



THE NETWORKS AT TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE ROLE OF FAMILY WORKERS.

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ABSTRACT.

The family workers are persons who help, without monetary remuneration, another member of the family to run a business and therefore they fit fully in what Bourdieu (1986) called “the [households] actual or potential resources, linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships which help to reduce people social exclusion” , a significant nonmaterial dimension of poverty (Sen, 2000). A previous paper (Guagnano and Santini, 2015) highlighted the main characteristics of family workers in the European Union and the role played within households as a tool to alleviate poverty. The aim of this paper is to evaluate if , to what extent and how the role of family worker is affected by times of crisis in the European Union and more specifically across countries. The analysis is based on EU-SILC surveys data. The paper shows that in the European Union, except only for a limited number of countries, the role of family worker within family business seems to have strengthened during the recent time of economic crisis, in favour of a more active and less occasional contribution.

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