BISCAY, in numbers	
Population	1.2 million inhabitants
% of population above 65	23.5% (women) and 17.7% (men)
Dependency rate	0.30
Life expectancy	85.1 (women) and 78.2 (men)
GDP	Higher than Spain (29.249€)
Unemployment rate	15.8% (women) and 16.1% (men)
Activity rate	49.5% (women) and 63.1% (men)

- The *Provincial Council of Biscay*`s proposal

- As part of the activities of the Ob*servatory for the Elderly of Biscay* – a participatory organization bringing together social, economic and political agents related to the elderly in Biscay-.

- Purpose: raise awareness about the relevance of active ageing, support evidence-based policy making aimed at improving active ageing, and improve monitoring and accountability to citizens related to what the provincial government is doing in this area.

- Collaboration with the Department of Sociology of the University of the Basque Country.

The objective of this presentation is to show the **procedure for the calculation** of the Active Ageing Index (AAI) in Biscay, focusing on the **methodology**, **results**, and **challenges** we have faced **at the subregional level**.

- The index is constructed from 22 individual indicators that are grouped into four distinct domains: *Employment, Participation in Society, Independent, healthy and secure living, and Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing*.

- The weights for these four domains were 0.35, 0.35, 0.10 and 0.20 respectively.

- We mainly followed the original AAI methodology but, due to limitations in data availability and comparability of original and local questions, it was necessary to develop a **combined methodology**:

  - **Using secondary databases**

  - **Using a primary database (ad hoc survey)**

1. Calculation of the AAI using secondary databases

- First, we assessed our capacity of calculating the index with secondary databases

- Most of the indicators were supplied by the Eustat- Basque Institute for Statistics for the population above 55 in Biscay.
  - Labour Force Survey of the Basque Country
  - Social Capital Survey of the Basque Country
  - Basque Health Survey
  - Demographic Survey of the Basque Country
  - Survey of Poverty and Social Inequalities of the Basque Country
  - Mortality Statistics of the Basque Country
  - Information Society Survey of the Basque Country

Conclusion: Some comparability problems

Direct or indirect comparability was reached in **86%** of all the 22 indicators:

Domain	Comparability issues
Employment	**100%** directly comparable
Participation in Society	**75%** were fundamentally comparable. No data existed to calculate indicator 2.2. Some questions were differently formulated.
Independent, healthy and secure living	**100%** were fundamentally comparable. In four indicators, questions were slightly differently formulated in the local surveys.
Capacity and enabling environment	**83%** directly or indirectly comparable. No data existed to calculate indicator 4.3 Some questions were differently formulated.

2. Calculation of the AAI index using a primary database: survey

- In order to improve comparability and overcome some availability limitations, a survey was designed to get new data

- Based on 1.362 CATI interviews (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) to the population above 55

- Sampling: simple random, with an error of 2.65% and a 95% confidence level

- Conducted in November 2014 from the Call Center of the Regional Government of Biscay (*Zugaztel*)

- 4 indicators were not collected (because information of the rest of the population was also needed)

3. *Calculation of the AAI index based on a combined methodology*

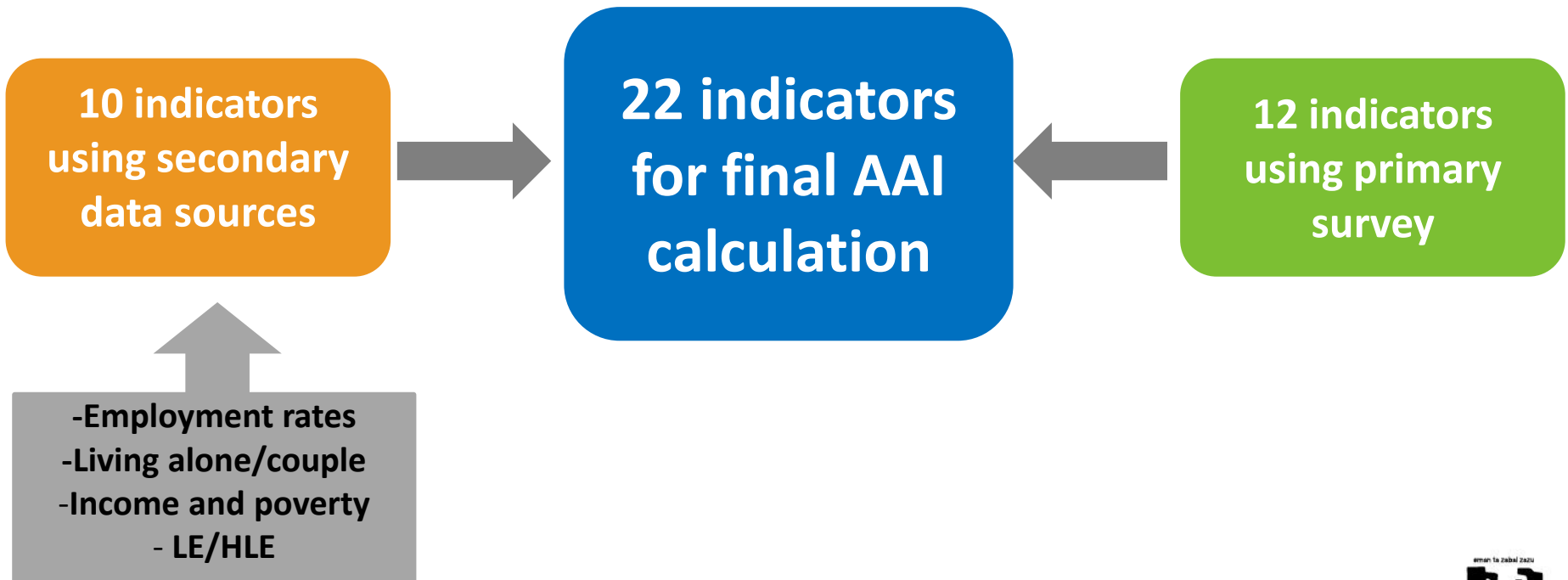- After evaluating the accuracy of all the indicators, we decided to use a combined methodology

| 10 indicators using secondary data sources | → | **22 indicators for final AAI calculation** | ← | 12 indicators using primary survey |

-Employment rates
-Living alone/couple
-Income and poverty
- LE/HLE

| Table: Source of indicators: orange=> secondary; green=> primary |
|---|
| 1.1. Employment rate for the age group 55-59 |
| 1.2. Employment rate for the age group 60 a 64 |
| 1.3. Employment rate for the age group 64 a 69 |
| 1.4. Employment rate for the age group70 a 74 |
| TOTAL EMPLOYMENT |
| 2.1. % of older population aged 55+ providing unpaid voluntary work through the organizations |
| 2.2. % of older population aged 55+ providing care to their children, grandchildren (at least once a week) |
| 2.3. % of older population aged 55+ providing care to elderly or disabled relatives (at least once a week) |
| 2.4. % of older population aged 55+ taking part in the activities of meeting of a trade union, a political party or political action group |
| TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY |
| 3.1. % of people aged 55 years and older undertaking physical exercise or sport at least 5 times a week |
| 3.2. % of people aged 55 years and older who report no unmet need for medical and dental examination or treatment during the last 12 months |
| 3.3. % of people aged 75 years and older who live in a single household alone or in a couple household |
| 3.4. The relative median income ratio is defined as the ratio of the median equivalised disposable income of people aged above 65 to the median equivalised disposable income of those aged below 65 |
| 3.5. % of people aged => 65 who are not at risk of poverty |
| 3.6. % of people aged => 65 who are not severely materially deprived |
| 3.7. % of people aged=> 55 who are not worried about becoming a victim of violent crime |
| 3.8. % of people aged 55 to 74 who stated that they received education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey |
| TOTAL INDEPENDENT AND SECURE LIVING |
| 4.1 Remaining life expectancy achievement of 50 years at age 55 |
| 4.2. % of healthy life years in the remaining life expectancy at age 55 |
| 4.3. Mental well-being in people =>55 |
| 4.4. % of people aged 55-74 using the internet at least once a week. |
| 4.5. % of people aged 55 or more that meet socially with friends, relatives or colleagues several times a week or every day. |
| 4.6. % of people aged 55-74 with upper secondary or tertiary educational attainment. |
| TOTAL CAPACITY FOR ACTIVE AGEING |
| ACTIVE AGEING INDEX |

Figure. AAI results for European countries and Biscay
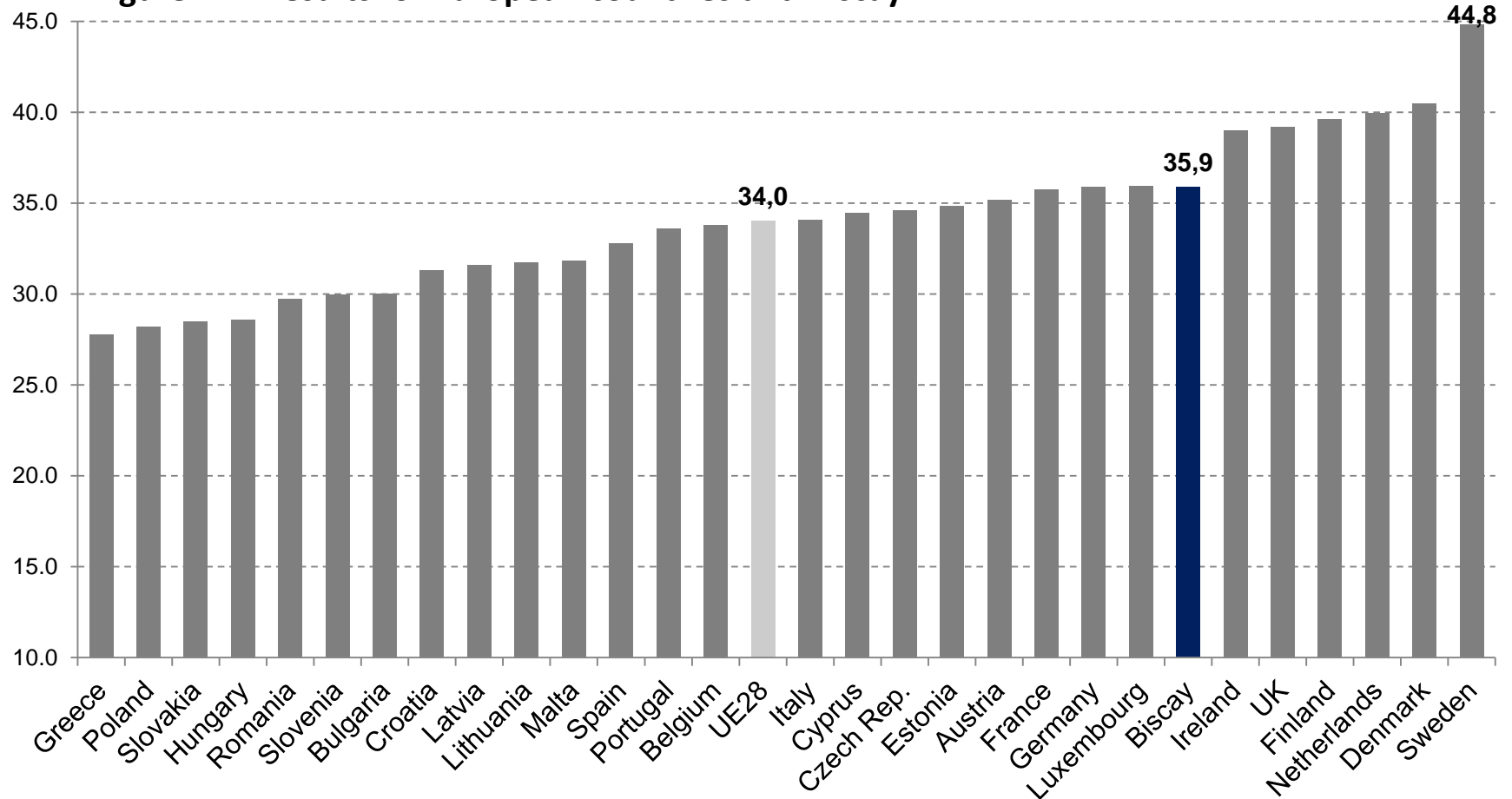
- Biscay´s value is above the European average, but almost 10 points below the Swedish score
- It shares position with Germany and Luxemburg

Figure . AAI results by domain in Biscay, EU28 and EU27
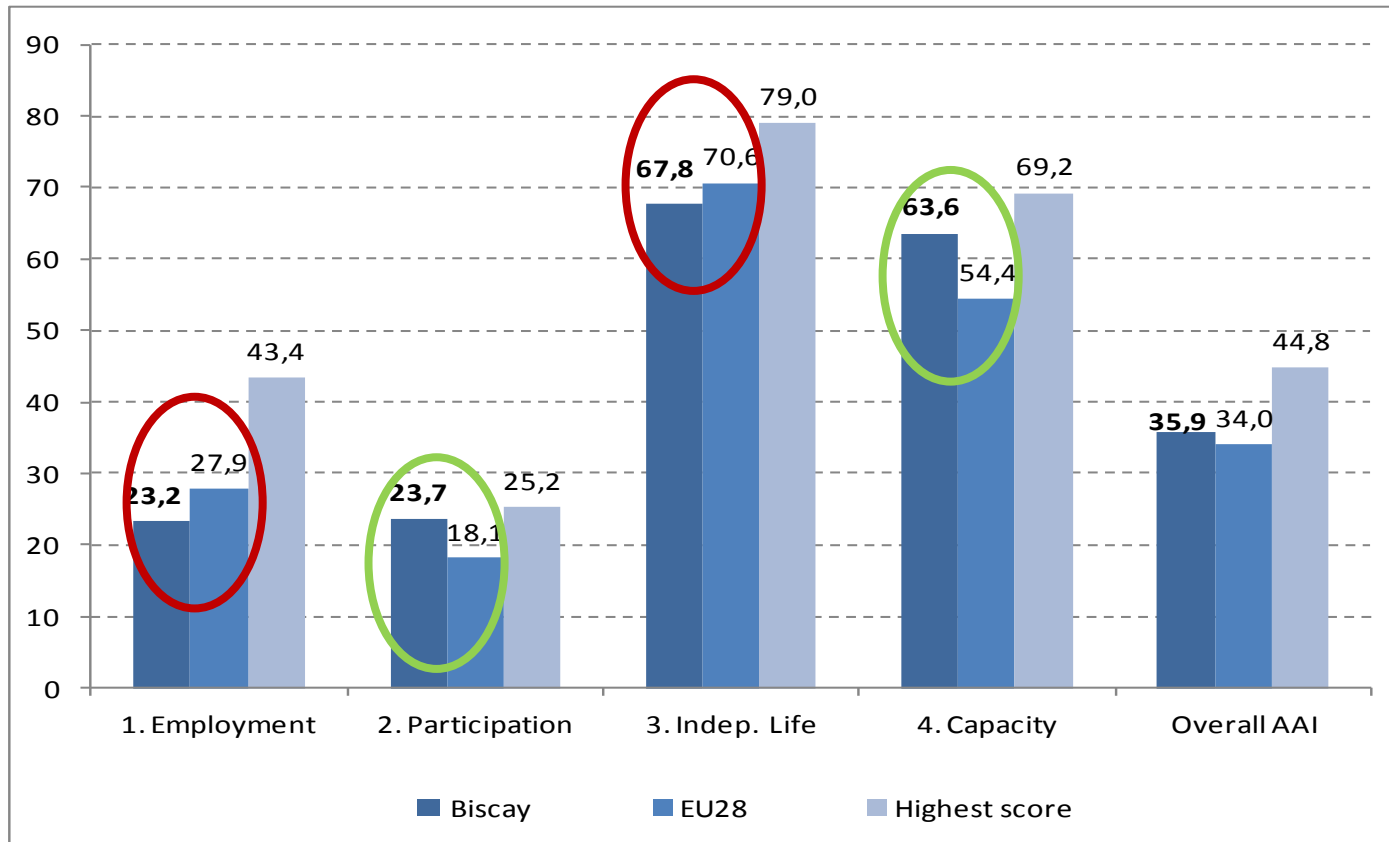
- Biscay´s values are higher than the European average in Capacity and Participation (in this domain it almost reaches the highest value of Europe: Ireland)
- The value is lower than the European average in Employment and Independent living.

Results for each indicator and dimension in Biscay, EU28 average and the country with the highest score

	Biscay	EU28	Highest score
1.1. Employment rate for the age group 55-59	58,7	62,2	82,0 Sweden
1.2. Employment rate for the age group 60 a 64	30,4	31,6	64,2 Sweden
1.3. Employment rate for the age group 64 a 69	2,5	11,6	27,0 Estonia
1.4. Employment rate for the age group70 a 74	1,2	6,1	20,4 Romania
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	**23,2**	**27,9**	**43,4 Sweden**
2.1. % of older population aged 55+ providing unpaid voluntary work through the organizations	20,0	14,8	32,7 Austria
2.2. % of older population aged 55+ providing care to their children, grandchildren (at least once a week)	37,4	32,5	53,7 Italy
2.3. % of older population aged 55+ providing care to elderly or disabled relatives (at least once a week)	21,5	12,9	17,1 Finland
2.4. % of older population aged 55+ taking part in the activities of meeting of a trade union, a political party or political action group	14,7	12,0	26,5 Sweden
TOTAL PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY	**23,7**	**18,1**	**25,2 Ireland**
3.1. % of people aged 55 years and older undertaking physical exercise or sport at least 5 times a week	54,3	15,6	48,9 Finland
3.2. % of people aged 55 years and older who report no unmet need for medical and dental examination or treatment during the last 12 months	76,7	88,2	97,7 Netherland
3.3. % of people aged 75 years and older who live in a single household alone or in a couple household	54,2	84,2	99,5 Denmark
3.4. The relative median income ratio is defined as the ratio of the median equivalised disposable income of people aged above 65 to the median equivalised disposable income of those aged below 65	76,8	86,7	110,2 Luxemburg
3.5. % of people aged => 65 who are not at risk of poverty	90,8	93,0	98,6 Czech Rep
3.6. % of people aged => 65 who are not severely materially deprived	94,1	90,0	100,0 Luxemburg
3.7. % of people aged=> 55 who are not worried about becoming a victim of violent crime	83,7	69,3	94,6 Slovenia
3.8. % of people aged 55 to 74 who stated that they received education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey	16,9	4,5	22,9 Denmark
TOTAL INDEPENDENT AND SECURE LIVING	**67,8**	**70,6**	**79,0 Denmark**
4.1 Remaining life expectancy achievement of 50 years at age 55	60,2	53,8	59,4 France
4.2. % of healthy life years in the remaining life expectancy at age 55	61,9	53,2	76,1 Sweden
4.3. Mental well-being in people =>55	87,9	64,6	87,3 Denmark
4.4. % of people aged 55-74 using the internet at least once a week.	46,4	40,8	78,0 Sweden
4.5. % of people aged 55 or more that meet socially with friends, relatives or colleagues several times a week or every day.	67,7	49,0	73,6 Portugal
4.6. % of people aged 55-74 with upper secondary or tertiary educational attainment.	33,1	59,7	84,3 Czech Rep
TOTAL CAPACITY FOR ACTIVE AGEING	**63,5**	**54,4**	**69,2 Sweden**
ACTIVE AGEING INDEX	**35,9**	**34,0**	**44,8 Sweden**

Specifically:

- **Employment:** Biscay´s values are especially lower in the population aged 64 and over.

- **Participation:** indicators about voluntary work and taking care were clearly higher in Biscay than EU average.

- **Independent Living**: highest value for physical exercise in Europe, while population living alone or in couple was markedly lower.

- **Capacity**: high scores for life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at age 55, and also for mental health and frequency of meetings with other people. Population with upper secondary/tertiary education was clearly lower in Biscay

Main findings and conclusions

- The relative better position of Biscay comparing to the rest of the countries was evident in the Participation domain

  - The Basque Country is positioned among the regions with highest activity in active membership in Europe[1,2]

- Fewer people living alone or in couple could be due to the strong familistic ideology and a family-centred welfare system in southern Europe

- Lower employment rates in those above 65 could be due to the productive structure of Biscay (high % of manual workers who took advantage of early retirement policies in the 90s until nowadays).

- Later universalization of education in Spain and also in Biscay explains a lower proportion of older people with secondary/tertiary education.

1. Valencia JF. Cohen EH. Hermosilla D. Social trust and political protest. The mediating role of the value of Power Distance. Psicologia Política. 2010. 40:61-80

2. Neira I. Portela M. Vieira E. Social capital and growth in European Regions. Regional and Sectoral Economic Studies. 2010. Vol. 10-2
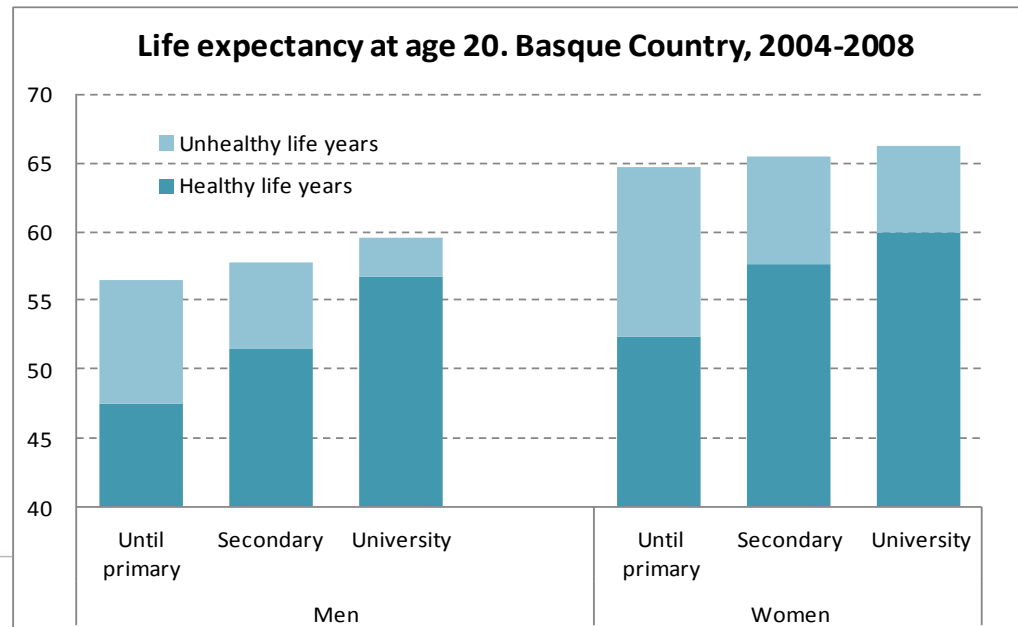
Methodological and political challenges

1. Even if a regional Institute of Statistics supplies data for the Basque Country (EUSTAT), no secondary statistical data is available for this local area -a province of a region inside a country-, with sufficient sample size and level of comparability.

2. On the contrary, most of the competencies regarding ageing (including active ageing) are located at province level, which generates an important mismatch between the lack of reliable and high quality data and the place where policies are implemented.

3. In highly decentralized countries such as Spain, the European Commission- Eurostat should encourage existing regional institutes of statistics to offer comparable data, as with national institutes, where European surveys are directly applied. These data should also be representative for smaller areas within the regions (cities).

What do we propose to advance in a better calculation of the index in Biscay?

1. To further validate the results we got based on the survey, comparing them with other data sources and to explore the reasons explaining some of the differences among indicators

2. To calculate again the index in 2016, using the same survey design

3. To incorporate the perspective of social inequality, analyzing more specific subgroups defined by gender, socioeconomic position or living in smaller areas within the province

Life expectancy at age 20. Basque Country, 2004-2008

- Unhealthy life years
- Healthy life years

Men: Until primary, Secondary, University
Women: Until primary, Secondary, University

What do we propose to advance in a better calculation of the AAI in Biscay?

- To explore which are the areas where the provincial government should go in depth to improve the results of the index, incorporating citizens´ opinions about the most important dimensions in the AAI.

- Selection of an indicator /area of interest where we are performing worse than the average to design local interventions to improve it, and also identify some area of good practice in Biscay to promote it in the province.

Regional level as an opportunity more than a problematic level for the extension of the AAI

Thank you!

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