



SUSTAINABLE WORKABILITY AND RETURN TO WORK IN THE SELF-EMPLOYED: A CONCEPTUAL MODEL

Evelien Philips, Elke Van Hoof, Jozien Elgershuizen,
Florian Rothenbücher, Ellen Loix, Lode Godderis



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

BACKGROUND

- 1/3 SE Worldwide; ~ 15% Europe
- Total number keeps increasing
- Varying numbers across Europe: eg. The Netherlands (+3%) vs. Portugal (-30%)

BACKGROUND

Differences in social security

- 25/35 EU countries: obligated sickness insurance
 - Insurance rules vary across countries: benefits, waiting periods etc.
- 10/35 EU countries: optional insurance
 - Max. 20% opt for full insurance

BACKGROUND

- 2018: 18.1 million new cancer cases worldwide
 - 25% in EU
 - 20% before age 50; 70% before age 70
 - 50% within working age
 - Relative mortality rate decreases
- RTW among SE should be an important focus

METHODS

3 previous research papers:

- Sharp, Torp, **Van Hoof**, & de Boer (2017): cancer and its impact on work among the self-employed: a need to bridge the knowledge gap
- Torp, Paraponaris, **Van Hoof**, Lindbohm, Tamminga, Alleaume, Van Campenhout, Sharp, & de Boer. (2018): work-related outcomes in self-employed cancer survivors: a European multi-country study
- **Van Hoof**, Philips, De Gieter, Sharp, de Boer, Paraponaris, Godderis, Decuman, & Torp. (2009): current knowledge on the impact of cancer and work in self-employed: a systematic literature review

→ Foundation work

RESULTS

- Varying results across Europe:
 - Differences in social security
 - Heterogeneous group
- More often:
 - Male: 90% more
 - Older: most often 25 – 49, also more often 50 – 65
 - Employed in “high risk” sectors: industry, construction, agriculture

RESULTS

- Trends among the SE:
 - Stay at work longer
 - Take less time off work
 - More often reduced working hours
- Prioritise their business instead of their health

RESULTS

- General finding: financial worry
 - Lower income
 - Less income in case of sickness absence
 - More often negative financial changes

CONCLUSIONS

Preliminary findings:

- SE should be better protected financially
- Programs should also focus on working through treatment

→ More research that focusses on SE is needed!

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