

STRENGTHENING THE AAI MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

AN ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

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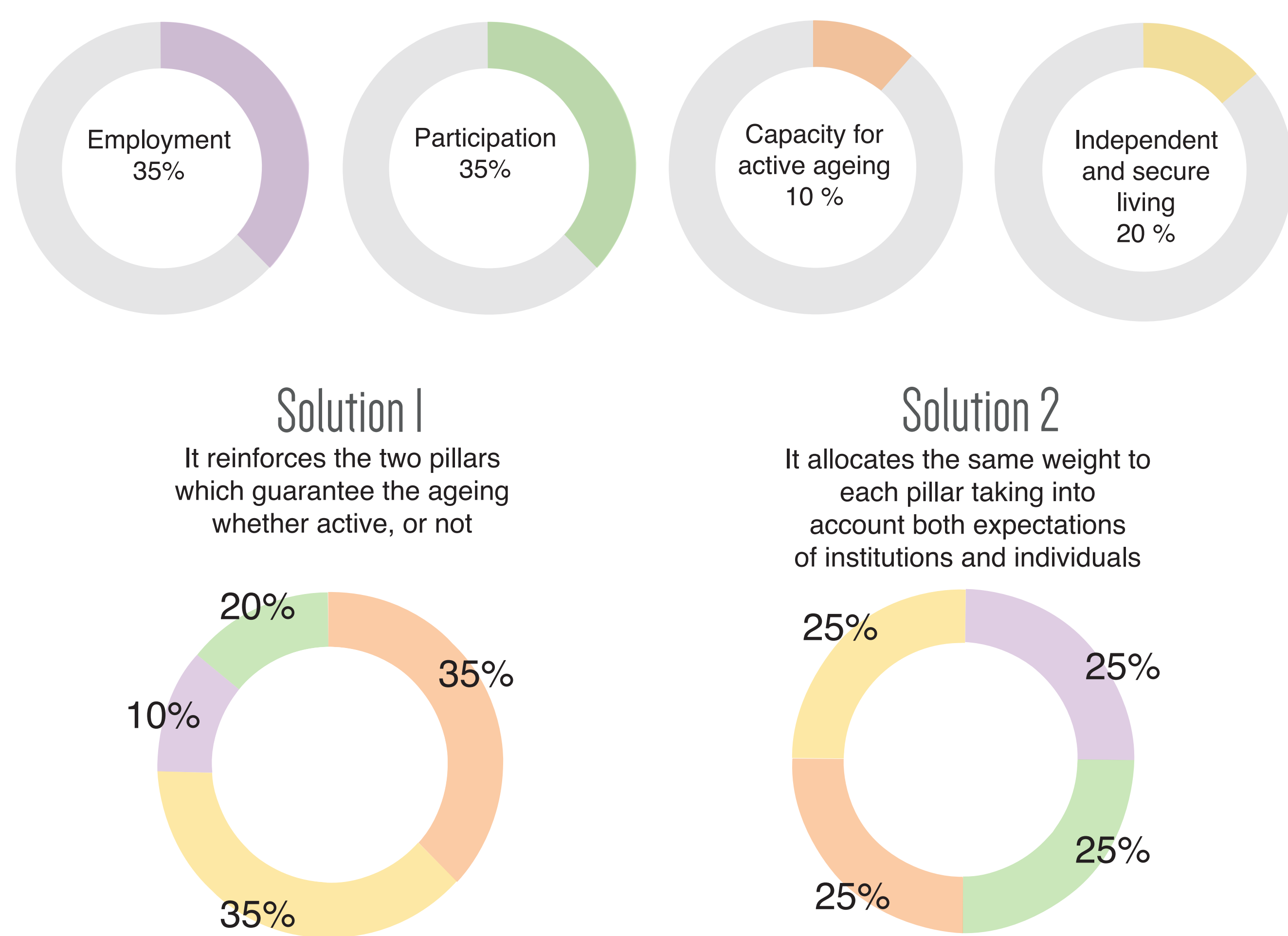
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE AAI CONCEPT TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

OBJECTIVE

This poster aims to contribute to the discussion of the dimensions present in the constitution of the Active Ageing Index considering its proposed goals and the concept of Active Ageing. Trying to enhance the AAI appears now more than ever important. Although the active ageing policy seems to be part of a new management perspective, it still seems to lead to various sometimes contradictory interpretations.

- Proposal of a broad approach in order to understand the existence of different paths of life and different ageing experiences;
- Adoption of a bottom-up combined with a top-down approach to take into account the various political and cultural situations as a better way to reach the goals edited by the policymakers and assure acceptance of policies;
- Consider cultural diversity as a base to Active Ageing - the way life has been lived has a strong effect on the way ageing could be challenged. In addition to cultural diversity, there are also strong political differences leading to various system of welfare state within Europe;
- Integrate regional differences in the AAI -there are contrasts and regional aspects hidden or that disappear when the national indicators are considered and their weights cannot certainly jeopardize the principle of equity.

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS

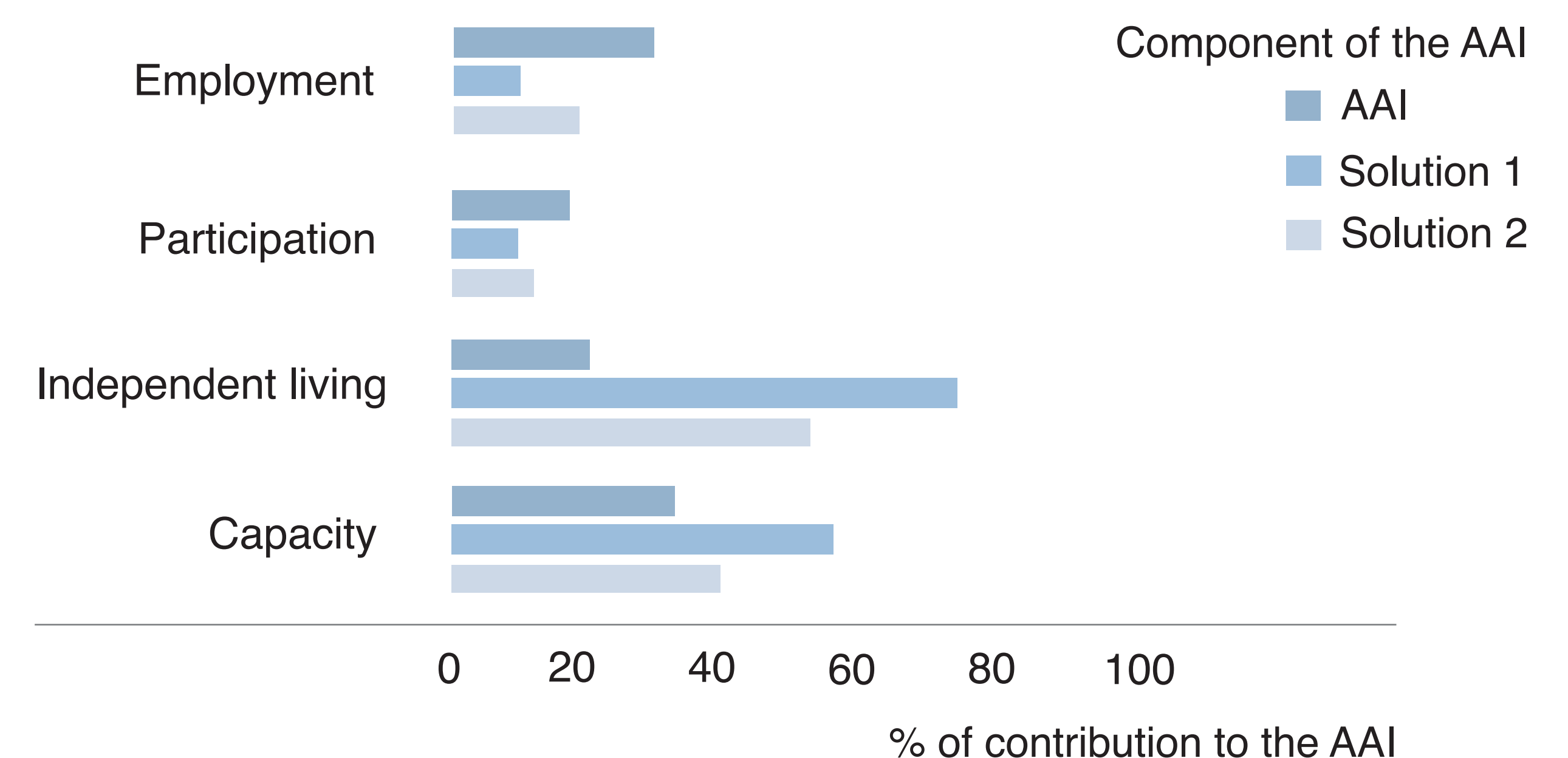


Figure 1. Contribution of each component to the AAI according to the actual AAI balance and the one of solutions 1 and 2

COUNTRY RANKING	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Denmark	Germany	Estonia	Ireland	Greece	Spain	France	Italy	Cyprus	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Hungary	Malta	Netherlands	Austria	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovenia	Slovakia	Finland	Sweden	United Kingdom
AAI	14	23	11	2	9	16	3	24	17	12	15	7	22	18	8	25	19	5	10	27	13	20	21	26	6	1	4
SOLUTION 1	9	22	12	2	11	20	4	24	16	8	13	15	27	19	7	21	14	3	10	25	18	23	17	26	5	1	6
NUMBER OF PLACES GAINED OR LOST	5	1	-1	0	-2	-4	-1	0	1	4	2	-8	-5	-1	1	4	5	2	0	2	-5	-3	4	0	1	0	-2
SOLUTION 2	13	22	12	2	8	17	4	25	16	10	14	11	24	20	7	23	18	3	9	27	15	21	19	26	6	1	5
NUMBER OF PLACES GAINED OR LOST	1	1	-1	0	1	-1	-1	-1	1	2	1	-4	-2	-2	1	2	1	2	1	0	-2	-1	2	0	0	0	-1

Table 1. Ranking of the countries considering their active ageing capacity according to the actual AAI balance and the one of the situations 1 and 2

CONCLUSIONS

From the data obtained by redefining the weights, it can be seen that the ordering/ranking of the various countries, compared to AAI data, shows more variations in the first solution and doesn't change substantially its positioning on the overall performance index in the second solution. Thus, it appears to be important, rather than considering each dimension separately, to meet the overall result, taking into account the need to balance the expectations of the elderly and the diversity of contexts.

The AAI is both a challenge and an opportunity for sustaining the active ageing paradigm:

- A challenge- by affirming a comprehensive multidimensional concept in order to boost participation and the empowerment of the elderly;
- An opportunity- for its ability to trigger the conditions to promote such change.

Indeed, the balances of weightings inside the four components should also be reorganized in order to give more importance to the fields matching the expectations of elderly such as the ones related to independent living and capacities. Such a work could nevertheless have been done without first questioning the expectations linked to AA of the elderly themselves- partly depending on their cultural differences by developing the studies in this growing field.

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