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Collective bargaining for mobile workers in Europe under the COVID19 – cases of frontier, seasonal and migrant workers

The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Europe's Border Workers

The economic impact of COVID-19 on border workers in Europe has been significant and has varied depending on the region and the specific situation of each country. Border workers are those who live in one country and work in another, often crossing an international border daily to reach their workplaces. These individuals faced unique challenges during the pandemic due to travel restrictions, border closures, and public health measures implemented to contain the spread of the virus.

Some of the most notable economic impacts include:

- 1. Job Loss:** Many border workers lost their jobs or faced reductions in their work hours due to the shutdown of certain industries and the decline in economic activity during lockdowns and restrictions.
- 2. Difficulties crossing the border:** Travel restrictions and stricter border controls hindered the ability of border workers to reach their workplaces, which in turn affected their income and job stability.
- 3. Changes in working conditions:** Many frontier workers had to adapt to new working conditions, such as remote work, when this was possible. However, this was not feasible for all workers, especially those in sectors that require physical presence.
- 4. Health and safety concerns:** Border workers also faced a higher risk of exposure to the virus due to their frequent travel between countries, which increased their concerns about health and safety in the workplace.



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5. Impact on the local economy: Border communities rely heavily on the economic activity of workers who cross the border to work. The decline in this activity negatively affected local businesses, which in turn had an impact on the region's economy.

6. Government support measures: Many European countries implemented economic support measures, such as unemployment benefits and business aid, to mitigate the adverse economic effects of the pandemic. However, not all border workers were able to access these benefits equitably due to differences in social security systems and administrative barriers.

Overall, the economic impact of COVID-19 on Europe's frontier workers was complex and varied depending on the geographic location and industry in which they worked. Governments and international organizations have worked to address these challenges and minimize negative effects on this particular population.



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