

## C06-P03

### LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN VÄSTERBOTTEN AND NORRBOTTEN

Elena Kotyrlo (*Umeå University, Sweden*)

elena.kotyrlo@umu.se

Arctic local labour markets, as labour markets in sparsely populated areas, are more fragile, because geographic isolation and harsh climate make creating jobs and use of labour more costly compared to other territories. Oil, gas and other natural resource extraction is usually associated with development of the northern economies and labour market growth. In contrast to other Arctic nations, there are no highly profitable hydrocarbon deposits located in the north of Sweden. Labour demand in the forest industry, playing an important role there, reduced considerably due to technological improvements. Common with other economies trends of outmigration of population from remote areas to cities and from north to south are observed there. Despite these facts, population in the north of Sweden remains stable over decades. This is reached due to location of educational and research centers there. Universities in two northern largest cities, Umeå and Luleå, are not only major employers; they facilitate creating jobs in many other industries. The north of Sweden can be considered as a successful example of an Arctic economy based on skilled labour force, attracting qualified workers from all over the world. Despite substantial distances between local labour markets, the level of earning is competitive across municipalities.

A total of 10% of the women living in Sweden have a foreign background. Female immigrants – who mostly come from Finland, Norway, Poland, Thailand, Iran, and the former Soviet Union – vary greatly in their cultural and family values, education, and job experiences. Sweden is known for its remarkable integration policies that enable positive social and economic outcomes for immigrants. However, first-generation immigrants have higher unemployment rates and lower earnings compared to natives, but these differences diminish in second-generation immigrants.

The paper provides empirical analysis, which illustrates equity of labour possibilities even for vulnerable groups of society, such as women, mothers of small children, and recent female immigrants. The analysis is based on two northern counties, Västerbotten and Norrbotten, and focused on earnings' development of women with children recently immigrated to Sweden and their involvement in the labour market. Differences in earnings and LFP can be related to the geographical distribution of the workers and to local labour market conditions. The local labour markets in the counties have been characterized by a relative growth of female employment in cities and a considerable decline in employment opportunities in remote areas. However, it is hypothesized that ethnic determinants, including individual characteristics such as years since migration, age, education, civil status, and the presence of children, prevail in local labour markets. The empirical analysis includes earnings, LFP, and other characteristics for 21,344 women in 29 municipalities who had at least one child at any time during the studied period. The results support a firm growth in earnings with increase of integration period. The estimates suggest that after five years since immigration the gap in earnings between Swedish-born and immigrant mothers disappears for the majority of ethnic groups.