Work Inequalities in the Crisis

Work Inequalities in the Crisis: Evidence from Europe

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"Who are the losers and the occasional winners in the current economic crisis? How have employers responded to the slump in economic growth? What lessons can be learned both from their and from government labour policies? Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead and a team of leading researchers address these questions, applying the latest data and research, with company case studies from across Europe, including Turkey and the transition economies. They observe some similarities, but also enormous differences. They find novel answers as the policies developed over the past two decades, to foster greater flexibility, have altered the way firms respond to market changes. Are all these changes socially desirable? The authors are to be congratulated for providing such a detailed panorama and frank assessment which will be of value to both academic and policy readers."
-David Marsden, London School of Economics, UK

Work inequalities in the crisis provides an in-depth overview of the effects of the crisis on inequalities in the world of work. It examines these inequalities multi-dimensionally, looking at employment, wages and incomes, working conditions and social dialogue. At the same time, it investigates whether the crisis may halt the progress made in Europe towards better quality jobs and working conditions.

This book offers a unique combination of in-depth research, case studies and policy discussions. Following an assessment of national trends in 30 European countries, 14 country case studies by noted European specialists report on individual enterprises or sectors as well as policy solutions adopted at the national and local levels.

By providing an accessible survey of the policies proposed and adopted, this volume contributes to identifying policy responses that strengthen economic competitiveness, preserve social cohesion, and do not aggravate or deepen inequalities in the current circumstances. It also sheds light a further aspect of the crisis that has remained poorly documented thus far, namely its microeconomic effects on different types of workers and the areas of work that directly matter to them. This timely collection is of particular interest to academics, students and researchers in labour economics, to policy-makers, and to those involved in European studies more generally.

About the author

Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead is Senior Adviser, Responsible for Wage Policies, at the International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland, and Professor at Sciences Po, Paris, France.

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