

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.

The Author and VINE Principal Investigator



Lara Maestriepieri is Senior Lecturer in Economic Sociology at the DASTU in the Polytechnic of Milano, where she belongs to the Laboratory of Social Policies. She is member of the Research group Analysis, Management and Evaluation of Public Policies at the IGOP/UAB. She is also Secretary and Treasurer of the ISA RC52 Sociology of Professional Groups and Social Media Manager in the editorial staff of the Italian Society of Economic Sociology (SISEC).

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/>

Contact

lara.maestriepieri@uab.cat



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

	1	2	3
Goal	<i>To convert local productive systems, favouring less gender segregated occupational structure</i>	<i>To offer better working conditions to women</i>	<i>To offer alternatives to low-paid and bad quality jobs</i>
Proposal	<i>Public incentives to high-tech manufacturing and advanced business services</i>	<i>Increase women’s participation in STEM</i>	<i>Universal Basic Income</i>
Good Practice	Pôles de Compétitivité (France) 	STEM in the City project (Milan) 	Proyecto B-Mincome (Barcelona) 

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).