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PART-TIME SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND THE RECONCILIATION OF FAMILY AND WORK: DO INSTITUTIONS MATTER? 19-COUNTRY STUDY (SUMMARY)

Robert Strohmeyer

University of Mannheim, strohmey@mail.ifm.uni-mannheim.de

Vartuhi Tonoyan

University of Mannheim

Rene Leicht

University of Mannheim

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SUMMARY

PART-TIME SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND THE RECONCILIATION OF FAMILY AND WORK: DO INSTITUTIONS MATTER? -19-COUNTRY STUDY-

Robert Strohmeyer, Institute for Small Business Research, University of Mannheim
Vartuhi Tonoyan, Institute for Small Business Research, University of Mannheim
Rene Leicht, Institute for Small Business Research, University of Mannheim

Principal Topic

Recent increases in women's self-employment in (most) welfare states are accompanied by the expansion of women's "atypical" or "non-standard" work (Lewis 2001). More specifically, self-employed women tend to practice *part-time work* significantly more often than men across Western, Eastern and Southern Europe (Strohmeyer & Tonoyan 2006). Against this background, an important question arises, namely why do self-employed women become increasingly engaged in part-time work, and why does the share of part-time self-employment differ across countries? To explain this, we examine *individual* as well as *institutional factors* of the self-employed women's choice of part-time work.

Method

Database is the European Labor Force Survey 2004, which is comprised of 85,000 self-employed women in 19 Western, Eastern and Southern European countries. *Heckman probit regression*, as a two stage equation model, is employed to examine individual and institutional determinants of part-time work, while correcting the sample selection bias of the entry into self-employment (Heckman 1979). The *independent variables* capture the respondent's family constitution (age, children and partner). Additionally, education, work experience, holding a second job and firm characteristics (age, size and industry) are controlled for.

Results and Implications

Confirming previous research (Boden 2001, Lohmann 2004), we show that self-employed women are likely to work part-time to meet work and family responsibilities, a result which holds true for 15 out of 19 investigated countries. Extending previous research, we show that the (marginal) family effects (child, spouse) on part-time self-employment vary, however, substantially across countries with different institutional arrangements. They are the strongest in conservative welfare states (the Netherlands, Western Germany and Austria), which largely foster a traditional male breadwinner model. In countries like France, Belgium and Eastern Germany, where governmental policies grant broad coverage of public childcare, the family effects are much weaker. In sharp contrast, the marginal family effects on part-time self-employment are the lowest in Central-Eastern European countries like Poland, Slovenia and Hungary, where institutional infrastructure and (lower) social welfare largely support a "Socialist-type" "dual-earner model" (Blossfeld & Drobnic 2002), thus rather facilitating full-time self-employment.

CONTACT: Robert Strohmeyer; Institute for Small Business Research, L9, 1-2, D-68161 Mannheim; (T): +49 621 181-2893; (F): +49 621 181-2892; strohmey@mail.ifm.uni-mannheim.de