

Leisure and Cultural Time and Expenditures

Elsa Fontainha

ISEG-Technical University of Lisbon

Department of Economics

R. Miguel Lupi, 20 Gab.514

1249-078 Lisboa

Portugal

elmano@iseg.utl.pt

fax 351 213922808 ; phone 351 213925993

The aim of the research is to compare and try to explain cultural goods demand as a component of leisure consumption between European countries in a double perspective: the time expended in cultural activities and the money expended with them.

Both approaches, by time and expenditures are incomplete because cultural behaviour could be a parallel activity in time and a non-market behaviour. However, cultural behaviour could be better known if cultural expenditures are combined with the use of time in cultural activities, using data from mainly three sources: time use surveys carried out according the Eurostat guidelines, household budgets and cultural and media statistics.

The variables tested concerning the explanation of differences in cultural consumption of cultural goods (UNESCO definition) and practice between European countries and within some European countries are: income, education, occupation, gender, age, household characteristics. A special analysis is made concerning the way the opportunity cost of time influences leisure and cultural practices.