



Variable X

Do ≥ 3 cohorts have data on this variable?

NO

post-harmonization not possible
(example: gait pattern only available in ActiFE and LASA)

YES

Look for common denominator:
- is the same concept measured?

NO

post-harmonization not possible
(example: social participation:
objective/subjective measures and differences in classification across cohorts)

YES

Look for common denominator:
- are the response categories overlapping?

NO

Create harmonization algorithm by matching the categories and allowing for loss of information
(example: physical activity, yes/no)

YES

Create harmonization algorithm with as little loss of information as possible

High quality harmonised variables:
Demographic variables
Socio-economic status
Chronic diseases
Anthropometry
Physical performance
Grip strength
Pain
Self perceived health
Hospitalization