

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: IS1409

STSM title: The profile of 50 plus Europeans in a context of extended working lives from a feminist political economy of ageing perspective. a multiple correspondence analysis with Share data

STSM start and end date: 25/09/2017 25/10/2017

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PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

(max.200 words)

Women face structural disadvantage while seeking to prolong their professional career and maintain themselves in the labour market. The design and implementation of labour market and EWL policies, have been criticized for not attending to the specificity of the working careers of older women and in some cases enhancing their social, economic and cultural disadvantage. Policies have not always accounted for their interrupted working careers, lower pay rates, precariousness, redundancy or withdrawal from the labour market as homemakers or caregivers. Despite being a structural phenomenon, there are different levels of gender inequality among European countries, with some being more gender equal than others. However, there is little information about the realities of European women aged between 50 and 65 years on aspects that interfere with employment trajectories and therefore the extension of working lives, such as class, exposure to precariousness, health status, and care responsibilities. Another aspect that should be considered is the way that these profiles may have been affected by the recent economic crisis. This STSM aimed at 1) pursuing training with experts at the CNAV who have similar scientific interests, knowledge of SHARE data and expertise with MCA (Multiple correspondence analysis) and other statistical techniques; 2) establishing collaborative work with researchers at CNAV in order to define profiles of middle age European women and 3) structuring at least one paper to be submitted to a peer reviewed journal and an extended report on the empirical findings that could be used under the Genderewel COSTaction aiming at advancing knowledge about the potential consequences of EWL for older women in Europe.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

(max.500 words)

Several steps have been taken in order to fulfill the purpose of this STSM. My research activities were developed at the CNAV in close contact with Dr Jim Ogg, Dr Julie Rochut et Ms. Sylvie Renault. I met each of them every week, several times a week. A plan was established for each of week of my stay, that was fulfilled in most part.

Week one was devoted to the refinement of the research questions, hypothesis and variables and the establishment of a working programme. One of the most important tasks is the constructing of the final databases and defining the appropriate methodologies for the data analysis. Due to the complexity of the SHARE database structure, this task has been the most challenging. As Dr Jim Ogg has been involved in the development of SHARE and has extensive experience in managing databases and programing in SPSS, his guidance has been key in order to overcome these obstacles. Also during this first week,

discussions with Dr Julie Rochut established that a work history panel could be used for a second paper using a different technique. During this first week I also conducted several analyses on unemployment and labour market participation/exclusion rates for 16 European countries since 2004.

For the second week, a preliminary database was defined and a first approach to the data was conducted using Multiple Correspondence Analysis. I proceeded to establish the databases for the samples involved in the analysis and the sample sizes and characteristics were defined for each Wave. Several plots were generated to illustrate the changes of labour market participation across time and explore the differences between gender and countries.

During the third week I continued with the programming in order to retrieve information on labour market status in Waves 1,2,4,5 and 6 of SHARE. The filtered questions and missing data structure was established and handled. Syntax for the establishment of several components of social class were also designed as well as the identification of other variables of interest, namely gender inequality. This work led to a refined version of the analytical model and to a fresher theoretical approach to gender inequality and its relationship with social class. The research questions and the research design were also redefined according to several limitations found in the data and arising from the discussions with the Cnav researchers.

The focus of the final week was a formal presentation of the project and its preliminary results to the Cnav team and the establishment of strategies to continue working collectively on this project and on a plan for a future publication.

For each week of this STSM there was a report of activities, that also included the structure of a theoretical and an empirical paper as well as descriptive statistics on the how labour market participation rates have changed, since 2004, for men and women in all countries included in SHARE as well as a preliminary plot for the MCA.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

During this STSM I developed a series of syntaxes in SPSS that allow me to generate databases for all Waves of SHARE that provide information about labour market status, employment history and reasons for labour market exclusion, as well as on health variables for the countries included in SHARE. I have also compiled several syntaxes that I could use to compute a series of composed variables such as social class and exposure to precariousness.

There is already a first draft on the empirical data based on the weekly reports which includes a theoretical and conceptual background, research questions, hypothesis, definition of variables and a methods section. This first draft also includes the characteristics of the sample, labour market participation rates and a preliminary plot with an MCA that was undertaken. It was also possible to determine the extent to which 50 plus men and women are excluded from the labour market through long term unemployment, early retirement and homemaking due to being laid off, or closure of the workplace. There is also a broad overview of the gender differences of labour market participation/exclusion in different gender regimes and in the context of different levels of unemployment, as well as on how labour market participation has changed in recent years given the climate of economic crises, globalization and EWL.

The data showed that for women aged between 50-65 years, employment rates vary from a low 26% in Italy in 2004 (almost 51% of Italian men at the same age group have a job in that same year), to 83% in Sweden in 2015 (85% for Swedish men that same year). The lower value for women is nearly half the lowest employment for men observed in Croatia in 2015 (43%). The overall trend from 2004-2015 has been an increase in participation rates in all countries, but employment rate growth is particularly relevant in countries such as Poland, Estonia and Portugal before and after the economic crisis. On average, 54% of women in the total sample were employed in 2015, compared with 64% of men for the same period.

While examining several countries to compare the position of women in the labour market, before (2007) and after the economic crisis (2015), we find different patterns for Social Democrat (Sweden), Conservative (France), Southern (Italy) and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic) countries (see figure below). For all countries there is an overall increase of the proportion of employed women, although this growth is particularly relevant for Italy (17%). It is also in Italy where we see an increase of unemployed women, as well as in France, to a lower extent. Unemployment is almost inexistent in Sweden and is on the decrease in the Czech Republic. As for forms of labour market exclusion related to homemaking, there is a downward trend all of the countries, except for the Czech Republic, which has seen more women among this age group as homemakers. For Sweden, Italy and the Czech Republic there is also a decrease in the proportion of retired women, especially for Italy, where this is nearly 19%, whereas in France there is an actual increase of women retirees.

These results, as well as the preliminary inferential statistics, have led to the formulation of several other questions and the refinement of the analytical model.

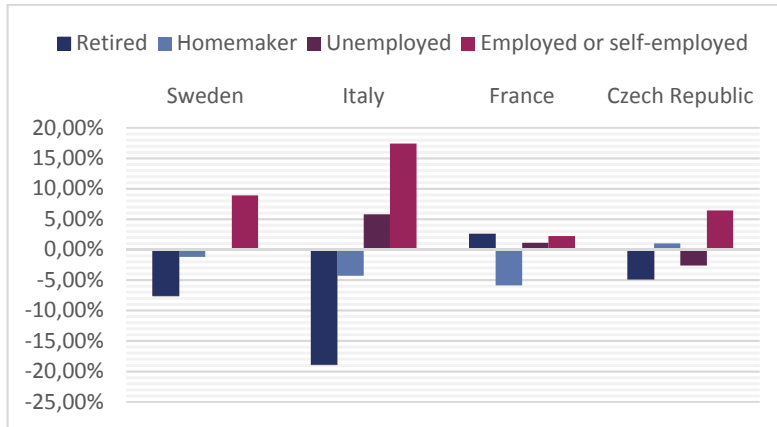


Fig 1. Oscillation from Wave 2(2007) to Wave 6 (2015) in labour market participation for women in 4 different countries

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

During this STSM it was established that there would be support/co-authorship of a theoretical paper as well for an empirical one.
 Collaboration in the development of another research project was established which will proceed in the nearfuture.