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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

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Design of the study on transitions in employment, ability and motivation (STREAM)

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The objective of the Study on Transitions in Employment, Ability and Motivation (STREAM) is to acquire knowledge on determinants of healthy and productive work participation among persons aged 45–64 years.

A research framework was developed with main outcomes of productivity and transitions in employment (eg, leaving the workforce, entering the workforce, job change). These outcomes are influenced by the following determinants: health, job characteristics, skills and knowledge, and social and financial factors. The determinants influence productivity and transitions in employment through the ability, motivation, and opportunity to work. Demographic variables and initial employment status may influence all variables in the framework and their interrelations.

STREAM is a Dutch prospective cohort study among 12 055 employees, 1029 self-employed persons, and 2034 non-working persons aged 45–64 years. The study sample was stratified by age and employment status, and was drawn from an existing Intomart GfK internet panel. Measurements were carried out in 2010 (N=15 118), 2011 (N=12 430, response 82%), and 2012 (N=12 057, response 80%). The fourth measurement will take place in 2013. Participants complete an extensive yearly online questionnaire covering all aspects of the research framework. Questionnaire answers can be linked to register data of Statistics Netherlands for 89% of the participants. Moreover, qualitative data are collected.

Findings from STREAM will contribute to the development of effective policies and work-related interventions promoting sustainable employability among older persons.

Key terms cohort; motivation; productivity; retirement; workability.

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