

SELF-EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES OF REDUNDANT PEOPLE

Case Studies in Three Regions Affected

By Mass Redundancies

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Why Focus on Self-Employment?

Our paper uses interviews with redundant people to explore the challenges of self-employment, or entrepreneurship in contemporary Romania. Although some authors make a distinction between the broader notion of self-employment and entrepreneurship, the latter consisting of the more innovative and risk-taking forms of self-employment, we shall use the two terms interchangeably.

Self-employment is not a widespread coping strategy of unemployed people. Actually, in Romania as well as in other countries, it is only a minority strategy among the unemployed. Success in self-employment is heavily dependent on the financial, human and social resources of the entrepreneur – all of these being