

Domestic Work and Social Protection in Greece:

The case of Albanian and Ukrainian women's access to social insurance, health and pre-school care services.

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Research Project's Background

- Follow up from IAPASIS project (Does implementation matter? / KEKMOKOP – Panteion University)
- Focus on low status services and immigrants
- Focus on occupational categories and obstacles to welfare
- Focus on gender
- Focus on patterns of employment and work tasks
- Focus on formal and informal strategies to welfare services

The population (March 2004 – August 2007)

- 31 Albanian domestic workers (10 years in Greece)
- 11 Ukrainian domestic workers (10 years in Greece)
- 30 front-line officers in social insurance, medical centres and nurseries

Demographic & Social Characteristics of Migrant Women
(42 in-depth interviews)

	Albanian	Ukrainian
Age	Range 20 – <30	65 years 50>
Education	Technical	Technical – University
Marital status	Married with children	Single – parent families
Employment status	Piece-rate work / casual job in retailing	Unemployed – part time in services
Reason for migration	Family unification	Job seeking
Immigration status (initial entry)	Family unification visas	Tourist visas
Residential status	House-sharing with keen	Boarding places
Type of work	Cleaning – miscellaneous	Care – Household (live-in domestic work)
Type of employment	Multi – share employment	Single household employment
Duration in Greece	10 yrs	10 yrs

Obstacles to welfare benefits (migrant women)
The case of social insurance
Objective factors (financial – work based reasons)

Albanian Domestic Workers

- Entry status – spouse dependencies (receiving country)
- Casual labour market niches (temporal services)
- On-call or day labourers (direct hire)
- Multi – share employment (multiemployer patterns)
- Diversity of tasks
- Status discontinuity

Ukrainian Domestic Workers

- Entry status – financial and social dependencies (agencies, family)
- Casual labour market niches (personal / customised services)
- Formal / informal agency temporaries
- Board indussive employment
- Task – duty compromise
- Status discontinuity

Obstacles to welfare benefits (migrant women)
The case of social insurance
Subjective factors (filiations – perceptions – habits)

Albanian Domestic Workers

- Expectations – supplementary income / family maintenance – short period of stay
- Demoralization (spouse relations – roles – prospects)
- Cash for work mentality
- Perceptual motivations to employment (self-employment – social networks)
- Perceptual motivations to work (filiations – safety)
- Exchange of rights for security
- Informal welfare practices

Ukrainian Domestic Workers

- Expectations – quick returns / short period of stay
- Demoralization (family break – mores)
- Savings and residential sanctuary
- Perceptual motivations to employment (personal safety)
- Perceptual motivations to work (psychological mobility)
- Exchange of rights for tenure in mobility
- Informal welfare practices

Obstacles to welfare benefits (front-line officers)

The case of social insurance

Objective factors

- Deregulation of welfare regime
- Weak and residual welfare regime
- Limited extent adaptations to welfare clients
- Work conditions
 - Not eligible by reason of uninsured work
 - Unstable and non-standardized employment
- Limited welfare provisions against weak social groups

Obstacles to welfare benefits (front-line officers)

The case of social insurance

Subjective factors

- Gate keeping / line of defence
- Extended informal practices against new groups of welfare consumers
- Discriminative practices based on stereotypes
 - Occupational status
 - Ethnic (origin)

Conclusion

- Immigration policy
- Low status services
- Officers responses
- Informal practices & attitudes to welfare benefits
- Welfare marginalization