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Ressort: Wirtschaft und Finanzen

Living, working and COVID-19

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The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions has published a survey on 6th May 2020. In just a few weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the lives of people all over the world. Apart from the disastrous health consequences on people directly affected by the virus, the COVID-19 pandemic has had major implications for the way people live and work, affecting profoundly

their physical and mental well-being. To capture the immediate economic and social effects of this crisis, Eurofound launched a large-scale online survey across the European Union and beyond on 9 April. https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef20058en.pd Entitled Living, working and COVID-19, the purpose of the survey is to examine the impact on well-being, work and telework and on the financial situation of people living in Europe. It includes a range of questions related to people across various age groups and life situations. Most of the questions are based on Eurofound's European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) and European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS),

while other questions are new or were adapted from other sources, such as the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

Countries hardest hit by the pandemic see most significant impact on their well-being. Results from some countries are particularly striking, with life satisfaction in France now at its lowest compared to surveys carried out before the crisis.

Over half of EU respondents are concerned about their future as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, with only 45% feeling optimistic. In contrast to surveys carried out before the pandemic, countries like France, Belgium, Italy and Greece are seeing optimism drop below the EU average.

People across the European Union are reporting low levels of trust in the EU and in their national governments, for the most part in various traditionally pro-EU Member States such as France, Italy and Spain, raising fundamental questions about perceived EU action during the crisis.

More than one-quarter of respondents across the EU at this stage report losing their job either temporarily (23%) or permanently (5%), with young men most affected. Half of those in work are also seeing their

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working hours reduced, especially in Romania, Italy, France, Cyprus and Greece. The Nordic countries have reported fewest reductions in working time.

Almost 40% of people in Europe report their financial situation as worse than before the pandemic – double the numbers reported in surveys before the crisis. Close to 50% are indicating their households cannot make ends meet and over half report they cannot maintain their standard of living for more than three months without an income. The situation is even more dramatic for three-quarters of those unemployed who cannot get by for more than three months with 82% reporting their household has problems to cope well in difficult circumstances.

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