

**What Difference Does a Survey Make?  
Comparing Incomes of the 65+ in Europe Between SILC and SHARE**

Aaron Van den Heede  
University of Antwerp

Tim Goedemé  
University of Antwerp

Josefine Vanhille  
University of Antwerp

Antal Van den Bosch  
University of Antwerp

Currently, there are two important datasets which provide in-depth cross-nationally comparable information on the income and living conditions of Europe's elderly: SHARE and EU-SILC. Although a comparison of both data sources seems natural, to our knowledge EU-SILC and SHARE have not been systematically compared in terms of financial poverty and income inequality among the elderly. Given differences in sample and questionnaire design, results can be expected to differ between both datasets. Nevertheless, broadly results should converge. A comparison between a preliminary release of SHARE Wave 1 and ECHP 2001 done by Tinios and Lyberaki (2005) revealed substantial differences in poverty rates among elderly in some countries. However, since then the imputed income variables in SHARE have been revised thoroughly. As a result, a new comparison between SHARE and EU-SILC imposes itself. Therefore, we compare poverty and inequality among the elderly on the basis of net disposable household income and its main components and track reasons for deviating patterns. Starting point for this validation exercise will be the most recent SHARE dataset including income and wealth variables, namely SHARE wave 2 which found place in autumn 2006 and spring 2007. Using EU-SILC 2006/07 leaves us with 13 European countries which we can compare in terms of income distribution, poverty and income inequality.