

# SEER

JOURNAL FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN EASTERN EUROPE

## Journal of the

European Trade  
Union Institute

## Self-employed and mobile workers

- Is no employment better than self-employment?  
The story of how Romania managed to create a class of 'invisible' and forgotten workers  
(Luana Miruna Pop)
- Romania's societal transformation and labour struggles abroad – how missing income opportunities and the fear of dis-missal inform practices of labour resistance  
(Christian Sperneac-Wolfer)
- Digital transformation social spaces of Romanians and Moldovans in Berlin  
(Mihaela-Violeta Vochin)
- Modern inequalities: a review of the literature  
(Lyuboslav Kostov)
- The effect of social security spending on economic growth in selected EU candidate countries  
(Emin Ahmet Kaplan, Zeynep Hoş and İlkay Güler)
- Sustainable regional development in Albania  
(Anisa Balla, Flora Merko, Ela Golemi and Marta Biancardi)

1 2023

Volume 26

pages 1 – 126

ISSN 1435-2869



Nomos

edition  
sigma



etui.

**JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE**

**SEER**

**Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe**

Self-employed and mobile workers

Volume 26 · Number 1

## **What is the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)?**

The ETUI conducts research in areas of relevance to the trade unions, including the labour market and industrial relations, and produces European comparative studies in these and related areas. It also provides trade union educational and training activities and technical support in the field of occupational health and safety. Through its expertise, scientific publications, specialist journals and training programmes, the ETUI provides European trade unions with the tools to participate in the European debate and to contribute actively to achieving Social Europe. Its current work programme is built around the following five priorities: worker participation, social dialogue, the Lisbon/sustainable development strategies and their follow-up, trade union renewal and the economic and financial crisis.

The European Trade Union Institute is supported by the European Union. For more detailed information on the ETUI please see the homepage [www.etui.org](http://www.etui.org)

## **Aims and objectives of the SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe**

SEER aims to stimulate an exchange of information between researchers, trade unionists and people who have a special interest in the political, social and economic development of the region of eastern Europe.

It seeks to draw attention to new research results and the latest analysis about the ongoing process of political and social changes in the broader eastern European region, and tries to create deeper understanding of the importance of the elaboration of democratic structures within industrial relations.

SEER combines contributions from different disciplines and schools of thought into an information package intended to be of interest to policy-makers, researchers, academics and trade unionists from various backgrounds.

The editors would like to point out that it is the authors who are responsible for the content of their own articles and that neither the editors nor the publisher, the European Trade Union Institute, necessarily share the opinions of the authors whose work is featured in the SEER.

Editor

Béla Galgóczi

ETUI, research department

Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5

B-1210 Brussels

Tel. ++ 32-2-2240492

Fax ++ 32-2-2240502

eMail: [bgalgoczi@etui.org](mailto:bgalgoczi@etui.org)

Production: Nomos Verlag

ISSN 1435-2869

Associate Editor

Calvin Allen

eMail: [calvin\\_allen@btinternet.com](mailto:calvin_allen@btinternet.com)

## Contents

Editorial	5
Luana Miruna Pop: Is no employment better than self-employment? The story of how Romania managed to create a class of ‘invisible’ and forgotten workers	7
Christian Sperneac-Wolfer: Romania’s societal transformation and labour struggles abroad – how missing income opportunities and the fear of dismissal inform practices of labour resistance	47
Mihaela-Violeta Vochin: Digital transformation social spaces of Romanians and Moldovans in Berlin	65
Lyuboslav Kostov: Modern inequalities: a review of the literature	81
Emin Ahmet Kaplan, Zeynep Hoş and İlkay Güler: The effect of social security spending on economic growth in selected EU candidate countries	95
Anisa Balla, Flora Merko, Ela Golemi and Marta Biancardi: Sustainable regional development in Albania	111
About the Authors	125

