

# Building a regional wages campaign for Eastern Europe

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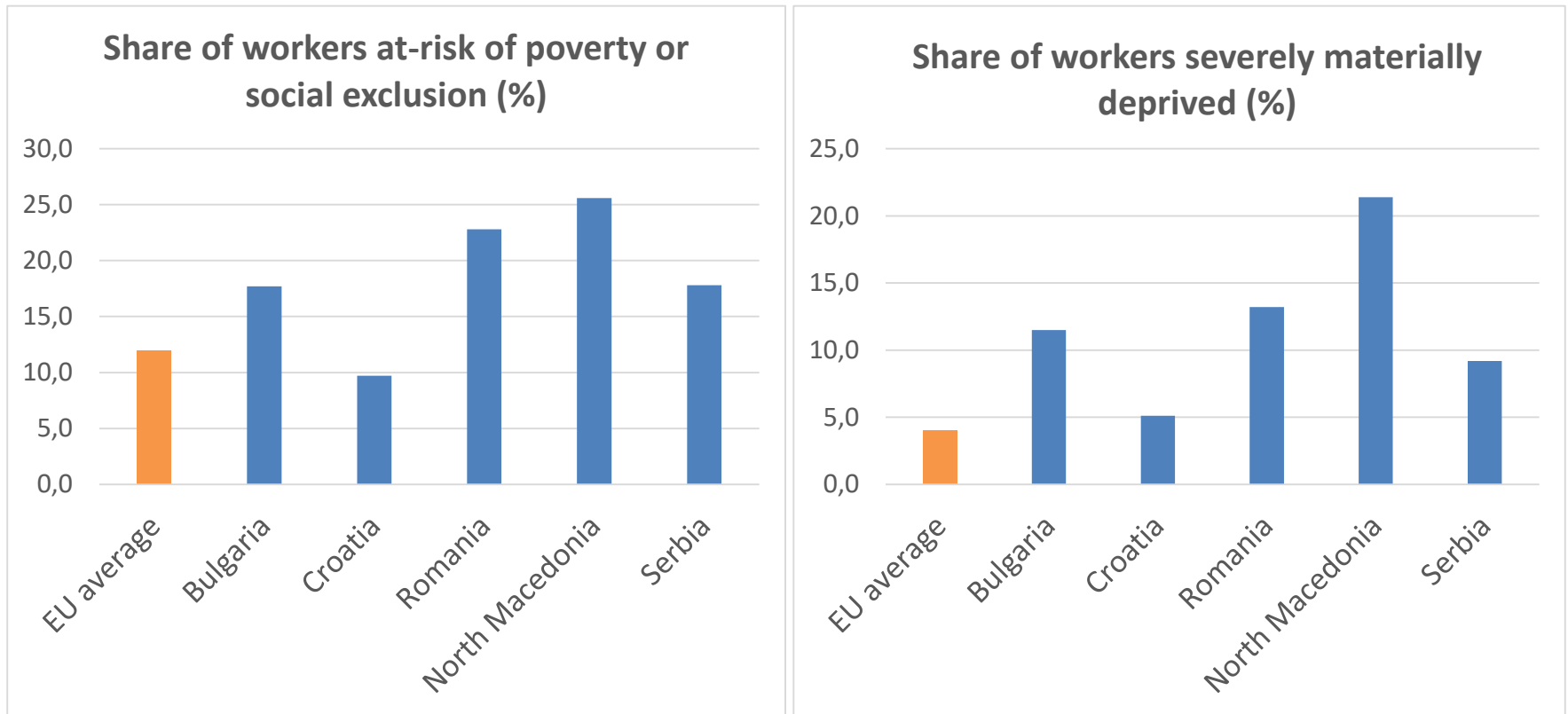
# Economic context...

- Eastern Europe is growing much faster than the rest of Europe
- GDP has nearly quadrupled since the year 2000, from 570 billion USD to nearly 2 trillion

...BUT...

- Economic growth is not being shared equitably nor translating into decent work opportunities

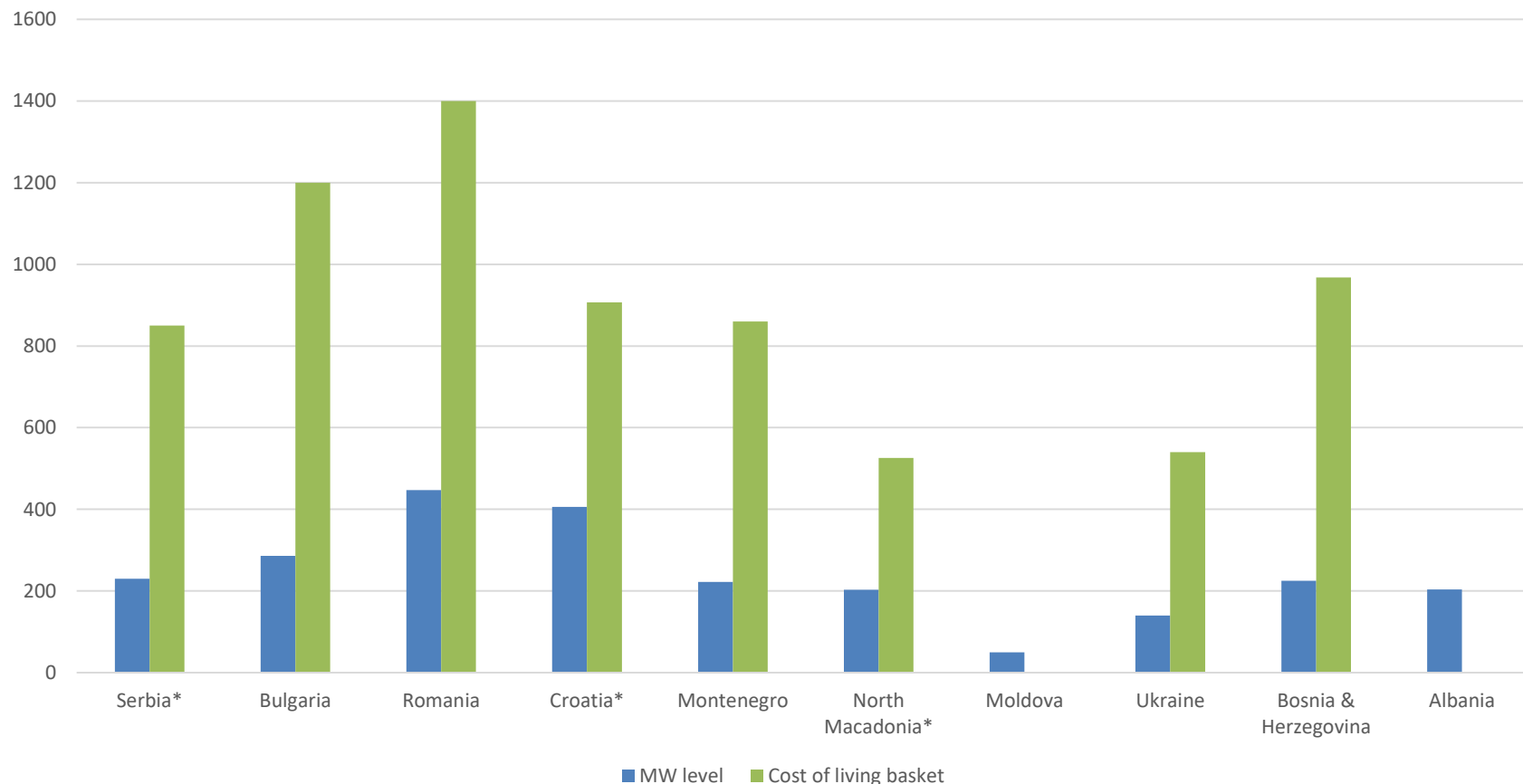
# Workers are earning poverty wages



Source: Eurostat - latest data available:

# Minimum wages cannot support a family

Minimum wages vs. cost of living for a family (in EUR)



Source: ITUC Regional Minimum Wage Forum (July 2019)

\*For Serbia, Croatia and North Macedonia, minimum wages are expressed in net terms. For the rest, they are expressed in gross terms, and thus the disparity between minimum wage earners' disposable income and the level of the cost of living basket is even greater than depicted in the chart.



**“ I work on a production line and my wage is not enough for a decent life, it doesn't even cover what the government says should be in a basket of consumer goods. I have three children and two jobs just to make ends meet. ”**

**– Vjekoslava, Serbia**

**CHANGE  
THE  
RULES**

# The building blocks of a regional campaign...

- The EU as a lobby target: both for Member States and candidate countries
- Technical follow-up work with union economists underway
- Campaign lobby brief and Report on the Scandal of Poverty Wages in Europe under preparation
- Report launch/lobby meeting planned in 2020