

Exploring self-employment in the European Union

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Self-employment in Europe: labour market and social protection
Eurofound and OSE

Brussels, 9 February

Key aspects of the EU's self-employed

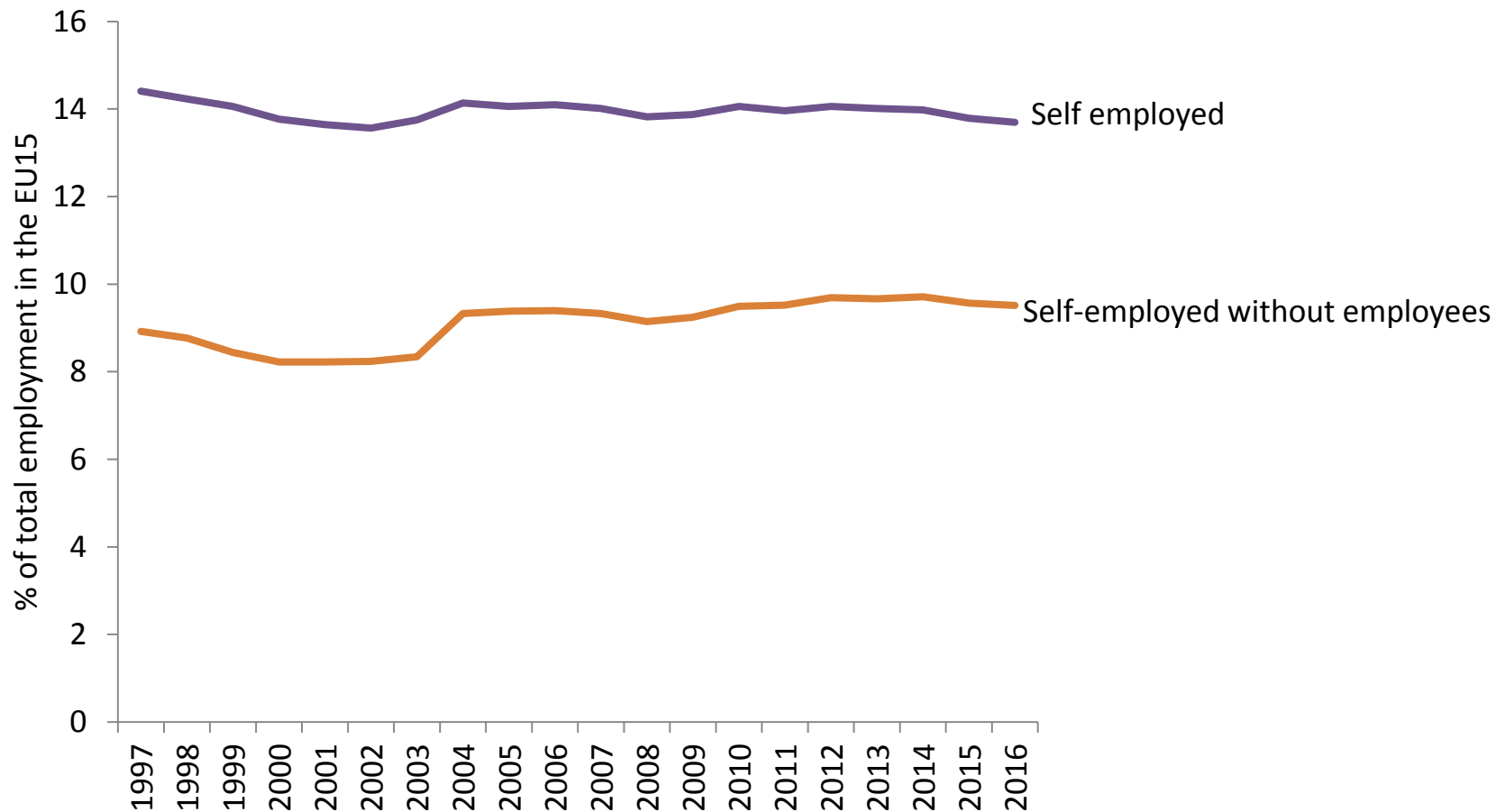
Heterogeneity of self-employed workers

- Recognising different groups
- Measuring job quality of self-employed

Protection of self-employed workers

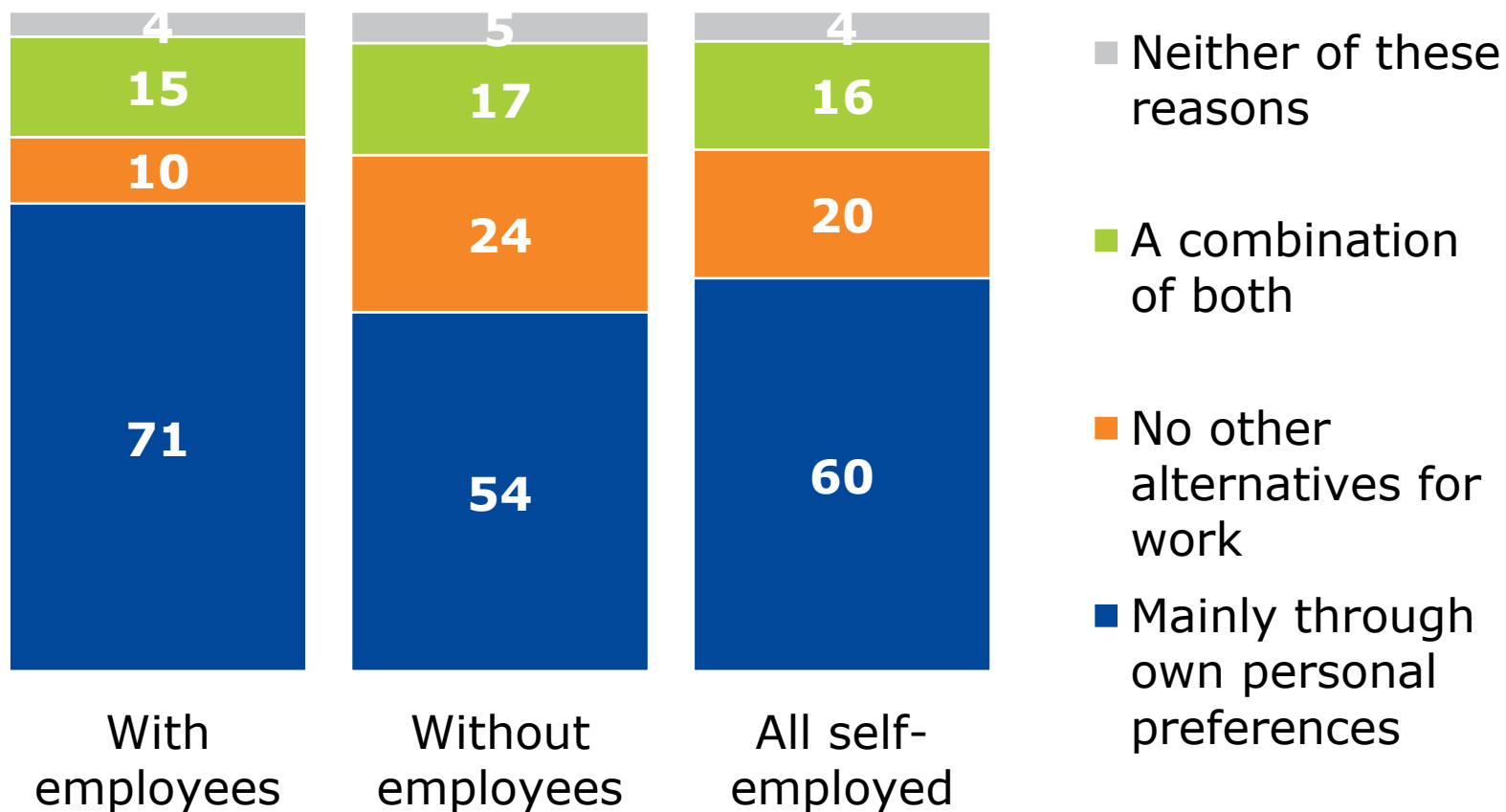
- Role of social protection
- Representation of self-employed workers
- Health and safety regulations and self-employed

Self-employment stable overall, but more without employees



Source: Eurostat (LFS)

Why become self-employed?

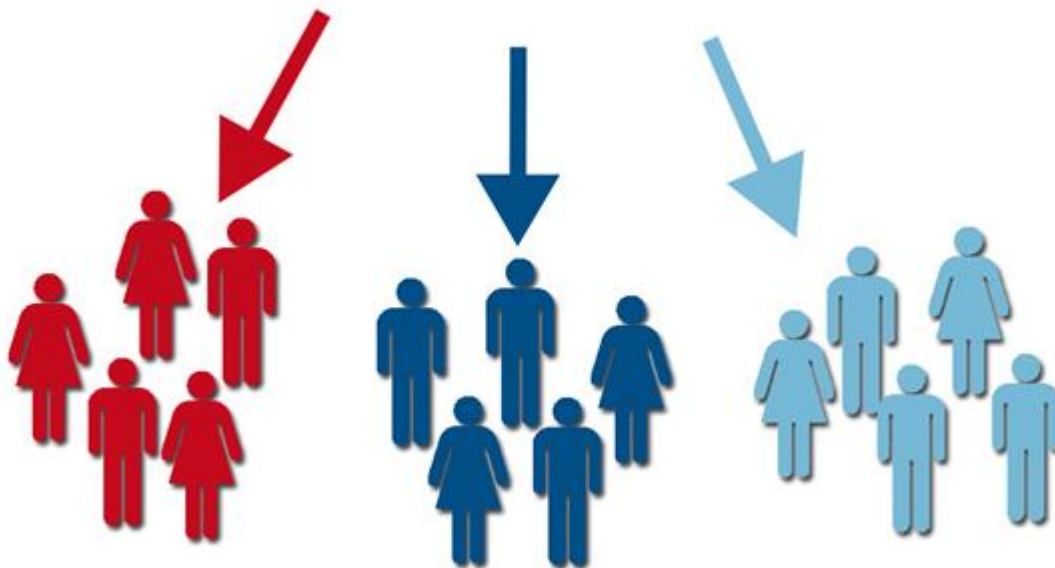
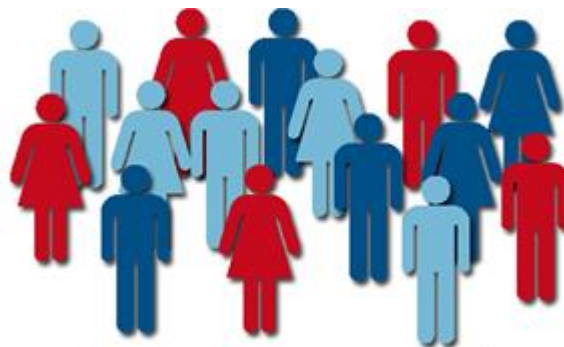


Source: Eurofound (European Working Conditions Survey 2015)

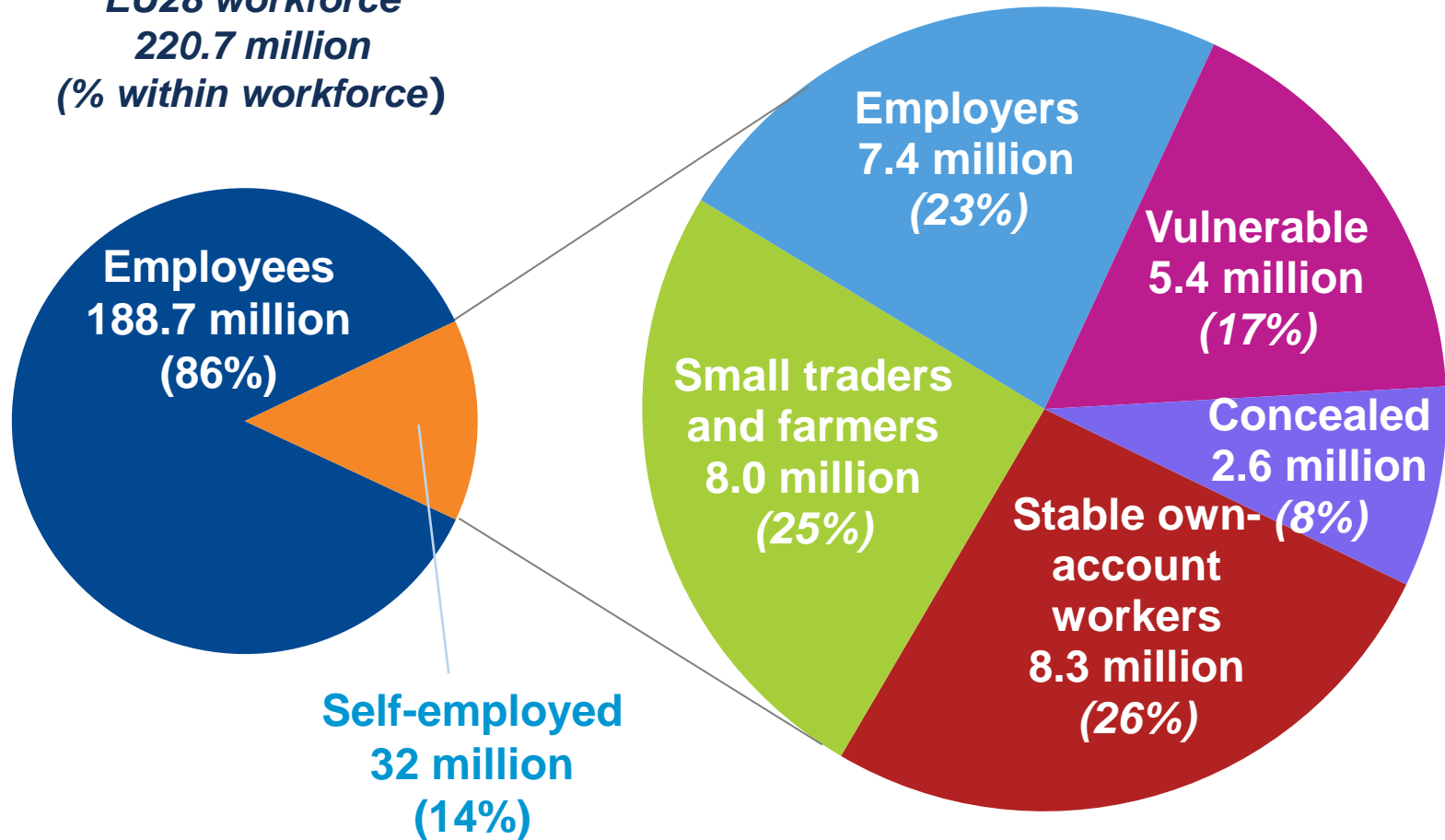
Clustering the self-employed



Self-employed, EU28, 2015



EU28 workforce
220.7 million
(% within workforce)



Stable own-account workers (26%)

**Opportunity,
independent,
autonomous**

99% does not
employ staff

93% has more than
one client

12% self-employed
out of necessity

90% able to take
time off



Vulnerable (17%)

**Dependent,
precarious,
necessity**

**40% out of
necessity**

**55% only
one client**

**48%
difficult to
find new
clients**

**63% in
lowest
income
quintile**

**98% no
training**



Implications

- Majority of self-employed generally have good working conditions
- Self-employed are not always independent and autonomous
- Between the legal cracks
 - Dependence and subordination, but...
 - Social protection and representation may be lacking
 - Employee legislation does not apply

Member state approaches

Creating a third status	
Hybrid status	Economically dependent worker status
Austria, Italy	Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain

Improving criteria	
Using criteria of economic dependence to combat and identify bogus self-employment	Establishing criteria to clearly distinguish employment from self-employment
Germany, Latvia, Malta	Belgium, Ireland, Norway, Poland

Conclusions

- Promote business development and entrepreneurship
- Reduce ambiguity regarding the self-employment status
- Adequate levels of social protection?

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