

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are hereby cordially invited to attend the **EIZ Seminar on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 1 p.m.**, at **The Institute of Economics, Zagreb**, when **Tibor Kovač** (The Institute of Economics, Zagreb) will present the paper:

What goes around, comes around: The impact of childhood relationship with parents on future caregiving decisions

Abstract

By 2050, every third European Union resident will be 65 or older. This demographic change places a significant pressure on public expenditure, whether directly, through increased demand for long-term care services, or indirectly, through its impact on informal care providers—their work status, health, and general well-being. Since most long-term care is provided informally, understanding the motives behind it becomes key. The two leading theories in this context are the altruism theory and the reciprocity theory. According to the theory of altruism, people provide help because other people are in need of it, while the theory of reciprocity suggests that people provide help with the expectation of such favor being returned. Drawing on the theory of reciprocity, this paper explores the connection between the quality of the relationship between children and parents in the early stages of children's lives and their willingness to help their parents in the later stages of life. The analysis was conducted on the basis of the data from SHARE and SHARELIFE surveys, and the results indicate that poorer relationship quality reduces the likelihood that children will provide help to their parents. These results also confirm the long-term validity of the theory of reciprocity.

About the speaker

Tibor Kovač is a research assistant at the Institute of Economics, Zagreb, at the Department for Labor Market and Social Policy. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics & Business Zagreb, and is currently in his 3rd year of doctoral studies in economics at the University of Ljubljana. His primary research interests are the economics of aging and the labor market.