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**Title:** Patterns of labour market exit of older workers. An analysis in the UE-27 using the EU-SILC survey

**Abstract:** Over the past two decades there have been considerable changes in the age distribution of the population in Europe. An ageing population may induce a variety of social and economic effects. Clearly a large and growing proportion of older people has implication for the social security system and can lead to dramatic changes in the labour markets. In order to foster the labour force participation of older workers, the 2010 Lisbon Agenda sets targets for the employment of older workers. In March 2001 the Stockholm European Council agreed on the aim of increasing the employment rate for the population aged 55-64 to 50%. Although many efforts have been done on this issue the target was defined as ambitious given the original starting points in many countries. Moreover the recent economic crisis that strongly hit the Union in the past two years may have slowed down the process of the achievement of the Stockholm goal.

The aim of this study is to analyze labour market participation of older workers in the EU27 Member States using the Eurostat EU-SILC survey to provide an identikit of the participants on the base of their socio-demographic characteristics (gender, educational attainment, occupation and other variables which can better characterize the participation to the labour market of older employees) and to find the possible determinants of their decision to retire from the labour market.

The analysis will focus on the labour market status of men and women aged between 55 and 69 years and will compare transition rates between labour market states in the Member States. Furthermore, we plan to use microeconometrics models to examine the determinants of withdrawing from the labour market and to examine differences among countries which we expect to exist in the labour market participation behaviour of older workers among Member States.

In addition, we will explore the reasons of those that left the labour market in order to assess the percentage of retired and early retired in the Member States. We will breakdown the analysis for the different countries in order to highlight common trend and differences among group of countries. Based on the selected indicators we will consider the application of cluster analysis techniques in order to group countries showing similar patterns.