

Women Unemployment – Albanian Case

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Abstract:

The unequal treatment of women has been and it is still a characteristic of the labor market.

Except historically lower payment of women compare to men, this inequality appears also by the high level of women's unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force, but it is difficult to infer correctly regarding the comparison between countries, because of many different factors that can affect those variables in different countries, such are “informal economy” etc.

Gender equality on the labor market is quite important because it is closely linked to women's fundamental rights such as the right to work, career, income, etc.

This equality first of all means equal participation by women and men. Historically, women have been more affected by unemployment than men. The reasons for unequal participation are therefore multiple, complex and inter-twined.

Family composition and marital status generally it is an obstacle for women to be active in the labour market. In most countries, marital status and the presence of a child work against women and in favor of men. Other factors that heavily influence inequality are: the individual's age, the part time job (which is a characteristic of women) and level of training. The double burden of paid work and non-paid work in the family, combined with a possible dearth of childcare facilities, it is one of the mains obstacles to the full participation of women in the labor market.

This poster through the secondary data of Europe and especially of Albania, presents the actual situation regarding the unemployed rate of women, focusing on comparative way between countries, despite the above-mentioned difficulty, aimed to encourage the debate about the reasons of the situation and proposals for its improvement.

The unemployed rate of women still is higher compare with the men in European level as well as in most of the individual countries.

Key words: Gender Equality, Unemployment, Labour Market, Albania, European Union

Women unemployment situation in Europe

The EU-28 unemployment rate was 9.6 % in June 2015, stable compared with May 2015 and down from 10.2 % in June 2014, while among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates in June 2015 were recorded in Germany (4.7 %) and the Czech Republic (4.9 %), and the highest in Greece (25.6 % in April 2015) and Spain (22.5 %). (Eurostat October 2015)

Historically, women have been more affected by unemployment than men. In 2000, the unemployment rate for women in the EU-28 was around 10 %, while the rate for men was below 8 %. Since the first quarter of 2008, when they were at their lowest levels of 6.3 % and 7.4 % respectively, the male and female unemployment rates in the EU-28 converged, and by the second quarter of 2009 the male unemployment rate was higher. The decline of the men's rate during 2010 and the first half of 2011 and the corresponding stability in the women's rate over the same period brought the male rate below the female one once again. Since then the two rates have risen at the same pace until mid-2013, when they reached their highest value, both at 10.9 %. In the second half of 2013 as well as during the course of 2014 both the male and the female rates declined, reaching respectively 9.8 % and 10.1 % at the end of 2014. (Eurostat October 2015).

Although women are still treated as the second breadwinner and they often are not been looking for a job, (as important variable calculating the unemployment rate) the unemployment rate continue to be higher for women compare to the man as EU average, but the trends are different regarding the individual states.

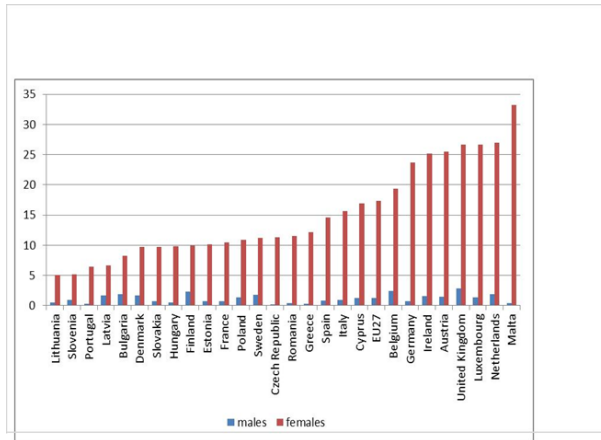
Table Nr 1¹: Unemployment rates by age and gender, 2007-2014 (%), in EU-28

	Male		Female		< 25 years	25-74 years
	2007	2014	2007	2014	2014	2014
EU-28	6.6	10.1	7.9	10.3	22.2	9.0
Euro area	6.7	11.5	8.6	11.8	23.8	10.4
Belgium	6.7	9.0	8.5	7.9	23.2	7.3
Bulgaria	6.5	12.3	7.4	10.4	23.8	10.7
Czech Republic	4.2	5.1	6.7	7.4	15.9	5.4
Denmark	3.4	6.4	4.2	6.8	12.6	5.5
Germany	8.4	5.3	8.7	4.6	7.7	4.7
Estonia	5.4	7.9	3.8	6.8	15.0	6.7
Ireland	5.0	12.9	4.3	9.4	23.9	10.0
Greece	5.3	23.7	12.9	30.2	52.4	24.8
Spain	6.4	23.6	10.7	25.4	53.2	22.3
France	7.8	10.5	8.5	10.1	24.1	8.8
Croatia	8.8	16.5	11.4	16.3	45.5	14.6
Italy	4.9	11.9	7.8	13.8	42.7	10.6
Cyprus	3.4	17.1	4.8	15.1	35.9	14.0
Latvia	6.5	11.8	5.6	9.8	19.6	10.0
Lithuania	4.2	12.2	4.3	9.2	19.3	9.9
Luxembourg	3.4	5.9	5.1	6.0	21.2	5.0
Hungary	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.9	20.4	6.7
Malta	5.8	6.2	7.9	5.4	11.8	4.8
Netherlands	3.3	7.2	5.2	7.8	12.7	6.5
Austria	4.5	5.9	5.3	5.4	10.3	4.9
Poland	9.0	8.5	10.3	9.6	23.9	7.7
Portugal	8.7	13.8	9.6	14.5	34.7	12.5
Romania	7.2	7.3	5.2	6.1	24.0	5.5
Slovenia	4.0	9.0	5.9	10.6	20.2	8.9
Slovakia	10.0	12.8	12.8	13.6	29.7	11.8
Finland	6.5	9.3	7.2	8.0	20.5	7.0
Sweden	5.9	8.2	6.5	7.7	22.9	5.7
United Kingdom	5.5	6.4	5.0	5.8	16.9	4.4
Iceland	2.3	5.1	2.3	4.9	10.0	3.9
Norway	2.6	3.7	2.5	3.3	7.9	2.8
Turkey					18.0	8.3
United States	4.7	6.3	4.5	6.1	13.4	5.0
Japan	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.4	6.3	3.3

There are many factors caused such a situation, but , family responsibilities and the need for a part time job are two of the mains.

¹ Eurostat (October 2015) Available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics. Seen at 3 October 2015.

Table Nr 2². Inactivity and part-time work due to personal and family responsibilities - men and women in 2012 (% of the whole population 15-64)



Albanian Case

Albania is a country where it is difficult to measure the unemployment rate due to a high level of “informal economy”, despite the fact that it is in use the well known formula of calculation. Analyzing the post communist period can easily conclude that the trends of unemployment rate were different from one period of time to another.

According to LFS results, during the time period 2007-2009, the official overall unemployment rate increased slightly. Disaggregation of data by sex reveals that this is mainly due to an increase in female unemployment, namely from 12.2 per cent in 2007 to 15.9 per cent in 2009. During the same time, men’s unemployment rate decreased from 14.4 per cent to 12.2

² EC (2013) Female Labour Market Participation. Pg 9. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/themes/31_labour_market_participation_of_women.pdf. Seen at 5 October 2015.

Table 2 refers to the data from the year 2012, period of time for example when the women unemployment rate was 7.1 and men unemployment rate was 6.2., according to EC.(2012) The Current Situation of Gender Equality in Malta.

per cent.³ A similar trend is reflected by statistics on long-term unemployment: during the same period, with male official long-term unemployment decreased by almost two percent, in contrast to a two per cent increase in long-term unemployment among women. While in 2007, men’s unemployment rate was higher than women’s, since then, trends point to the deterioration of women’s situation on the labour market, both in terms of employment and unemployment. As in other post-communist and transition countries, the deterioration in women’s position in the labour market can be attributed to several factors including (i) a general lack of labour due to restructuring; (ii) a focus of the economy on sectors which traditionally employ few women; (iii) the generally limited capacity of the economy for absorbing the high numbers of women released from formerly state owned enterprises; (iv) the shift from male agricultural to non-agricultural employment; (v) adherence to the model of the exclusively male breadwinner; and (vi) lack of gender sensitive employment policies.

In 2014, as it is shown in the table below the unemployment rate for 15-64 years old population is 17.9%. Male unemployment rate is 19.7% and female unemployment rate is 15.5%.

Such a situation more than an improvement of the level of employment of women, is due to the massive departure of a significant number of men abroad, emigration reasons.

Table Nr 3.⁴ Unemployment rate by sex and age group

Age group	Unemployment rate		
	2012	2013	2014
	Total		
15-29	26,0	27,2	32,5

³ UN- National Report on the Status of Women and Gender Equality in Albania 2011. Pg 70

⁴ INSTAT (2015). Femra dhe Meshkuj 2015, Pg 60.

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30-64	10,0	13,1	13,3
15-64	13,8	16,4	17,9
15+	13,4	15,9	17,5

Men

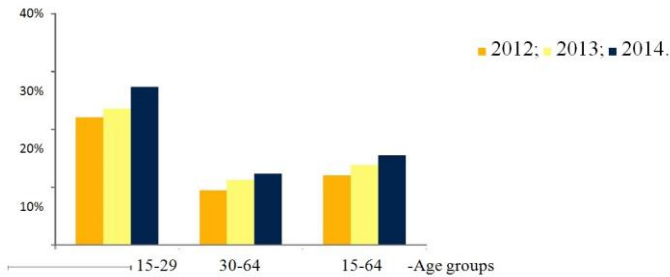
15-29	28,4	29,7	35,6
30-64	10,4	14,6	14,0
15-64	15,2	18,3	19,7
15+	14,6	17,8	19,2

Women

15-29	22,0	23,6	27,4
30-64	9,5	11,2	12,3
15-64	12,0	13,8	15,5
15+	11,7	13,5	15,2

Statistics shows that unemployment is more present in the age group from 15-29 years in Albania, the same trend with European countries.

Table Nr 4⁵. Unemployment rate for women by age groups



Conclusion

Despite positive improvement in several European countries, including Albania currently, the unemployment rate for women remains higher than that for men.

Factors that determine this situation are numerous, but the social burden remains one of the main.

⁵ Ibid. Pg 61.

High unemployment rate deprives women directly from many other fundamental rights closely linked to it, and therefore requires specific measures and social programs and women capacity's increase to improve it.

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