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Objectives

With the aim to develop a Strategy of Active Aging, launched by the Department of Employment and Social Policy of the Basque Country, which steers social policies in this area from 2015 to 2020, a survey on the living conditions of the elderly has been carried out. It includes indispensable indicators needed to build the AAI of the Basque Country and its provinces.

The calculation of the AAI in the Basque Country has been carried out with two goals: the first and most important would be oriented to detect those areas in which it is necessary to influence public policies in order to further promote the quality of life of the citizens; the second is to perform a comparative and European state which will place us on the status of the issue.

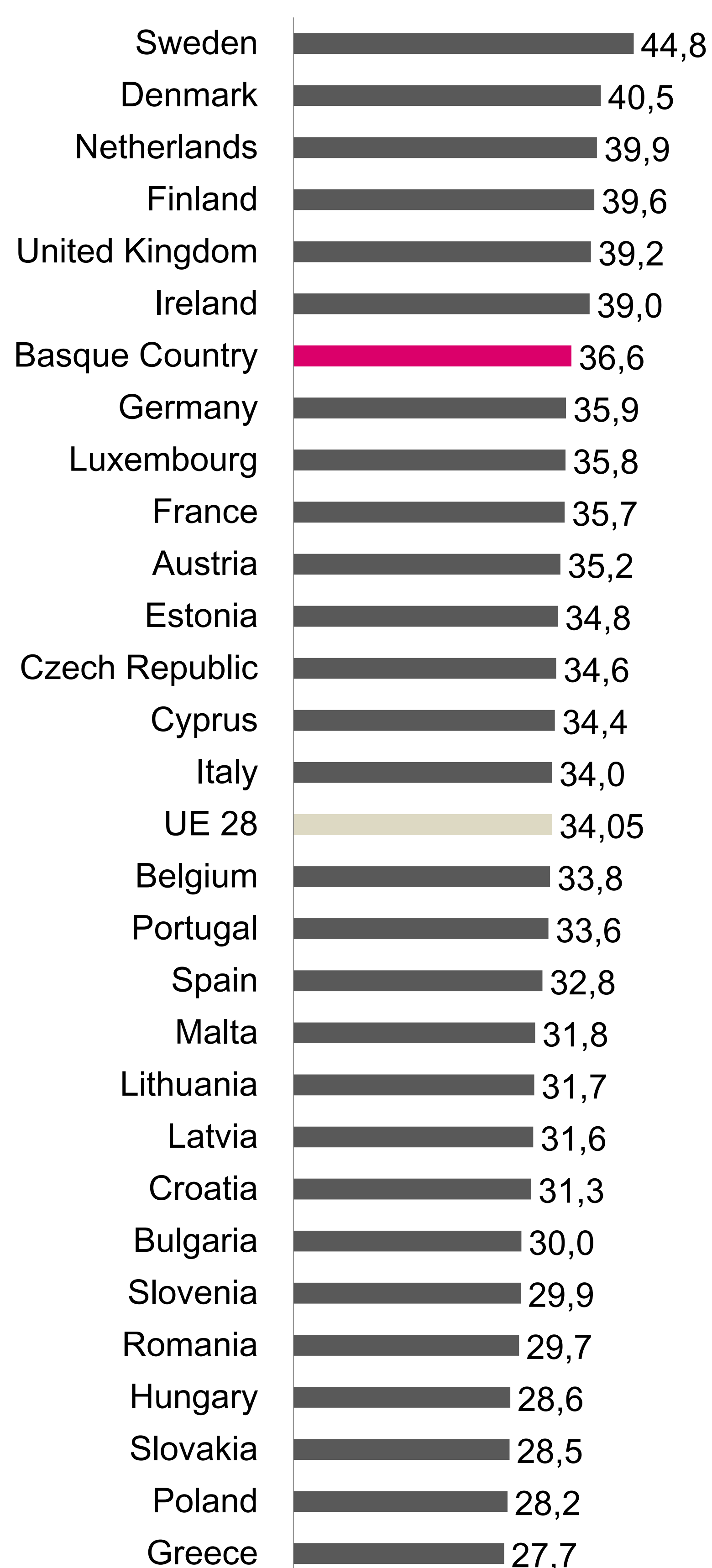
Results

Overall Index

The calculation of the global index in the Basque Country places Euskadi to the 7th post of the ranking of the 28 European countries analyzed.

The score (36.6) is greater than the average score in the AAI in Europe (34.05). This position places the Basque Country in a very good situation, taking into account that is placed ahead of countries such as Germany, Austria or France with high degrees of welfare and social protection.

Overall AAI



Domains

Employment.- The Basque Country is ranked in the 15th position, slightly below the average of the 28 (27.9) and slightly above from Spain position (19th).

Participation in Society.- BC is located in a 9th place with a score above the average of the 28 (18.1).

Independent Healthy and Secure Living.- We are in 14th position, standing slightly above average score of the 28 countries surveyed (70.6).

Capacity for Active and Healthy Aging.- the Basque Country is the second best score of the 28 European countries, only stepping through Sweden.

Methodology

The calculation of the AAI in the Basque Country was performed through different statistical sources: the National Institute of Statistics of the Basque Country (Eustat) and the Department of Employment and Social Policy (DESP).

In addition, a cross-sectional study of the Basque Country community-dwelling population aged 55 years or more has been performed (The Living Conditions Survey 55+ in the Basque Country, 2014). The sample design was multi-staged. Clusters (census tracts) were randomly selected proportional to its population over 55 years in strata defined by historic territories and size of habitat. Households and one individual per household were randomly selected. The final sample included 2,469 subjects. The survey was structured on nine thematic topics: sociodemographic data; household composition; family networks and exchange of care; housing, environment and friendliness; activities and active ageing, health and dependency, retirement, well-being and social resources.

Statistic Sources	AAI domains and indicators
Eustat	1. Employment: Labour Force Survey (PRA, 2013) 4. Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing: Mortality register (2013), Health Survey of the Basque Country (ESCAV, 2013) and the statistical operation Survey on the Information Society-ESI-Families (ESIF, 2014).
Statistics Department of DESP	3. Independent, healthy and secure living: Survey on poverty and social inequalities (EDPS, 2014) 3.4. Relative median income 3.5. No poverty risk
DESP - The Living Conditions Survey 55+ (2014)	2. Participation in Society 2.1 Voluntary activities 2.2 Care to children, grandchildren 2.3 Care to older adults 2.4 Political participation 3. Independent, healthy and secure living 3.1 Physical exercise 3.2 Access to health and dental care 3.3 Independent living arrangements 3.6 No severe material deprivation 3.7 Physical safety 3.8 Lifelong learning 4. Capacity and enabling environment for active ageing 4.3 Mental well-being 4.5 Social connectedness 4.6 Educational attainment of older persons

Conclusions

The results of the Basque Country are very successful. In almost all the domains we are in a good position. In response to the scores in the fourth domain, it should be noted that the Basque Country is emerging as one of the best territories for active and healthy aging.