

EIZ Seminar

Dear Sir/Madam,

We cordially invite you to attend an EIZ Seminar on **Monday, December 22, 2025**, at **1:00 p.m.**, at **The Institute of Economics, Zagreb** (1st floor meeting room), where **Marta Cota** (University of Carcavelos, Nova School of Business and Economics) will deliver the following lecture:

Gender differences in savings over the lifecycle: The role of financial literacy

Summary

This paper examines gender differences in wealth accumulation through a microfounded model of financial decision-making and highlights that gender gaps in financial literacy can contribute to gender wealth inequality over the lifecycle. Using data from several US surveys, we show that women are more likely to delegate financial decisions and have lower financial literacy, which, however, increases after events such as divorce or widowhood, or after shocks to their spouse's health. Moreover, while financial literacy increases women's investment margins more than men's, its impact is stronger for safe assets accumulation and limited for equity holdings, suggesting a role for subjective financial confidence in shaping their investment margins. Our model highlights how marital dynamics influence financial decisions and underscores the importance of targeted policies to improve women's financial literacy, promote independence, and reduce gender wealth disparities over the lifecycle.

About the lecturer

Marta Cota is an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) at Nova School of Business and Economics, University of Carcavelos. She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics (2016) and her master's degree in financial mathematics (2018) from the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, and subsequently completed an MA (2020) and a PhD (2024) in economics at CERGE-EI in Prague. She has been a visiting researcher at Copenhagen Business School, the University of Minnesota, and New York University. Her research interests lie in macroeconomics and household finance; her work focuses on developing structural models featuring heterogeneous individual expectations and search frictions.