Involuntary part-time and Economic Insecurity in Europe.

*Policy recommendations of the project VINe*

**The Project**

“*Social Vulnerability and its Intersections: The role of gender in a comparative perspective*” is a research project funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship program, promoted by the European Commission to support research in the European Union and to foster career development and mobility of researchers within and beyond the Union. The general objective of VINE is to analyse how the institutional context as well as individual characteristics – as gender – affects individual risk of living in vulnerable households, from a comparative and multidimensional perspective.

**Fighting Involuntary Part-Time Work in South Europe**

The main results of the project show that one of the most important threat to household’s economic insecurity derives from the involuntary part-time employment of women. This document collects the main policy recommendations emerged during the two grass-root events organised during the project VINe (2017/2019) to discuss this phenomenon. The two events gathered policy-makers, women’s associations, trade unions, employer’s associations and public employment workers to discuss how to fight the phenomenon at different levels: at the enterprise’s level, locally and nationally.

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Lara is the principal investigator of MSCA VINE project Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 747433. For all the information on VINe, you can access the project website: [http://www.laramaest.org/vine/](http://www.laramaest.org/vine/)

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Levels of Intervention

Women’s involuntary part-time puts in question the equality in access to labour markets, but it is also a threat for the economic security of the household in which women lives. Involuntary part-time is often linked with low pay, bad working conditions and scarce career possibility. It is particularly diffused in low-skilled occupations in services sectors, like care and tourism. It is highly gendered, and it concentrates especially in Southern European countries.

Women’s involuntary part-time employment is a challenge that should be faced at different level:

1. **The company level**
   Discouraging the use of part-time as a labour flexibilization practice.

2. **The local level**
   Favouring the reconversion of the local productive systems towards advanced business services and technologically intensive manufacturing.

3. **The national level**
   Introducing universal subsidies – like the universal basic income – which are disconnected from individual contributions, offering alternatives to the acceptance of jobs of bad quality.

### 3 proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Good Practice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To convert local productive systems, favouring less gender segregated occupational structure</td>
<td>Public incentives to high-tech manufacturing and advanced business services</td>
<td>Pôles de Compétitivité (France)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To offer better working conditions to women</td>
<td>Increase women’s participation in STEM</td>
<td>STEMintheCity project (Milan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>To offer alternatives to low-paid and bad quality jobs</td>
<td>Universal Basic Income</td>
<td>Proyecto B-Mincome (Barcelona)</td>
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*The VINE project would like to thank all participants to the grass-root events organised during the development of the Project: Women’s Work roundtable at the Third Jobless Society Forum, organized by Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (2018) and the VINE Lab, organized by IGOP Escola d’Estiu (2019).*