

# **Examining the Extent and Distribution of Unregistered Employment in Europe**

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## **Abstract**

Although a large body of literature evaluates the prevalence of the informal economy, and many studies examine who participates in it and their reasons for doing so, fewer studies have broken it down into its component parts and assessed different types of informal work. To contribute to this knowledge, the aim of this paper is to evaluate the extent and distribution of unregistered employment, defined as situations where a dependent employee has no written contract or terms of reference. Using evidence from the 2021 European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS), based on telephone interviews with 70,000 workers in 36 European countries (including the 27 EU member states, the UK, Norway, Switzerland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia), the paper shows that men, younger individuals, and those living in larger households are significantly more likely to be in unregistered employment. Lower education levels, part-time work, smaller workplace size, and employment in the private sector also increase this likelihood.

**Keywords:** Undeclared work; EWCS; survey; logistic regression; labor force