

# **Gender, social inequalities and the transition of graduates to the labour market under crisis conditions**

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines gender inequalities in the transition from university to the labour market. It is an issue the investigation of which has great importance for understanding the functions of the university and the educational and professional lives of young people in modern societies facing financial crisis. It utilises official statistics and data from qualitative research carried out with students who are completing their studies, in order to explore their plans for the transition to the labour market in a time of crisis and their relationship with gender and social class. Based on the findings of the field research, it is concluded that there is a relationship between gender and graduates' transition to the labour market. The participation of women in higher education is higher than men, but inequalities and discrimination in the labour market are maintained, since women are more frequently affected by unemployment and social exclusion. The transition of women to the labour market is determined by social factors which pose barriers and limitations to their plans and choices.

The economic crisis renders the position of women even more disadvantaged and exacerbates gender inequalities in the labour market. The widening of women participation in higher education is not enough to combat gender inequality in the graduates' prospects in the labour market.