

EIZ Seminar

Dear Sir/Madam,

We cordially invite you to attend an EIZ Seminar on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025**, at **1:00 p.m.**, at **The Institute of Economics, Zagreb** (1st floor meeting room), where **Tibor Kovač** (EIZ) will deliver the following lecture

Should they stay or should they go?

Summary

The paper examines how the departure of the first child from the parental home affects parents' labour market outcomes—an area that has received far less attention than the effects of entering parenthood. While extensive research documents substantial and persistent negative impacts of childbirth on mothers' labour supply, much less is known about the consequences of the reverse transition, when active childbearing responsibilities diminish. Using retrospective data from the SHARE Job Episodes Panel and an event-study design, we analyse changes in inactivity, employment, unemployment, and retirement following the first child's move-out, focusing on parents who are still several years away from the statutory retirement age. Unlike studies of the empty-nest transition, which typically examine older parents, our approach captures behavioural responses during prime working years. The results show a significant decline in mothers' labour force participation after the first child leaves home, especially in Continental and Mediterranean welfare regimes, suggesting that the relaxation of household responsibilities does not necessarily translate into increased labour supply. These findings offer new insights into the dynamics of household labour allocation and underscore the significance of life-course transitions in shaping long-term labour market trajectories.

About the lecturer

Tibor Kovač is a research assistant at The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, in the Department for Labor Markets and Social Policy. He graduated from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Economics and Business and is currently in his 4th year of doctoral studies in economics at the University of Ljubljana. His primary research interests are the economics of aging and the labour market.