raising. Extension of AAI to more countries is included in the project activities. At the same time, a number of countries work on application of AAI at national and/or subnational levels outside of the project activities (Poland, Switzerland, Biscay province of Spain etc.), thus contributing to the AAI extension, its greater visibility and recognition — project activities foreseen by the Agreement. Cooperation with relevant stakeholders and provision of consultations to those interested in AAI application are parts of the project activities. The project team size is as set in the Agreement with the donor and is not subject to modification.

The implementation of these actions will be ensured by Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief of the Population Unit (project manager).

