

# **ADDRESSING DATA GAPS FOR ACTIVE AGEING INDICATORS**

## **SECOND WORKSHOP**

**23–24 June 2016**

**Minsk**

### **NOTE ON THE SUGGESTED VARIABLES FOR THE INDICATORS OF ACTIVE AGEING**

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This document contains the selected alternative variables (proxies) suggested for the given indicators of active ageing prior to and in the course of the Workshop on addressing data gaps for active ageing indicators (18 November 2015, Geneva). The variables are accompanied by comments on to what extent they correspond to the original ones.

General remark: while using proxies limits the comparison of the results with other countries, it allows for the monitoring of trends in active ageing outcomes within a given country, provided the proxies are produced regularly and are comparable within time.

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## 2.1. Voluntary work by older adults (aged 55+)

Percentage of older population aged 55+ participating in unpaid voluntary activities through the organisations at least once every week

General comment: *for this indicator the frequency of implementing the activities is important. This limits the usage of the Time use (budget) surveys, where only activities carried out during two random days could be monitored. It could be suggested to take into account only the share of people aged 55+ who did engage in such activities on both days. However, this may become too strict of a limitation.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Time budget survey (Belarus)	One-time	Time spent by older people on social activities; Share of older people engaged in social activities	Provided that the “social activities” are actually the voluntary work activities, the information on the <b>share</b> of people aged 55 and above spending time on such activities could be used for this indicator (on the assumption that if the respondents spend some time during the selected day on these activities, they might do it regularly on a weekly basis) The comparison to the original variable will be limited
Social Survey (Israel)	Annual	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) providing unpaid voluntary work through the organizations: more than five hours per month; less than five hours per month; not on a regular basis	The variable is very close also thanks to including the frequency of doing voluntary work. “Five (or more) hours per month” can be used as an equivalent for “at least once a week”
Social Diagnosis (Poland)	Every two years	Share of people aged 55+ who performed any unpaid work or service for persons outside their family or for any civil organisation / NGO during the last year	The frequency component is missing; includes activities outside organisations. The variable is not comparable to the original one
Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of persons aged <b>60+</b> who are involved in voluntary and charitable activities (for example in the social canteen/ social welfare cafeteria) at least once a week	The age group differs from the one in the original indicator; the variable does not specify that the voluntary activities are implemented through an organisation which might lead to overreporting
Sample survey on income and participation in social programs (Russian Federation)	Annual (since 2014)	Percentage of persons aged 55 years or more, engaged in unpaid volunteer work for the benefit of organizations, foundations	The definition is very close to the original, however it is important to take the frequency of being engaged in voluntary work into account
European Social Survey	Every two years	Share of persons aged 55+ who during the past 12 months got involved in voluntary socially beneficial activities or work for voluntary or charitable organizations at least once a week	The question was not included in the most recent wave of ESS (2014), otherwise the variable is rather close to the original one

## 2.2. Care to children, grandchildren by older population (aged 55+)

Percentage of older population aged 55+ providing care to their children, grandchildren at least once a week

General comment: *for this indicator the frequency of implementing the activities is important. This limits the usage of the Time use (budget) surveys, where only activities carried out during two random days could be monitored. It could be suggested to take into account only the share of people aged 55+ who did engage in such activities on both days. However, this may become too strict of a limitation.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Time budget survey (Belarus)	One-time	Time spent by older people on care for children under 18 years old; Share of older people involved in caring for children under 18 years old	In the original variable there is no limitation of the age of children. It is not specified if only care to ones' own children is taken into account. It can be either broader than the original variable if care to <b>any</b> children (meaning grandchildren are also included) is taken into account; or narrower if only children of the respondent are considered. As in the case of the indicator 2.1, the information on the <b>share</b> of people aged 55+ and above spending time on care to children (grandchildren) could be used for this indicator (on the assumption that if the respondents spend some time during the selected day on these activities, they might do it regularly on a weekly basis). The comparison to the original variable will be limited
Generations and Gender Survey (Georgia)		Share of people aged 55+ who replied "yes" to the question "Over the last 12 month, have you given regular help with childcare to other people, including household members?"	Using this variable would result in overreporting: 1) "regular" is not defined; 2) includes care to <b>any</b> children, and not only respondents' ones.
Social Survey (Israel)	One-time	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) who provide care to their children and/or grandchildren, (regularly)	The variable is very close to the original one: attention should be paid to what is meant by "regularly".
Integrated survey of the living conditions of population (Russian Federation)	Once every two years	Share of persons aged 55 years or more, whose usual activities include daily care for children (theirs or someone else's) provided for free Approximate number of hours a week spent on care to children	The variable includes provision of care to <b>any</b> children, which may result in overreporting. At the same time the question is on "daily" care while the original variable focuses on the weekly care provision.

### 2.3. Care to older adults

Percentage of older population aged 55+ providing care to elderly or disabled relatives (at least once a week)

General comment: *for this indicator the frequency of implementing the activities is important. This limits the usage of the Time use (budget) surveys, where only activities carried out during two random days could be monitored. It could be suggested to take into account only the share of people aged 55+ who did engage in such activities on both days. However, this may become too strict of a limitation.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Generations and Gender Survey (Georgia)		Share of people aged 55+ who replied “yes” to the question “Over the last 12 months, have you given people regular help with personal care such as eating, getting up, dressing, bathing, or using toilets?”	Using this variable would result in overreporting: 1) “regular” is not defined; 2) includes care to <b>any people</b> , not only respondents’ relatives. At the same time the types of personal care are limited to the selected ones
Social Survey (Israel)	One-time	Percentage of older population (aged 55+) providing personal care to elderly or disabled relatives (regularly)	The variable is very close to the original one: attention should be paid to what is meant by “regularly”
Time Use Survey (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of persons 55+ who indicated in their diaries that they performed activities that include care (help, support) to adult family member (Physical care of a disabled member / adult of household (family); Another type of care of a dependent member/ adult household (family); Help offered to an adult independent member of household (family))	See general comment above
Integrated survey of the living conditions of population (Russian Federation)	Once every two years	Share of persons aged 55 years or more, whose usual activities include daily care for others who need special assistance due to old age, illness, or disability (living or not living in the household) provided for free Approximate number of hours a week spent on care to others who need special assistance due to old age, illness, or disability (living or not living in the household)	The variable is very close, however the question is on “daily” care while the original variable focuses on the weekly care provision, which can results n underreporting
Time Use Survey (Turkey)	One-time	Share of persons aged 55+ who provided unpaid assistance or care to an older person who needed help because of problems or illnesses related to aging at least once a week during four months before the interview.	The variable is very close to the original one

## 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

General comment: *for this indicator a variable of a share of voters is often suggested, however in terms of cross-country comparison this variable might be inadequate, since in some countries participation in election is mandatory. It is preferable to complement this variable by other components of political participation, such as share of older people in parliament, among elected local authorities etc.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Parliament of Georgia		Share of people aged 55 and older who are members of the parliament	This proxy covers only one aspect of political participation and therefore might result in underreporting
Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of persons aged 60+ who are participating in activities of a political organisation	The age group differs from the one in the original indicator; the question narrows the range of activities. This could lead to underreporting
European Social Survey	Every two years	Share of persons aged 55+ who during the past 12 months carried out any of the following activities: contacted politician or government official; worked in political party or action group; signed petition; taken part in lawful public demonstration	The variable is very close to the original one

### 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.

General comment: *for this indicator the frequency of implementing the activities is important. This limits the usage of the Time use (budget) surveys, where only activities carried out during two random days could be monitored. It could be suggested to take into account only the share of people aged 55+ who did engage in such activities on both days. However, this may become too strict of a limitation.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository 2008 (data for Georgia)		Share of people aged 55 and older who are attaining more than 5 times 30 minutes of moderate activity per week, or more than 3 times 20 minutes of vigorous activity per week, or equivalent	As per the WHO definition physical activity is a broader category than that of physical exercise (sport). As a result, the use of this variable might lead to overreporting
Social Survey (Israel)	One-time	Percentage of people aged 55 years and older undertaking physical exercise or sport three times a week	The variable is very close to the original one, though it is desirable to increase the number of times per week
Time Use Survey (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Percentage of people aged 55+ who indicated in their diaries that they engaged in any of the following sport-related activities: Walking; Juggling and running; Cycling; Ball games; Gymnastics and fitness; Water sports; Other exercises	See general comment
Integrated survey of the living conditions of population (Russian Federation)	Once every two years	Share of people aged 55 plus who have been regularly engaged in any of the following activities: sport classes (sections), fitness, swimming or water sports, outdoor games, hiking or sport tourism	Term “regularly” needs to be defined not to result in overreporting
Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey of the Higher School of Economics (Russian Federation)	Annual	Share of people aged 55+ who engaged in any of the listed activities at least 16 times per month within 12 months before the interview: jogging, skating, skiing; gym; walking; sport walking; cycling; swimming; dancing, aerobics, shaping, yoga; basketball, volleyball, football, hockey; badminton, tennis, table tennis; wrestling, boxing, karate	To avoid overreporting pleasure walking should not be included. Otherwise the variable is close to the original one and can be used
Time Use Survey (Turkey)	One-time	Share of people aged 55+ participated regularly in sports activities, including walking, jogging; cycling; swimming; football; basketball; volleyball; athletic sports activities and others during the last four weeks	Term “regularly” needs to be defined not to result in overreporting, though the time period of the question (within four weeks) limits the possible overreporting
Sample survey of household living conditions (Ukraine)	Annual	Share of people aged 55 and over undertaking physical exercise and sports at least once a week	Used with the indicated frequency — “at least once a week” — this variable would results in overreporting. If possible to calculate for categories such as “several days per week”, the variable would be very close to the original one

### 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 12 months preceding the survey.

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of persons aged <b>60+</b> who stated that they received healthcare whenever they needed it	The age group differs from the one in the original indicator; otherwise the variable can be used
Integrated survey of the living conditions of population (Russian Federation)	Once every two years	Share of persons aged 55 and over who received care when they last sought outpatient care at a medical institutions Share of persons aged 55 years and over who received dental care when they last sought dental care	This variable can be used, though it does not specify the time period of the question (12 months in the original variable); moreover this variable does not include the aspect of <b>not seeking medical</b> (dental help) when it was needed as opposed to the original variable
Sample survey of household living conditions (Ukraine)	Annual	Share of households which include people aged 55 and older who reported that over the past 12 months, they could not get medical help, buy medicine and medical equipment when they needed it	Could be used if no possibility to calculate at individual level (as for the indicator 3.1)

### 3.6. No severe material deprivation (for those aged 65+)

Percentage of people aged 65 years and older who are not severely materially deprived. Severe material deprivation refers to a state of economic and durable strain, defined as the enforced inability (rather than the choice not to do so) to afford at least four out of the following nine items: to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills; to keep their home adequately warm; to face unexpected expenses; to eat meat or proteins regularly; to go on holiday; a television set; a washing machine; a car; a telephone.

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Sample survey of household living conditions (Belarus)	Annual or every two years (?)	In the country the level of material deprivation of the population is calculated as the proportion of the population with four or more of the 14 established national material deprivation	For calculating the indicator of <b>severe</b> material deprivation, it would be important to include more than 4 items, since their total amount in Belarus is set at 14 (e.g. 6). This depends, however, on the items included in the list
Household Budget Survey (Republic of Moldova)	Annual	100 minus share of households with a head aged 65+ having had difficulties in the past 12 months with paying utility bills for electricity; heat (central heating system); natural gas; and with affording sufficient food products	All of the answer categories should be taken into account. If not possible to calculate at individual level, then can be used for national monitoring
Generations and Gender Survey (Georgia, Russian Federation)		100 minus share of people aged 65+ who are unable to afford at least four out of the following nine items: to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills; to keep their home adequately warm; paying for a week's annual holiday away from home; to face unexpected expenses; to eat meat or proteins regularly; a television set, a washing machine, a car or a telephone	This is to be calculated based on a combination of answers to three questions of the survey (1101, 1103 and 1104 (Georgia); 10.01, 10.03, 10.04 (Russian Federation) as per the respective questionnaires of the wave 2)
Sample survey of household living conditions (Ukraine)	Annual	100 minus share of households which include people aged 55 years and older who reported having 4 or more signs of deprivation out of 18 (national methodology)	Could be used if no possibility to calculate at individual level (as for the indicator 3.1) and for the age <b>65+</b> . For calculating the indicator of <b>severe</b> material deprivation, it would be important to include more than 4 items, since their total amount in Ukraine is set at 18 (e.g. 8). This depends, however, on the items included in the list



### 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.

General comment: *for this indicator it is important to take into account different aspects of safety perception. This includes being worried about becoming a victim of a crime, but also such aspects as quality (safety) of walking areas, having sufficient lightning etc. In this regard, it is not advisable to use only the statistics related to crimes against older people.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Georgian crime survey (Georgia)	One-time	Share of people aged 65 years and older who are not worried about being physically attacked	This variable reflects only one aspect of physical safety perception, and could result in overreporting
Survey Public Opinion Barometer (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of people aged 55+ feeling very safe or safe in the street(s) in their neighbourhood after dark	The variable is very close to the original one
Gallup WorldPoll	Annual (semi-annual)	Percentage of people aged 50+ who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	Apart from the age group, the variable is very close to the original one

### 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.

General comment: For this indicator *the information should be collected on all types of education or training whether or not relevant to the respondent's current or possible future job, including formal and non-formal education and training. Information on vocational training only would not be sufficient for this indicator.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Integrated Household Survey (Georgia)	Data collection: quarterly Dissemination: annually	Percentage of people aged 55 to 74 who are attending any educational institution/courses/ trainings at the time of interview	Could be used, keeping in mind that the question time period is not the same as in the original variable ( <i>at the moment of interview</i> as opposed to <i>over last 4 weeks</i> )
Time Use Survey (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of people aged 55–74 who indicated in their diaries that they took courses or lectures	Use of this variable might lead to underreporting as it covers only specific days, and not a period of four weeks as in the original variable
Sample survey of population participation in lifelong learning (Russian Federation)	Every five years	The share of the population aged <b>55 to 72</b> years, who report that they received education or training <b>during 12 months</b> preceding the survey	The question is very close to the original one, however, the age group differs, and the time period of the question is significantly larger than in the original variable, which would lead to overreporting.

## 4.2. Share of healthy life years in the remaining life expectancy at age 55

Share of a number of years spent free of activity limitations due to health issues in the remaining life expectancy at age 55

General comment: *for this indicator the Sullivan method is used for the countries of the European Union (please see [http://www.eurohex.eu/pdf/Sullivan\\_guide\\_pre%20final\\_oct%202014.pdf](http://www.eurohex.eu/pdf/Sullivan_guide_pre%20final_oct%202014.pdf) for details). This indicator uses life tables and a variable on the limitations of daily activities imposed by health issues, e.g. a question from the EU Statistics of Income and Living Conditions: “Self-perceived long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problem”. This is broader than a question on having a disability status, for example.*

Source	Frequency	Variable for the self-perceived health status	Comments
Population Census (Georgia)		Share of the population aged 55+ who have difficulty with any of listed activities that influences their daily life: 1) Seeing 2) Hearing 3) Walking or climbing steps 4) Remembering or concentrating 5) Communicating 6) Self-care	The variable could be used for calculation of the indicator for national monitoring
Household Budget Survey (Republic of Moldova)	Annual	Data about health self-assessment based on the question “In general, how would you assess your health?” (1 — very good, 2 — good, 3 — satisfactory, 4 — bad and 5 — very bad).	This variable does not give an understanding of to what extent the daily activities of the older people are limited because of a bad or very bad health. This variable could be, however, used for national monitoring, if no possibility to calculate one closer to the original variable
World Health Organisation		Data on Global Burden of Disease	The attention should be paid to how strong the impact is of a given disease on daily activities of a person

### 4.3. Mental well-being

Share of people aged 55+ that report feelings of positive / happy moods and spirits

General comment: *the indicator is using the WHO-5 questionnaire (see <http://www.who-5.org/> for more details) and the WHO ICD-10 measurement. It is important to keep in mind that this indicator is **not** about measuring proportion of older people diagnosed with mental disorders, or a suicide rate among older people.*

*Five survey questions are used to calculate a composite measure of mental health:*

- 1. I have felt cheerful and in good spirits; 2. I have felt calm and relaxed; 3. I have felt active and vigorous; 4. I woke up feeling fresh and rested;*
- 5. My daily life has been filled with things that interest me*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Generations and Gender Survey (Georgia)		Share of people aged 55 and older who experienced 'seldom or never' the following feelings during the previous week: (1) felt that could not shake off the blues even with help from family or friends, (2) felt depressed, (3) thought that life had been a failure, (4) felt fearful, (5) felt lonely, (6) had crying spells, (7) felt sad	The variable could be used for national monitoring
Social Survey (Israel)	Annual	Share of people aged 55 and older reporting satisfaction with life (very satisfied and satisfied)	Rather broad as variable. Could be used if other measurements are not available
Discrimination, abuse and violence against older people (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of persons aged <b>60+</b> who stated that they feel calm and happy in their family, feel respected by and have good attitude from those around	The age group differs from the one in the original indicator; also the variable focuses on the good feelings dependent on other people (respect, attitude from others...); the variable can be used for national monitoring
European Social Survey	Every two years	A combination of questions can be used: "How much of the time during the past week... (a)...you were happy (b)...you felt calm and peaceful (c)...you had lot of energy (d)...your sleep was restless (e)...you enjoyed life"	The reverse scale will need to be used for the question (d); the scores for the answer categories will need to be adjusted to identify the cut-off limit for the presence of depression. E.g. in case of the Russian Federation from 0 for "none or almost none of the time" to 3 for "all or almost all of the time", with the cut-off limit of 8
Life Satisfaction Survey, EBRD and World Bank	2006, 2010	A combination of questions can be used, including "All things considered, I am satisfied with my life now" and "All things considered, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?"	Rather broad as variable. Could be used if other measurements are not available. Advantage of the use — a possibility of cross-country comparison within the scope of countries covered by the survey (34 countries in 2010)

#### 4.4. Use of ICT by older adults

Share of people aged 55–74 using the Internet at least once a week (in the last 3 months)

General comment: *for this indicator frequency of Internet usage is important*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Integrated Household Survey (Georgia)	Data collection: quarterly Dissemination: annually	Share of people aged 55 to 74 who used the Internet during the past 12 months	The component of frequency is missing; therefore the variable would not answer the question this indicator is targeting. A period of 12 months is too long for this indicator. Eventually could be used for national monitoring, if no other information is available
Social Survey (Israel)	Annual	Combination of questions on the fact of using the Internet within the last three months before the interview and the question on a number of hours of Internet usage per week (for the population 55–74)	The variable can be used for this indicator
Montenegro		Share of people aged 55 to 74 who used the Internet within the last three months.	The component of frequency is missing (see comment above, however the shorter time period of the question reduces the level of eventual overreporting)
Time Use Survey (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of people aged 55–74 who indicated in their diaries that they carried out any of the following activities: computer use — programming (software); information via computer; communication via the computer	The variable does not refer to the use of the Internet, but can be used for national monitoring
Integrated survey of the living conditions of population (Russian Federation)	Once every two years	Share of persons aged 55–74 who use the Internet all the time, i.e. more than once a week	The variable is very close to the original one

#### 4.5. Social connectedness

Share of people aged 55 or more that meet socially with friends, relatives or colleagues at least once a week. “Meet socially” implies meet by choice, rather than for reasons of either work or pure duty. The indicator measures contacts outside the household.

General comment: *for this indicator the frequency of implementing the activities is important. This limits the usage of the Time use (budget) surveys, where only activities carried out during two random days could be monitored. It could be suggested to take into account only the share of people aged 55+ who did engage in such activities on both days. However, this may become too strict of a limitation.*

Source	Frequency	Variable	Comments
Social Survey (Israel)	Annual	Share of people aged 55 or more that meet socially or talk by phone with friends at least once a week	The combination of two questions would be good to use; keeping in mind that inclusion of talking over phone might result in significant overreporting
	One-time	Share of people aged 55 or more that meet socially with relatives at least once a week	
Time Use Survey (Republic of Moldova)	One-time	Share of people aged 55+ who indicated that they engaged in any following activities outside of household: visits or (and) hosting guests; parties; theatre, cinema and concerts; travel related to social life	This variable implies carrying out activities involving other people, but does not reflect the direct connections with friends/relatives. Also see general comment
Time Use Survey (Serbia)	One-time	Share of people aged 55+ who indicated in their daily diaries they spent time on social activities with somebody outside of the household	Broad categories of “social activities” and “somebody outside the household” would result in overreporting
Time Use Survey (Turkey)	One-time	Share of people aged 55+ who indicated that visited friends or relatives more than four times for the last four weeks	The variable is close to the original one