

# **The disposable income of households: an international comparison**

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The household sector covers individuals or group of individuals whose principal function is consumption. It also includes own-account workers or entrepreneurs and unincorporated partnerships producing goods and services, when their activities cannot be separated from those of their owners (in particular, they do not keep a separate set of accounts and do not have autonomy of decision). It may include a higher (the case of Italy, for example) or lower proportion of unincorporated enterprises depending on the structure of the economy. This generates quite relevant differences in the generation of primary incomes in the different countries and may impact on saving and investment rates of the households.

In the paper the most meaningful performance indicators for the Households sector in the EU countries will be compared, along the period 2000-2007. In particular the pattern of households saving rate and investment rate will be investigated, together with the tax burden. The redistribution policy through social contribution and benefits will be compared and an analysis of the composition of primary income will be provided.