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YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN ITALY AND RUSSIA: AGGREGATE TRENDS AND THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL DETERMINANTS

Youth unemployment is a troublesome problem in many European countries. In the first part of the paper, we consider the aggregate trends in some EU countries and in Russia; we especially investigate the recent period after the global crisis and Great Recession.

We then consider the different types of determinants, including macroeconomic conditions, structural determinants, labour market institutions and regulations. However, the focus of our analysis is on the role played by individual and family determinants such as age, gender, education level, marital status, health, household income, housing condition.

The econometric part of the paper makes use of Eurostat micro-level data EU-SILC for Italy and RLMS-HSE data set for Russia. We consider a binary response model for employment status of young people in the 2000s. Our main research question is to explain the probability of being unemployed for young people in terms of their personal characteristics and country, region and time specific and compare these results with results for the same model for adult people.

We analyze the effect of the (above mentioned) individual determinates together with some macroeconomic indicators for the two countries. The results are of interest, since the two countries have quite different labor market institutions, besides having different levels of youth unemployment.

Keywords: youth unemployment, individual determinants of unemployment