



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country: Croatia
Title: COVID-19 – preliminary indications of increase of unemployment of women
Date: 8 July 2020
Expert: Adrijana Martinović
Context
Issue at stake: Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown
Grounds of discrimination: Sex
Field of application: Employment
Source: Policy development

Content

Policy (COVID-19) development: Preliminary evidence shows an increase of unemployment of women, which can only be associated with the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. In April 2020 there was an increase of 110,1 % of new entrants in unemployment as opposed to the same month of the previous year. For women, this surge is higher and amounts to 114 %.¹ About 90 % of newly registered unemployed persons come directly from employment, suggesting that unemployment is the consequence of the crisis caused by the pandemic. Again, the share of female new unemployed persons is slightly higher than that of men.

Key points of analysis: The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have hit the labour market heavily. There was a surge of unemployment in April, with an increase of 110 % as compared to the same month of the previous year. In May 2020, there was 54 % less employment (exit from the registry of unemployed) than in May 2019. The number of unemployed has likewise increased by 35.5 %. The share of unemployed women is about 10 % higher than men (in May 2020, 55.7 % of unemployed were women, 44.3 % men).² The already unfavourable trend of higher unemployment of women is further deteriorating, because in April 2020, this ratio was 54.8 % to 45.2 %.³ In May 2020, 51 % of women new entrants into unemployment is due to the expiry of fixed-term contract and additional 18 % is due to dismissal for business reasons. This shows that women are especially vulnerable in the crisis, because it is estimated that around 20 % of all female employment in Croatia is based on fixed-term contracts.⁴

¹ In May 2020 the situation has drastically improved (8.8 % less registrations of unemployment status). See Croatian Employment Service, Monthly Statistics Bulletin 5/2020, available at https://www.hzz.hr/content/stats/0520/HZZ_stat_bilten_05_2020.pdf.

² Croatian Employment Service, Changes in registered unemployment at the end of May 2020 (*Promjene u evidentiranoj nezaposlenosti i stanju registrirane nezaposlenosti na kraju svibnja 2020.*), available at <https://www.hzz.hr/content/stats/0520/PR-Nezaposlenost-Zaposljavanje-5-2020.pdf>.

³ Croatian Employment Service, Monthly Statistics Bulletin 4/2020, available at https://www.hzz.hr/content/stats/0420/HZZ_stat_bilten_04_2020.pdf.

⁴ Eurostat, available at

Internet link source:

Croatian Employment Service, Monthly Statistics Bulletin 4/2020, available at https://www.hzz.hr/content/stats/0420/HZZ_stat_bilten_04_2020.pdf.

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Eurofound (2020), Work, teleworking and COVID-19 Dataset, available at https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/data/covid-19/working-teleworking?var=D002&cat_sel=Yes,%20permanently%20Yes,%20temporarily&chart_type=Bar&country_filter=Croatia.

Eurostat, available at https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Employment_statistics/hr#Pove.C4.87anje_rada_u_nepunom_radnom_vremenu_i_privremenog_rada

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