






ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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Evaluation Title:	External Evaluation of the UNECE-European Union project Active Ageing Index II — Further Development and Dissemination		
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	Name	Date	Signature
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Terms of Reference for the External Evaluation of the UNECE-European Union project Active Ageing Index II — Further Development and Dissemination

I. Background

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a composite measure of the untapped potential of older people to contribute to economy and society through employment, social participation, and living independently. It measures also the extent to which the environment older people live in enables them to age in an active manner. The project “Active Ageing Index II — Further Development and Dissemination” had as its main objectives (i) mainstreaming the use and applicability of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) for evidence-based policymaking; and (ii) promoting AAI as a useful instrument for related analytical work and advocacy. The project is implemented by the UNECE Population Unit (Statistical Division) and covers the period from 1 August 2013 to 30 April 2016 (implementation period).

The project builds on the work implemented under the one-year project “Active Ageing Index” undertaken in 2012, during which AAI was constructed and calculated for 27 countries of the European Union (based mainly on the data for 2010).

The main activities of the project AAI-II are:

- Research, including
 - calculation of AAI for the most recent years (using the data for 2012), and for previous years (based on the data for 2008)
 - calculation of AAI for additional countries, this includes the new EU member — Croatia, and four non-EU countries: Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland
 - implementation of an analysis of trends in AAI results
 - implementation of pilot studies in Germany, Serbia, and Turkey
- Outreach to stakeholders, including
 - maintaining the Expert Group on AAI, created during the first phase of the project
 - collaboration with the UNECE Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics
 - organisation of a research seminar
- Communication and promotion of AAI use, including
 - development and maintenance of a website on AAI
 - presentation of the AAI results at relevant meetings and events
 - briefs and reports on the AAI results

More information on the project can be found at the wiki-space devoted to the index at <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/AAI/Active+Ageing+Index+Home>.

All relevant documentation will be provided to the evaluation consultant.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the *relevance* of the project for the implementation of the Population component of the UNECE Subprogramme Housing, Land Management and Population

and its *effectiveness* in enhancing national policy formulation on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations. The evaluation will also address the *efficiency* and *sustainability* of the project and its activities, in order to learn how to maintain the beneficial effects of the project after its conclusion.

The evaluation will assess whether the project succeeded in contributing to building the evidence base for the countries covered by the project to shape or adjust their policies on ageing in accordance with the goals of the Vienna Ministerial Declaration and to monitor policy implementation.

The evaluation should also identify lessons learned from the implementation of the project and issues that need further attention and that could lead to the revision of working modalities of similar projects and develop practical recommendations for the UNECE Population Unit and project partners on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future work on AAI, specifically under the project “Extending the relevance of the Active Ageing Index: Cooperation with UNECE” which began in May 2016 and will continue until the end of April 2019.

III. Scope

The evaluation will cover the organizational contribution of the UNECE Population Unit throughout the project period from 1 August 2013 to 30 April 2016.

The project is intended for the benefit of all the UNECE countries, however, the evaluation will focus on countries which have been working directly with / involved in the AAI project. These will include: (i) pilot study countries: Germany, Serbia, and Turkey; (ii) the country where a national seminar on AAI results took place: Lithuania; (iii) a number of countries and regions which calculated and used AAI for their purposes at national and subnational levels, namely Italy, Malta, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain (focus on Biscay province). The evaluation will also involve other stakeholders including: (i) selected members of the Expert Group on AAI; (ii) counterparts in the European Commission involved in the project; (iii) World Bank representatives dealing with AAI; (iv) representatives of the AgePlatform Europe; (v) national focal points on ageing and experts dealing with AAI in the named countries.

To focus the evaluation on the specific impacts of this project, interviews will be undertaken and feedback collected only from people dealing directly with the index.

The thematic area of the evaluation is the evidence base for the population ageing policies.

The evaluation framework covers this project only, and excludes other activities carried out by the UNECE Statistical Division.

Gender and human rights aspects will be also covered by the evaluation, taking into account guidance provided by the United Nations Evaluation Group on the matter (available at <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/980> and <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/1452>).

IV. Issues

The evaluation will seek to report on the *effectiveness* of the project in achieving its objectives and its *sustainability*; the *efficiency* of the project, in particular to evaluate how the inputs and resources (funds, staff, time) were utilized in achieving the outputs, and the *relevance* of the project to the priorities and needs of its recipients and the consistency with the attainment of its overall objective. Key questions that the evaluation seeks to answer include:

Effectiveness

1. To what extent were the objectives of the project achieved? In particular:
 - 1.1. How did the project contribute to the increased use of AAI for ageing policy monitoring?
 - 1.2. How did the project contribute to a wider recognition of AAI as a useful tool for analytical work, policy monitoring and advocacy in ageing-related areas?
2. How did the project enhance national policy formulation on population ageing in selected UNECE countries?
3. How did countries adjust their policies or introduced new measures for implementation of MIPAA/RIS?
4. To what extent and for what purposes is AAI used by the various stakeholders?
5. To what extent did the planned activities contribute to achieving the objectives and the expected accomplishments? In particular:
 - 5.1. To what extent did the research activities under the project contribute to building the evidence base on ageing?
 - 5.2. How did the work of the Expert group help to promote the use of AAI among relevant stakeholders?
 - 5.3. How did the research seminar contribute to the promotion of AAI use at different levels and in a large variety of countries?
 - 5.4. To what extent was the national seminar in Lithuania helpful to the local stakeholders in offering an insight into the active ageing situation in the country from the AAI perspective?
 - 5.5. How did presenting AAI, maintaining the wiki-space devoted to the index, and the publication of briefs and reports on the AAI results contribute to better informing the stakeholders and wider recognition of AAI?
6. What were the challenges/obstacles to achieving the expected results?
7. What has prevented to achieve the desired results?

Sustainability

1. What is the likelihood that the beneficiaries of the project will continue using AAI in their work related to ageing policies?
2. To what extent do the partners and beneficiaries “own” the outcomes of the work?
3. How has the project built in resilience to future risks?
4. What were the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability of the project?

Efficiency

1. Were the resources sufficient for achieving the results?
2. Was the relationship between cost and results reasonable?
3. Were the resources used economically? How could the use of resources be improved?
4. Were the results achieved on time?

5. Were there differences between planned and actual expenditures? And if yes, were they reasonably justified?
6. Where there any alternatives to achieve the same results? If yes, which ones?
7. How do the costs and use of resources compare with similar projects (within UNECE or by other United Nations agencies)?

Relevance

1. To what extent did the project respond to the priorities and needs of the beneficiary countries? How relevant was it to the target groups' needs and priorities?
2. How relevant was the project for the UNECE region needs and priorities?
3. Is the work under the project consistent with the UNECE mandate and the objectives of the UNECE Subprogramme Housing, Land Management and Population (as per the General Assembly document Ref: A/68/6 (Sect. 20) of 12 April 2013)?
4. What is the relevance of the project for the work of UNECE?

V. Methodology

The evaluation will include a desk review of existing documents and a questionnaire, followed by targeted interviews to further elaborate the findings of the survey. The UNECE project manager will provide the list with contact details of the relevant stakeholders.

The **desk review** will be based on project reports and material available including:

- Project plan
- Project progress and final reports
- Project wiki-space
- Reports from the meetings of the Expert Group on AAI and other relevant meetings as needed
- Minutes of the teleconferences held with the donor and the research consultants
- Other documents that the evaluator deems necessary for this exercise.

The UNECE project manager will provide support and further explanation by Skype or phone to the evaluation consultant when needed.

A tailored **questionnaire** will be sent to the specialists working on/with AAI in the pilot study countries, namely, Germany, Serbia, and Turkey; national focal points on ageing and experts dealing with AAI in a number of countries and regions which took the initiative of calculating and using AAI for their purposes at national and subnational levels, namely Italy, Malta, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation (research), Biscay province (Spain). Other stakeholders to be approached are selected members of the Expert Group on AAI; counterparts in the European Commission involved in the project; consultants who had worked under the project; World Bank representatives dealing with AAI; respective representatives of the AgePlatform Europe; representatives of the country where a national seminar on AAI results took place — Lithuania.

The questionnaire will include open and closed questions (in English). To ensure an objective approach, the questionnaire will be prepared by the evaluation consultant, and will be reviewed by the UNECE project manager. It will be based on questions listed in section IV, formulated in a way the