

Theodoros Koutros

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, UoC

Tackling labour precarity through social economy: the case of cultural and creative industries

Abstract

The attainment of the double goal of sustainable development and decent work is currently set as a priority for international and regional organisations. The recent shift of production to the tertiary sector of services and the demands of an increasingly competitive environment have marked significant transformations at work, the object of which has gradually acquired intellectual content, while particular emphasis is placed on flexibility and the cultivation of horizontal skills of employees, including ‘creativity’. Workers in the cultural/creative sectors have been identified as representative of these developments, mainly as a result of the dominance of the self-employment work regime and, in general, the entrepreneurial dimension that accompanies it. However, these workers have also emerged as a precarious counter-example, due to numerous factors (e.g. multiple job holding, project contracts, self-insurance, mobility and social contacts cultivation).

Under the consequences of successive crises (economic, pandemic), these workers, in order to cope with labour precarity and economic uncertainty in their sectors, have recently adopted new forms of small entrepreneurship (profit or non-profit) such as those of the social economy, which are based on sharing, cooperation and solidarity, and at the same time are spatially embedded in the regions where they operate. The scope of the thesis is to trace the transformations of current social economy workers’ career paths in the cultural/creative sectors in Greece, to establish whether and to what extent they have experienced, and (if so) how they have managed to cope with labour precarity through these organizational forms in the direction of decent work and sustainable development. The research methodology is twofold and includes literature review and mixed methods of qualitative social research. The sample is focused on Civil Non-Profit Companies (AMKE) in the cultural/creative sectors, that are based in Greek peripheral cities.