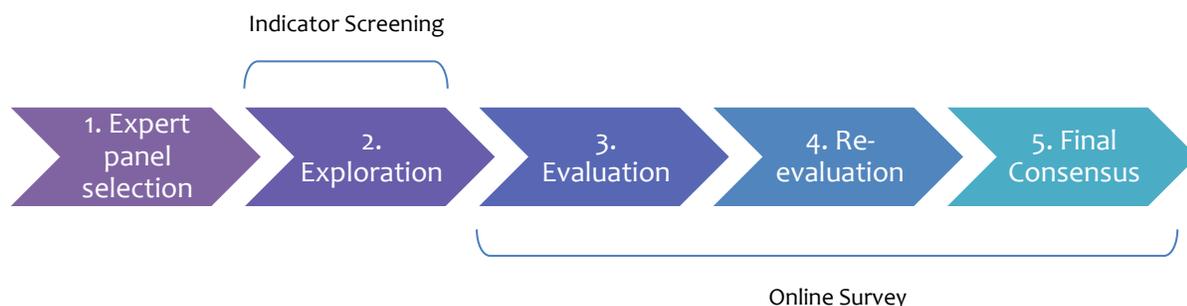


Delphi Methodological Summary

5 Phases of the HaPAI Delphi Process



Note: Adapted from Vázquez-Ramos, Leahy, and Estrada Hernández (2007)

Phase 1: Expert panel selection

The HaPAI Delphi process involved multiple panels based on the three pillars of the strategy - Security, Participation and Healthy Ageing. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the NPAS pillars, panel members were invited to 'opt-in' meaning they were asked to select all pillar(s) of the strategy that are relevant to their area of expertise and experience. All panel participants were asked to contribute to the cross-cutting areas of Attitudes to Ageing and Accessing Information in each round.

Inviting experts to participate in the consensus process involved the following steps:

- Identifying appropriate categories of experts and stakeholders based on submissions to the NPAS;
- Populating a list of experts and stakeholder groups with names derived from: submission on the NPAS, publications and academic research on one or more of the research pillars and organisations, advisory panels and local authorities related to ageing, networks of older people such as councils and alliances;
- Creating sub-lists of experts and stakeholders based on the NPAS action areas; and
- Inviting experts to participate and/or nominate other experts in their field.

Phase 2: Exploration - generating items for the first round

The Delphi survey rounds were preceded by a process of developing, reviewing and screening a long-list of potential indicators. This initial long-list encompassed the goals, objectives and action areas of the NPAS and was formulated using existing [data sources](#).

The long-list comprised 144 indicators across: Participation (37); Healthy Ageing (62); Security (31); Attitudes to Ageing (10); and Information Access (4). Each indicator in the long-list was then screened by the HaPAI team before including them in the Delphi survey. The HaPAI team developed an indicator [screening tool](#) for this purpose which was informed by the criteria set out by the Office for National Statistics (UK) and the Healthy Information and Quality -Authority (HIQA; 2013). Results of the screening process are summarised in table below.

Table 1: Changes to indicator set as a result of the screening process

	Participation	Healthy Ageing	Security	Attitudes to Ageing	Information Access	Specific At-Risk Populations	Total
Total indicators prior to screening	37	62	31	10	4	0	144
Excluded due to low quality	0	-2	-2	-1	-1	0	6
Removed (duplication)	-6	-9	-3	-1	-1	0	20
Moved to another domain	-4	-6	0	0	0	0	10
Added*	0	+1	+1	+3	+5	+5	15
Total indicators post-screening	27	46	27	11	7	5	123

*Items were added at this stage based on new or forthcoming data and where data gaps were identified in the preliminary report.

Phase 3-5: Evaluation, Re-evaluation and Final Consensus

Phases 3 to 5 of the process involved an online survey, taking place over three rounds. In each round, participants were asked to review and comment on both the individual indicators and indicator sets aimed at capturing specific domains. With a number of analytical pitfalls in mind (Hasson and Keaney, 2011), several data collection and analytic strategies were adopted for the HaPAI Delphi evaluation, re-evaluation and final consensus phases.

Table 2: Method to enhance rigour in Delphi

Phase	Strategy
Questionnaire development	Avoid ambiguity and conditional statements
	Avoid lengthy statements
	Pre-test questionnaires and conduct independent audits
Analysis	Set the consensus level <i>ex ante</i>
	Test for stability within groups between rounds, using appropriate statistics
	Use inferential statistics to analyse both consensus and dissent
End of process	Base stopping criteria on the presence of consensus with stability

Sources: Von der Gracht (2011); Hader (2002); Dajani et al. (1979); Chaffin and Talley (1980); Schiebe et al. (1975); Spinelli (1983); Loveridge (2002); Helmer (1967); Salancik et al. (1971); Lindstone and Turoff (1975).

At the beginning of each round, participants were given [summary information](#) on each indicator that they would be asked to review. In each online survey round, participants reviewed indicators individually, by domains (e.g. housing) and by pillar (e.g. security) under one or more of the following headings:

- Importance to positive ageing
- Utility (needed and useful to national stakeholders)
- Ease of understanding
- Ranking (domains and indicators)
- Balance, coherence and completeness of the indicator sets

A compulsory response for each question was required to ensure a complete data set (Cantrell and Lupinacci, 2007). The questions included in each round were informed by the results of the previous round(s). A summary of all indicator assessment criteria that were included in each round is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Summary of HaPAI Delphi survey content

Assessment Criteria	Delphi Rounds		
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Indicators			
Important to positive ageing	✓	✓ (new indicators only)	
Needed and useful to national stakeholders	✓		
Easy to understand	✓	✓ (new and revised indicators only)	
Ranking (indicators within domains)	✓		
Pillars and Domains			
Complete picture of each pillar in Ireland	✓	✓	✓
Complete picture of each domain in Ireland		✓	✓
Open ended feedback (after each domain)		✓	✓
Open ended feedback (after each pillar)	✓	✓	
Ranking (domains)	✓		
Agreement with set of key indicators			✓

Click [here](#) to find more detail on the Delphi technique with reference to the HaPAI consensus process