

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality 28-29 November 2024 Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics

27 November 2024

| Title of contribution | Gender and in-work poverty – a paradoxical situation |
|------------------------|--|
| Author Name(s) | Anna KOUKAL |
| Presenter Name | Anna KOUKAL |
| Presenter Organization | Federal Social Insurance Office FSIO, Switzerland |
| Topic | Intra-household poverty |
| 10010 | mad nouscriota poverty |

Summary:

In 2025, Switzerland will publish its first national report on poverty, which will cover three areas: financial and material security, labor and education. In addition to the discussion of key indicators, the report will also contain in-depth analysis on specific questions.

This presentation focuses on one of these specific questions - the empirical analysis of the interplay of labor, gender and poverty. With respect to labor division in the household, women take on a larger share of family work when compared to men. At the same time, women are more likely to work in atypical employment relationships, have a lower employment rate and tend to have lower hourly wages compared to their male counterparts. Surprisingly, these gender specific patterns are not reflected in the rate of in-work poverty, which does not differ by gender. This counterintuitive result is referred to as the gender paradox of in-work poverty (see e.g. Ponthieux 2010, 2018 and Knittler and Heuberger 2018).

To gain a better understanding of the individual poverty risk of men and women in a household, we follow the approach of Ponthieux (2010, 2018) and apply it to SILC data for Switzerland. As in-work poverty is measured at the household level, individual (gender specific) differences in the risk of in-work poverty and their avoidance mechanisms only become visible, once a household splits (for example due to a divorce). Therefore, the empirical approach artificially splits the household at a given work intensity and income situation. This allows to shed light on the gender specific risk of being in work but financially poor. The results suggest, that, Swiss women are significantly more likely to be affected by individual poverty than Swiss men. In addition, this study exposes the gender specific differences between men and women in poverty avoidance mechanisms. Our primary results suggest that income pooling is a relatively more important mechanism to prevent individual in-work poverty for women than it is for men. On the other hand, transfer payments are relatively more important to lift men out of individual in-work poverty than they are for women.

| Please select your preferred contribution (you may select both options): | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ⊠ | Presentation |
| | Paper (to be submitted by 18 October) |