

Digital divide and the Opportunity Dimension of Economic Inequality: The case of the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract

The digitalization, that has already infiltrated in all the spheres of life, enhances and even becomes vital in the Covid-19 context. As most of the activities, including the economic ones, have moved online and telework has become the new normal, having access to the necessary ICT utilities by households is crucial for each and all of us. The conclusion of the research is that Covid-19 found the Moldovan households unprepared for the digitalization needs generated by the pandemic. Even though deeper in the rural area, the digital divide has enhanced the economic inequality especially in the urban area during the early pandemic period. The high absolute poverty in the rural area and the increasing trend in the urban area, associated with a decreasing employment rate especially in the cities, represent a presumed outcome of the Moldovan digital unpreparedness which enhanced the economic inequality by affecting its opportunity dimension.

Keywords: Digital divide, Economic inequality, Inequality of opportunity, COVID-19.