

## An Ordered Probit Model of Live Performance Attendance for 24 EU Countries

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### Extended Abstract

Using EU-SILC data for 24 EU countries, we investigate the determinants of live performance attendance (i.e. participation and frequency of participation). Ordered probit models with and without random household effects are estimated for a sample of about 351,000 individuals for the year 2006. We find that both households' disposable income and level of education have a strong and positive impact on the probability of live performance attendance. Pupils and university students, individuals in highly densely populated areas and, to a lesser extent, women and part-time workers have a higher probability of attending live performances, while particularly older and disabled people and, to lesser extent, pensioners, unemployed, people born in Non-EU countries and persons living in large households all are determinants with lower probabilities. Finally, there are considerable cross-country differences with respect to the role of age, gender and degree of urbanisation across EU countries. In contrast, the impact of education and income does not vary much across countries. However, the effect of education and income is lower in the EU-15 countries than in the EU-10 countries, indicating that the former group of countries is more successful in reducing the disparities in cultural participation between poor and undereducated people on the one hand and rich and skilled people on the other hand. The findings that live performance attendance declines with age in the majority of countries are important for cultural policy makers. An aging population will lead to lower attendance at live performances. Therefore, in countries with a high age dependency of arts performance attendance there is a need to attract older people to attend live performances, by adapting marketing strategies or by providing vouchers for older people, for instance.