

## **Report**

### **Short-term scientific mission at Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam**

**Title:** Gender and health impacts of policies extending working life in western countries.

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### **Summary**

The short-term scientific mission took place from 8 to 20 April. The four key objectives of my visit at the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management were: (1) to finalize a research article and submit it to a high-impact journal; (2) to collaborate with experienced researchers and develop my professional network of potential coauthors; (3) to learn innovative techniques and methodologies on employment trajectories, gender and later-life health; and (4) to disseminate my previous and current work during formal and informal meetings. My scientific mission meets these purposes.

### **Description of the work carried out during the STSM**

During my visit, I attended the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management to work Dr. Thijs Van den Broek (Assistant Professor). In collaboration with him, I developed a draft of the research paper entitled “The more the merrier? The causal effect of high fertility on later life loneliness in Eastern Europe”. In the paper, we used an innovative approach to identify the causal effect of family size on later-life mental health and examine whether such effect is explained by gendered employment histories. More specifically, we exploited the sex-composition of the first-born children and parents’ preferences for mixed-sex offspring as sources of exogenous variation in having an additional child. The same method was used to examine employment outcomes of women. Working in close contact with Dr. Thijs Van den Broek offered me the occasion to understand deeply these innovative techniques and apply them in an empirical study.

A preliminary version of the abovementioned article was presented during the Journal Club session at the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management. In that occasion, I was introduced to Prof. Anna Nieboer and other researchers working at the School. I received useful

comments and suggestions to improve our manuscript. After having revised the paper, I and Dr. Thijs Van den Broek submitted it to a high-impact journal.

During the second week of my visit in Rotterdam, I presented my earlier work in the NIDI Brown Bag Seminar at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April), where I had the occasion to meet experienced researchers and professors. I received many comments about methodologies on longitudinal analysis and employment trajectories. I also spent time in social activities to build relationships and expand my professional network of potential coauthors.

During my visit, I had the chance to be involved in two projects. Firstly, Dr. Thijs Van den Broek and I planned to develop a research article on divorce, employment and later-life health. The purpose of the paper is to analyze how marital break-up can affect individuals' mental health and how this effect is moderated by employment activities. Our intent is to submit the abstract to the Divorce Conference 2019 and present our preliminary results in Florence (October 16-17). Secondly, I was involved (together with Dr. Thijs Van den Broek and Prof. Emily Grundy) in a research about grandparenthood and later-life loneliness in Eastern and Western Europe. The scope is to examine the effect of being grandparents on later-life loneliness.

Overall, the short-term scientific mission took at the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management was successful, because I had the opportunity to work with experienced researchers, learn new statistical techniques, develop my professional network and disseminate my work. I also think that my visit provided a good contribution to the exchange of ideas within the University. I enjoyed sharing my research ideas and receiving support from experts in a multidisciplinary environment.