



Financial Research Institute
World Bank
Higher School of Economics

on-line workshop program

Income, poverty and employment in the era of COVID-19: anti- and post-crisis social protection policies

For the world economy, the present crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will be the deepest one over the last century: according to estimates, the global GDP can contract by 4-5% on the average[1]. The pace of changes and developments make this crisis an unprecedented one.

In response, the governments must act quickly, ambitiously, and resolutely. But what can this forced haste lead to, how will it affect the efficiency of decision making and the outcome of the anti-crisis measures?

As for the efficiency of the decisions taken in the sphere of social protection, it will depend on two parameters. One is the growth of poverty – globally, the poverty rate can increase for the first time since 1998[1]. The other is the contraction of incomes caused by unemployment, whose growth caused by lockdowns is noted everywhere – from China, Eurozone and the USA, to Russia, where unemployment doubled over a single month, reaching 1.4 million[2].

Even a quick look at how the decisions on social support policies were taken in different countries and at what these policies are shows that the differences in national approaches go beyond the financial and resource limitations faced by respective governments. Evidently, in each case the policies are shaped by the set of local factors and circumstances.

This will be the subject of the on-line workshop organized by the Financial Research Institute (NIFI) in partnership with the World Bank and the Higher School of Economics (HSE). Invited participants include experts from China, France, Germany, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the USA, and the topics proposed for discussion are:

1. What anti-crisis measures of social protection were taken by the Governments? What approaches lie at the basis of the proposed measures? What circumstances determine the choice of these measures? What are the social risks that the proposed measures are seeking to mitigate?
2. How effective are the proposed anti-crisis social protection measures? More generally, how can one evaluate the efficiency of social protection policies in these new conditions? How the efficiency criteria change, and how they should change in future?
3. What managerial and administrative decisions have been taken by the governments and administrative authorities in order to increase the accessibility of social protection benefits? What solutions proved to be the most fitting ones?

1. In particular, according to Oxford Economics and Fitch (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10119280>; <http://resources.oxfordeconomics.com/wepm-executive-summary-may-2020?submissionGuid=263ad4bb-0a3b-4318-b8b9-5c34357b6678>)

2. According to the World Bank, the global extreme poverty rate can go up from the anticipated pre-epidemic 7.8 to 8.6% (<https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest>).

3. <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63340>

4. What are the key constraints? What will happen should the crisis be protracted? How to finance SP programs? Which programs may be possible/ feasible in a situation of depression, low fiscal revenues, high unemployment and millions of people seeking support?

5. What awaits the systems of social protection in future, in the post-crisis era, how will they evolve? What shall be objectives and priorities of social protection? What will be the roles of the contributory and non-contributory, of the mandatory and voluntary social protection transfers?

PROGRAM

Timing	Speakers
<p>June 4, 2020. 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Moscow Zone Time) International Experience Working languages: Russian, English (simultaneous translation). Online platform ZOOM. Moderator: Vladimir Nazarov, Director, NIFI, Russia</p>	
4 p.m. – 4:15 p.m	<p>Welcome Words from the Organizers: Lilia Ovcharova, Vice Rector, Director of the Institute for Social Policy, HSE, Russia Renaud Seligmann, Country Director and Resident Representative for the Russian Federation, World Bank Vladimir Nazarov, Director, NIFI, Russia</p>
4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m	<p>Ugo Gentilini, Senior Economist, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank General Framework</p>
4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m	<p>Ruslan Yemtsov, Human Development Program Leader for China, Mongolia and Korea, World Bank Learning from countries SP responses to crisis: how Russia and China compare to the global picture?</p>
4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m	<p>Nithin Umapathi, Senior Economist, Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank</p>
5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m	<p>Roman Zhukovskyi, Strategy Officer, World Bank</p>

Timing	Speakers
5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m	Maria Nagernyak, Deputy Vice Rector, HSE, Russia Cases of the USA, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Moldova
5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m	Robert Joyce, Deputy Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies, UK Case of the UK
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m	Celine Thévenot, Head, Labor Market and Employment Policy Division, Ministry of Finance, France Case of France
6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m	Jerzy Bohdanowicz, Project Leader, Multi-Agency Project to the Further Integration of Foreigners in the Labor Market, Ministry of Labor of Germany and German Trade Union Confederation Case of Germany
6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m	Mark Blecher, Chief Director: Health and Social Development, National Treasury, South Africa Case of South Africa
6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m	Q&A. Discussion
6:45 p.m. – 6:50 p.m	Wrap-up and closing remarks Lilia Ovcharova, Vice Rector, Director of the Institute for Social Policy, HSE, Russia

Timing	Speakers
<p>June 5, 2020. 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Moscow Zone Time)</p> <p>Russian Experience</p> <p>Working language: Russian. Online platform ZOOM.</p> <p>Moderator: Olessya Feoktistova, Head, Social Finance Center, NIFI, Russia</p>	
12:00 p.m. – 12:20 p.m	<p>Welcome Words from the Organizers:</p> <p>Olesya Feoktistova, Head, Social Finance Center, NIFI, Russia</p> <p>Oxana Synyavskaya, Deputy Director, Institute for Social Policy, HSE, Russia</p>
Representatives of Russian regions	
12:20 p.m. – 12:35 p.m	Elmira Zaripova, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Protection, Republics of Tatarstan

Тайминг	Спикеры
12:35 p.m. – 12:50 p.m	Ilya Semyashkin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Protection, Republic of Komi
12:50 p.m. – 1:05 p.m	Adar Sumin, Minister of Labor, Social Development and Employment, Republic of Altai Region of Pskov (to be confirmed)
1:05 p.m. – 1:10 p.m	Q&A. Discussion
1:10 p.m. – 1:25 p.m	Dmitri Bychkov, Leading Research Fellow, Social Finance Center, NIFI, Russia
1:25 p.m. – 1:40 p.m	Elena Gorina, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Studies of Income and Living Standards, Institute for Social Policy, HSE, Russia
1:40 p.m. – 1:55 p.m	Ruslan Yemtsov, Human Development Program Leader for China, Mongolia and Korea, World Bank
1:55 p.m. – 2:20 p.m	Q&A. Discussion
2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m	Wrap-up and closing remarks Lilia Ovcharova, Vice Rector, Director of the Institute for Social Policy, HSE, Russia