

Annual Report of Activities 2017



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

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Dear Colleagues and Friends of the European Centre!



Towards the end of a successful year for the European Centre we proudly present our activity report to highlight some key achievements in terms of thematic, professional and economic growth. We were able to win national and international bids in an increasingly competitive environment. We made our team grow in size and scope. We extended our international networks, and we created new partnerships in hitherto less focused geographic regions such as the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries.

More than a dozen of new projects started over the past 12 months, covering a broad range of social welfare issues. The Work & Welfare Unit, led by Anette Scoppetta, contributed policy recommendations and guidelines on the social dimension of the EU, the social economy and social innovation, labour migration and the improvement of employment services to comparisons and analyses based on microsimulation of social security reforms. In the Health & Care Unit, led by Ricardo Rodrigues, the tradition of research and development on integrated long-term care, governance and quality development has been prolonged. Additional studies with a focus on inequality and inequity, health promotion and prevention, health economics as well as on rights-based approaches in ageing and long-term care have been started.

The new strategic orientation towards building bridges with countries of the Eastern Partnership and potential EU Accession countries has led,

apart from additional Memoranda of Understanding and promising projects, to innovative activities such as the establishment of the 'Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare' and the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN).

As a result of these additional activities new staff members were employed. Sonila Danaj joined the Work & Welfare Unit, adding specialist knowledge on labour migration and related topical issues in Europe. With an Albanian background and work experience in the UK and Finland she perfectly fits with the European Centre's aims and objectives. She actually replaced Lucia Mýtna Kureková who, after only a few months of most fruitful collaboration, returned back home to Bratislava for personal reasons. At the same time, we are glad that Orsolya Lelkes restarted work at the Centre after having been on leave until September 2016. Finally, also Eszter Zólyomi has been on sabbatical leave until August 2017 and has now returned with new energy, language skills and ideas for future work.

Significant growth took place in the Health & Care Unit to which Rahel Kahlert added skills for evaluation and health policy assessment based on earlier professional experience in the US and Austria. Ingrid Zechmeister-Koss further strengthened the Unit as a health economist with a background of social policy research and of health-technology assessment. Christian Böhler enriched our expertise in quantitative



methodologies, based on studies at Brunel University (UK) and ample experience he had gained at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Seville (Spain). Günter Stummvoll eventually joined the Health & Care Unit to preserve the knowledge and networks in the area of 'Drugs, Alcohol & Criminal Justice' that had been accumulated by Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl over the past decade.

During this period of growing the Management Team was not only busy with recruitment of new staff and related human resource management. General administrative tasks increased, mainly due to new types of requirements in hitherto untapped funding programmes, due to additional reporting and to intensive work on identifying funding streams and submitting additional project proposals. Furthermore, a new Company Agreement has been negotiated between Management and Staff Representatives to create an equal basis for career development and team work. Special thanks go to Judith Schreiber who guarantees as Head of the Administration smooth and accurate support to the entire team.

The professional and thematic expansion has been reflected in a sound balance sheet with sustainable development perspectives. It will now be necessary to further consolidate the extended number of staff and to ensure the quality of work. Notwithstanding our achievements on the 'research market' we are fully aware of the fact that most of our activities would not be feasible without the generous financial support of Austria as the host country and of member states. We are therefore constantly working towards enhanced cooperation with our partners in ministries, related authorities and research centres in the entire region. Our new website will be re-launched this autumn to improve continuous exchange of information. Other opportunities for knowledge

exchange have been created, for instance, by organising workshops (Austria, Spain, Sweden), individual meetings and by presenting research findings at relevant events and conferences in various member states (e.g. Slovenia, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Macedonia, Serbia, Portugal, UK).

Another highlight in this context has been the cooperation with the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and the organization of the Research Forum in the framework of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon (20-22 September 2017). We gladly continued a long tradition of the European Centre in promoting innovative ageing policies, not least by substantial contributions to the UNECE Policy Brief on 'Realizing the Potential of Living Longer'.

As a corollary, we are looking forward to the future, even if the general political climate does not seem to favour scientific research as a major input to policy-making. Our work is driven by the conviction that a large amount of intolerance, aggression and conflicts we are currently witnessing can be explained by a lack of social policies to support social inclusion and to combat poverty and inequalities. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals our small team of researchers shall continue to work towards more equal life chances and solidaristic solutions to societal challenges – with UN agencies, research partners and member states.

I would therefore like to thank all researchers and administration as well as all other collaborators and partners for their dedication, cooperation and support during this year.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring
Executive Director

Work and Welfare

Highlights

The Work and Welfare Unit of the European Centre implements research and applied science projects covering the broad spectrum between the welfare state and the world of work. We focus on social policy reform, access to social benefits, demographic change, inequalities, social inclusion, labour market segmentation and integration, and labour migration. Geographically we work with the EU Member States, the EU (potential) candidate countries and the countries of the Eastern Partnership (see also 'Bridging Function').

Project highlights of the past 12 months concern the start of three major projects, the EaSI-funded 'POOSH'-project and two Framework Contracts with DG Employment on 'Peer Reviews and Other Mutual Learning Processes in the Fields of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion' and on 'Better Regulation Guidelines' (Multiple Framework Contract). In addition, important implementation steps have been undertaken for nationally funded projects in social security such as the 'Analysis of Non-Take Up of Minimum Income Benefits in Austria' and 'Non-Coverage in the Austrian Health Insurance'. Two other major projects, the Social Situation Monitor (SSM) as well as the 'MOPACT'-project, have been completed in early 2017.

The Aims of the 'Work and Welfare' Unit

The strategic aim of the Unit is to conduct high-quality research in the areas of minimum income schemes, income distribution, poverty and material deprivation, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, labour market and employment trends, skill demand and migration, social innovation and transition processes. This implies the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods such as microsimulation and modelling, comparative research and case-studies. We want to contribute to the improvement of social welfare policies and labour market programmes through policy consultation based on evidence-based research and our specific expertise in active and passive labour market policies, networking, social policy dialogue and other consultation processes.

The Work & Welfare Unit covers the broad spectrum between the welfare state and the world of work

Contributions to the improvement of social welfare policies and labour market programmes

Addressing Key Policy Challenges

Combating poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth

Apart from tackling issues of European integration and social cohesion in EU enlargement countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership the Unit addressed a broad range of research topics in social welfare with the aim of contributing to the manifold societal challenges, out of which the unequal distribution of wealth between and within European territories is of utmost importance to the Unit.

We analysed trends in income distribution, poverty, social exclusion and material deprivation across the European Union

The 'Work & Welfare' Unit focuses on the substantial societal changes we are undergoing such as demographic change and digitalisation ('Work 4.0/ Industry 4.0'). During the past year, we analysed trends in income distribution, poverty, social exclusion and material deprivation across the European Union, for instance, within the 'Social Situation Monitor' project and EUROMOD, but also nationally by SORESI. Our Research Note on housing policies reviewed recent changes in two housing policy instruments – housing allowance and mortgage interest tax relief – and estimated their distributional impact using EUROMOD. Our analysis shows that housing allowance has a considerable impact on reducing inequality and poverty especially in countries with a relatively wide coverage (e.g. Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK). In contrast, mortgage tax relief is shown to strongly favour higher-income households.

We focus on vulnerable groups when conducting research and giving policy advice

The Unit focuses on vulnerable groups when conducting research and implementing policy advice projects. Within POOSH we are analysing the situation of occupational safety and health of posted workers (e.g. country comparison Austria and the Slovak Republic). Within the training provided for SMEs in Styria on 'Work 4.0' we emphasised on low-skilled workers, and the peer review conducted in Austria showcased the competence check for the labour market integration of female refugees. Our study on the "social dimension" of the EU, identified thematic key areas that should be covered by benchmarking processes during the next upward policy convergence and suggested to facilitate benchlearning processes in order to strengthen the social dimension, especially regarding the reduction of poverty.

The Unit's projects are based on international cooperation and networks with partners particularly from the EU and beyond. Our clients in 2016/2017 include, among others, the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and DG Research), other international organisations such as UNDP, various ministries such as the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and cities as well as regions.



Strategic Goals

During the past year, the 'Work & Welfare' Unit enlarged its competences, especially in labour market policy as well as migration. The unit employed additional staff members and implemented its acquisition strategy that was developed in 2016 as a response to the rise of incoming requests and the need to cover costs of an enlarged team.

The Unit currently employs six members and aims at reaching a size of eight researchers and policy advisors by the end of 2018. The challenge faced is to ensure the high quality of project delivery while in parallel enhancing the necessary project acquisition to cover additional personnel. We aim at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams in our thematic core areas, i.e. social security (benefits and taxes) as well as social inclusion of vulnerable groups. In a mid-term perspective, this should lead to develop at least one flagship project, 1-2 projects as coordinator and 2-3 additional small projects until 2018.

The Unit constantly expands its skills and knowledge base also towards new thematic areas (e.g. impact assessments) and target groups (e.g. youth, refugees). Furthermore, it targets at increasing applications of the micro-simulation model (e.g. in Western Balkan countries) and providing additional policy consultancy and training in Western and Eastern Europe (see also 'Bridging Function'). During 2016/2017 the Unit developed project ideas and submitted a number of proposals that will shape future activities. The Unit is also driven by received requests, calls for proposal and tenders, many of which have been addressed over the past twelve months. As a corollary, the Unit created a sound basis for further activities in 2017/2018.

Challenge: high quality of project delivery while in parallel enhancing the necessary project acquisition

... a sound basis for further activities in 2017/2018



Health and Care

Highlights

Expansion of the team of researchers and core expertise

The year of 2017 saw the Health & Care Unit of the European Centre expand its core team of researchers, as well as areas of expertise as four new experienced researchers joined the team – in effect doubling its previous size. This expansion brought with it new skills in terms of evaluation, health technology assessment, sociology of health, public health and health economics. This expansion reflected the acquisition of a number of medium/long-term projects (i.e. with a foreseen duration of at least three years) via a combination of grants (DET_CAREMIX) and tenders (EPPIC, INTERREG Austria and Hungary, 'Kosovo: Support for Better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups'). The Unit has therefore enhanced its expertise in more health- and evaluation-related areas, to supplement its existing renowned track-record on long-term care. The added skills in evaluation will be particularly relevant in the context of the Bridge Building Strategy and are already clearly on display in the new projects INTERREG Austria and Hungary and 'Kosovo: Support for Better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups', where the Health & Care Unit is responsible for the evaluation component of each project.

Carrying out comparative multi-disciplinary applied research in several fields of health and long-term care

The researchers of the Health & Care Unit have strengthened their involvement as leading and contributing partners in a number of research projects that are characterized by their applied, multidisciplinary and comparative nature. Examples of this are the new WHO Europe project on Integrated Care, the aforementioned new INTERREG Austria and Hungary Case Management project and the ongoing EU Network on Integrated Care (funded by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion); all of which focus on themes – integrated care, choice and competition – which have been core competences of the European Centre. The research on inequalities and inequity in long-term care that has been pursued by researchers in the Unit over the past two years has also gained a new impetus with the acquisition of the DET_CAREMIX project. This project will look closely at socio-economic differences in the use of different long-term care services in Austria and Slovenia. Another EU-wide project undertaken by the team is the 'Review of Scientific Evidence and Policies on Nutrition and Physical Activity'. This project will systematize evidence on these topics, namely through a series of expert workshops with leading experts in Europe, for which researchers of the Unit are responsible. The Health & Care Unit has also revived one of its long-stand-



ing areas of expertise, i.e. drug consumption and deviant behaviour. A new project has been started in 2017 that analyses this issue among the youth in several European countries and whose foreseen duration is three years.

Besides the comparative projects mentioned above, the Health & Care Unit was also actively engaged in researching key topics in long-term care in its host country, Austria. Among these are an assessment of the quality indicators used in the Austrian National Quality Certificate (NQZ) for care homes, which included the involvement of practitioners as well as end-users of care in the production of research findings. The Unit has also led a novel survey on working conditions of the long-term care workforce in Austria, a key topic for the sustainability of long-term care systems and job creation, but on which practically no data on Austria existed till now. The project is funded by the Arbeiterkammer Wien and its findings will be comparable with similar surveys carried out in other European countries (e.g. Germany and the Nordic countries).

Actively contributing to ongoing policy discussions and reform processes, particularly in long-term care

The past year also witnessed the continuation of joint work with Board Members. A new report titled 'Community Care for People Living with Dementia in Europe: A Policy Toolbox for Implementing Quality Care' was delivered to the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in response to a clear policy need. A new 2-year project has in the meantime started, with funding from the Swedish Government, on 'Rights-based Approach in Long-term Care: Building an Index of Rights-based Policies for Older People in Europe'. During 2016 a team of researchers from the Unit also actively participated in a public presentation and workshop that were part of the ongoing reform process of the Slovenian long-term care system. The workshop discussed different financing and needs-assessment procedures to be implemented in the new Slovenian long-term care system. During the course of the same year researchers from the Health & Care Unit also participated in a workshop on territorial governance and geographical inequalities organised by IMSERSO in Madrid to discuss a topic that is of high policy relevance in Spain and other European countries.

Providing policy consultancy and expertise to Board Members

The Aims of the 'Health & Care' Unit

The strategic aim of the Health & Care Unit is to contribute to the establishment of evidence-based policies in the field of health and long-term care by carrying out multidisciplinary research of outstanding quality, including issues less explored by mainstream research. These activities are chiefly designed to assist policy-makers at the national and international levels in informed decision-making processes. This includes research on emerging topics, the identification of potentials of new approaches in social innovation,

ICT applications and preventative strategies. By doing so, it is indispensable to recognise the role played by the various stakeholders and to involve those who are most affected by reforms, new initiatives and policies. Research by the Health & Care Unit therefore always seeks to incorporate relevant stakeholders' contributions and feedback.

Strategic Goals

Following the strategy for the Unit jointly developed by the team in early 2016, the team sought to achieve a better balance between short-term projects – usually acquired through tenders and with relatively generous funding, but with short duration (often shorter than 12 or even 6 months) and tight deadlines – and more medium/long-term projects – usually funded through grants/grants. The latter schemes are characterised by fiercer competition but they ensure a more stable flow of funding and allow for better management of human resources. Concomitantly, this funding strategy was also carried out with the aim to secure medium-term funding allowing for a sustainable growth of the team – an intermediate goal that could thus be achieved. In the medium-term we shall continue this strategy to secure a sustainable funding of the current research team.

To this aim the team identified a number of topics where researchers from the Unit possess expertise and that at the same time correspond to gaps in knowledge to steer the acquisition efforts. Among these topics are inequalities in health and long-term care and evaluation of social policies. This would allow for tapping into new funding sources and expand the scope of projects to include Bridge Building countries, where evaluation expertise is a need.

We also aim to have a more proactive stance in acquisitions, namely by targeting topics that reflect the strengths of the team and that allow for constructing a track record on specific topics of applied research. This also includes the identification of gaps in relevant areas and the proactive approach of partners and funding bodies to fund research projects that result from the team's initiative. An outstanding example is the DET_CAREMIX project by which the Unit has for the first time since years acquired a project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Another example is the NORDCARE survey of working conditions in long-term care in Austria that was successfully proposed to the Austrian Chamber of Labour. Also the cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection has been intensified by regular meetings, the organisation of workshops and additional studies.

Bridging Function of the European Centre

Highlights

The European Centre's purpose, as laid down in a series of formal Agreements under international law between the United Nations and the Federal Government of Austria as the Host Country, is to foster the collaboration between governments and organisations in the field of social welfare. During the past years the European Centre has put large efforts in implementing the strategic goal of bridging knowledge and policy evidence in social policy research between Western and Eastern countries of the UN European region, especially the EU candidate countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership. The bridging function is based on the premise of close collaboration and participation with the national governments of these countries, the European Union and other relevant stakeholders at the international, European and national level.

The bridging function is based on the premise of close collaboration and participation

Bridging to Eastern Europe in the Field of Social Welfare: Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN)

To improve European cohesion and to contribute to the UN 'Sustainable Development Goals', the European Centre offers relevant know-how and advice for establishing or improving structures in the field of social welfare policies to governments, research institutes and civil society organisations of those countries, based on expertise drawn from the European Centre's empirical and comparative cross-national research. One major step in bridging to Eastern Europe has been the development of the Eastern European Social Policy network, in short EESPN, and the launch of the website of its members.

A major step: the development of the Eastern European Social Policy Network

The network comprises researchers, policy advisers and representatives of public authorities working in the field of social welfare policy. Its members represent diverse professional, geographical, and academic backgrounds and interests that are united in a common vision for more efficient and equitable social policies in the countries of the EU, of the Eastern Partnership and in EU (potential) candidate countries. The work of the EESPN has three

main pillars: 1) Knowledge exchange and transfer; 2) Development of joint research projects and policy advice; and 3) Networking and generating public fora. To date, the EESPN is actively concerned with the following countries within this regional focus: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

New Memorandums of Understanding and new National Liaison Officials

To help establishing the network, the European Centre completed missions in the target countries over the past years. Supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection the European Centre engaged in cooperation with respective Ministries based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which has been signed by Albania, Armenia (expected in September 2017), Azerbaijan, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and the Ukraine. As a result, new National Liaison Officials (NLOs), who are the key link between the European Centre and its member states, were nominated in the countries targeted by the bridging function.

Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare and EESPN Public Forum: “Divided Society – Cohesive Europe?”

Highlight: Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare

During the second week of July 2017, the European Centre organised a Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare that was accompanied by a Public Forum event on 12 July 2017. The summer school, co-funded by the Central European Initiative (CEI), aimed at contributing to more European cohesion by 1) building capacities of different stakeholders across sectors and countries; 2) providing training on innovative approaches, good practices and up-to-date research results; as well as 3) joint development of relevant research projects. Twelve scholars with expertise especially on social policies in Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine have been selected via an open call. The scholars have been trained on key issues of social policy such as labour market and migration, social protection, ageing society, social entrepreneurship and social innovation. The summer school offered ample opportunities to exchange research findings, to craft project ideas and to enhance networking. The EESPN Public Forum, which was held back to back with the summer school at the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, gathered around 50 participants to exchange and promote evidence-based policy practices and to strengthen cooperation between sectors, systems and policies.



Envisaged Expansion of the EESPN and Cooperation for 2018+

In parallel to the constant enlargement of the Eastern European Policy Forum, further MoUs will be signed and NLOs nominated in the near future (to be expected in 2018: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Montenegro). In addition, joint project proposals will be drafted and submitted by members of the EESPNEESPN. Follow-up activities to the summer school are planned to further deepen understanding between the different social welfare systems. Future activities within the bridging function will build on comparative social policy and welfare research to provide the foundation for evidence-based policy-making, enhanced knowledge transfer to provide input and to adapt potential solutions from 'good practice' to the national context, and policy consultancy to implement tangible measures based on evidence and dialogue.

Follow-up activities to the summer school are planned for 2018 to further deepen understanding between the different social welfare systems



Projects

A New Framework for Integrating Health Services Delivery and Long-term Care (WHO-IC)

Duration	01/2017 – 06/2018
Status	Ongoing
External Project	
Coordinator	Juan Tello, WHO Europe
Partner	WHO Europe
Project Team	Kai Leichsenring, Stefania Ilinca, Rahel Kahlert, Ricardo Rodrigues
Funded by	WHO Europe

The evolution of the scholarly debate on ‘integrated care’ has taken various directions over the past two decades. Approaches to extend the boundaries of the health system to closely connected systems of social care and the emerging system of long-term care triggered a dynamic towards a broader perspective. This was also underlined on an international policy level by the explicit acknowledgement of long-term care (LTC) by WHO in its latest ‘Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Ageing and Health’ by which Member States are recommended to “establish and continually improve a sustainable and equitable long-term care system” (WHO, 2016: 19).

WHO Europe therefore commissioned this study with the objective to underpin the implementation of its ‘European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery’ (EFFA IHSD) with evidence from experiences across Europe to achieve improved outcomes in terms of quality of care from a patient’s perspective, effectiveness, efficiency and equity. The project will adapt the EFFA IHSD to the specifics of LTC and apply the adapted Framework in six countries by means of case studies. Dedicated missions to the selected countries (Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Croatia) will serve to gather insight in framework conditions and approaches at the system level, tangible features at the organizational level and insights at the micro-level of integrated service delivery. The final stage of the project will comprise a comparative case-study analysis to identify enablers and success factors in developing LTC across the analysed countries.



Better Regulation Guidelines

Duration	2017
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	ICF International
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Michael Fuchs, Rahel Kahlert
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

In this Multiple Framework Contract for the provision of services to DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, the European Centre is partnering under the lead of ICF (together with four other partners). The project supports the provision of services for the implementation of the Better Regulation Guidelines regarding: 1) impact assessment for the design and preparation of policies, programmes and legislation; 2) evaluation to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and the added value; and 3) monitoring their implementation.

Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare

Duration	01/2017 – 08/2017
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Monika Hunjadi, with contributions by: Gudrun Bauer, Christian Böhler, Sonila Danaj, Rahel Kahlert, Kai Leichsenring, Orsolya Lelkes, Ricardo Rodrigues, Judith Schreiber, Alexadre Sidorenko
Funded by	CEI / Central European Initiative

The Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare (10 to 14 July 2017, Vienna) aimed at fostering European cohesion and gathered 12 researchers and practitioners of civil society organisations from the Western Balkan states and countries of the Eastern Partnership. The participants were trained on key issues of social policy such as labour market and migration, social protection, ageing society, and social entrepreneurship and social innovation. Moreover, the group developed joint ideas for research projects to be submitted in upcoming open calls for proposals (e.g. ERASMUS+) within the frame of the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN).



Community Care for People Living with Dementia in Europe: A Policy Toolbox for Implementing Quality Care

Duration	2016
Status	Completed
Project Team	Katharine Schulmann, Stefania Ilinca, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

De-institutionalisation of care for older people, analogous to ‘ageing in place’, is gaining ground in the context of a general public policy of choice in the area of long-term care in many European countries. While community care has been shown to be more cost-effective than institutional care overall, caring for people living in the community requires heavy involvement of informal carers, which comes with its own costs – both social and economic – and which has important implications for the quality of care.

Based on an extensive literature review, this study has focused on developing a framework with which to conceptualise the key dimensions of community care for people with dementia, including social, economic, legal and governance elements. Building on this framework, interviews with key country experts and two expert workshops, the research team has compiled a handbook to guide policymakers in assessing existing models of care and in implementing good practices.

Determinants of Use of Care in Slovenia and Austria (DET_CAREMIX)

Duration	06/2017 – 06/2019
Status	Ongoing
External Project	
Coordinator	Valentina Hlebec, University of Ljubljana
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)• Institute for Economic Research (Slovenia)
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Stefania Ilinca, Gudrun Bauer
Funded by	FWF (Austrian Research Fund) and ARRS (Slovenian Research Agency)



Like most countries in Europe, Austria and Slovenia rely heavily on the family for the provision of long-term care (LTC). They differ, however, as to the nature and scope of support provided to family carers – more generous in Austria, while in Slovenia the family is the carer “by default”. This study uses the different institutional settings between the two countries to explore the determinants of care use, both in terms of type of care – e.g. informal vs. formal care – and tasks provided.

The aim of the study is therefore to gain a better understanding of how older people make their choices regarding care, namely, who provides care and what type of tasks; what are the factors impacting their choices, e.g. cultural values, financial constraints, preferences, household composition; how these factors are themselves shaped by public policies; and whether they are different between groups of LTC users, e.g. socio-economic condition.

The study will be based on a mixed methods approach by including qualitative and quantitative research methods on secondary – e.g. international surveys and national data – and primary data (semi-structured interviews), stakeholder consultation and literature reviews.

EUROMODupdate

Duration	02/2012 –
Status	Ongoing
External Project	
Coordinator	Holly Sutherland, ISER (UK)
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the EU that enables researchers and policy analysts to calculate the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes and work incentives for the population of each of the Member States and for the EU. Our task as the Austrian expert team is to provide an annual update of policy parameters (now up to 2017), the Austrian input data (EU-SILC national data) for the model, as well as validation.

In 2016/17 EUROMOD (together with SORESI) was used for an analysis of the amount of monetary social benefits received by non-Austrian citizens compared to Austrian citizens and the respective amounts of social (insurance) contributions paid in 2016 as well as for a simulation of an application of the German Hartz-IV reform in Austria.



European Network on Long-term Care Quality and Cost Effectiveness and Dependency Prevention

Duration	2016 – 2018
Status	Ongoing
External Project	
Coordinator	Jose-Luis Fernandez, PSSRU, London School of Economics / LSE
Partners	PSSRU, LSE (UK), European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, University of Tampere (Finland), University of Bremen (Germany), University of Barcelona (Spain), UNED-IMIENS Madrid (Spain), INSERM (France), EHESP School of Public Health (France), INRCA (Italy), THL (Finland), Stockholm Gerontology Research Centre (Sweden) and CASE (Poland)
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Kai Leichsenring, Stefania Ilinca
Funded by	European Commission / DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

This project aims to carry out a synthesis of existing evidence on effectiveness of interventions in long-term care around five themes: trends in disability across the EU, prevention of dependency, informal carers, innovative care models and technologies (e.g. personalization and ICT) and integrated care provision.

For this purpose, it will review existing evidence through rapid reviews and case studies (the latter will include expert interviews) in each of the five themes mentioned above. The evidence gathered will feed into a modelling exercise to assess the cost-effectiveness of promising interventions identified for each theme.



Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems (EPPIC)

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	Middlesex University (UK)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (UK) • Change Grow Live (UK) • Aarhus University (Denmark) • Eclectica (Italy) • Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany) • Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (Poland)
Project Team	Günter Stummvoll, Rahel Kahlert, Cees Goos
Funded by	European Commission / Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020): Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea)

Young offenders are considered most vulnerable or at risk of developing drug problems and they are likely to be affected by a myriad of health and social inequalities. However, there has been very little attention paid to young people in contact with the criminal justice system in relation to drug prevention policy and practice. This project focuses on young people aged between 15 and 24 in six European countries (UK, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Germany and Austria) who have been in contact with the criminal justice system. EPPIC will cover research on prevention and intervention in prison settings and in the field of restorative justice such as diversion and therapy.

The objectives address the 3rd EU Health Programme:

- to gather knowledge, exchange and identify transferable innovations and principles of good practice on interventions to prevent illicit drug use among vulnerable young people in touch with the criminal justice systems;
- to assess initiatives against minimum quality standards in drug demand reduction;
- to examine the appropriateness of the existing standards within the criminal justice context and to develop a set of guidelines adapted to initiatives aimed at the target group; and
- to initiate a European knowledge exchange network for practitioners and stakeholders working with young people in the criminal justice system.



Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkan Economies

Duration	07/2017 – 11/2017
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	Vesna Dzuteska-Bisheva (UNDP)
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Sonila Danaj, Orsolya Lelkes, Kai Leichsenring, Monika Hunjadi
Funded by	UNDP / Istanbul Regional Hub, ADA / Austrian Development Agency

The project assists in building more inclusive labour markets in the Western Balkan countries by promoting an integrated approach to employment and social policies. The project strengthens the institutional capacities of the Public Employment Services and the Centres of Social Welfare in the Western Balkan countries to develop tools and mechanisms of integrated case management for employment and social welfare users. The project results will comprise a comparative report on the policy, institutional and legal framework and the assessment of the methods currently used in the region, as well as: guidelines on the integration of case management into workflow processes, toolkits and a ‘train-the-trainer’ workshop.

Mobilising the Potential of Active Ageing in Europe (MOPACT)

Duration	03/2013 – 02/2017
Status	Completed
External Project Coordinator	Alan Walker, University of Sheffield (UK)
Partners	University of Sheffield (UK), CEPS (Belgium), Stichting Katholieke Universiteit Brabant Universiteit van Tilburg (Netherlands), Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (Netherlands), CCA (Italy), ETLA (Finland), University of Kent (UK), CASE (Poland), NIESR (UK), INRCA (Italy), Kopint-Tarki (Hungary), Age Platform Europe AISBL (Brussels), ICS-UL (Portugal), UNINA (Italy), RUB (Germany), UWUERZ (Germany), University of Oslo (Norway), Cranfield University (UK), UNISA (Italy), MTA TK (Hungary), IAT (Germany), Stichting VU-VUMC (Netherlands), University of Innsbruck (Austria), University of Technology Braunschweig (Germany), University of Southampton (UK), TUD/IFG (Germany), PRAXIS (Estonia), INCSMPS (Romania)
Project Team	Orsolya Lelkes, Katrin Gasior, Kai Leichsenring, Ricardo Rodrigues, Eszter Zólyomi, Katharine Schulman, Stefania Ilinca
Funded by	Commission of the European Communities, Seventh Framework Programme and the TOPEU Programme of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

This interdisciplinary project aimed to provide evidence upon which Europe can begin to make longevity an asset for social and economic development. The European Centre was largely involved in several parts of MOPACT, in particular dealing with 'Social Support and Long-term Care', 'Extending Working Lives', and 'Health and Well-being'.

Results of extensive analyses showed that, to realise the potentials of social innovation in long-term care (LTC), mutual learning and the experiences of existing good practice should be considered in establishing and expanding LTC as a system, in facilitating integration and coordination and in shifting to community-based care. Furthermore, the LTC sector offers vast opportunities for creating and improving employment. It has however been shown that among the countries reviewed (AT, DE, HU, IT, NL, RO, EE, PT), there is a clear divide in existing framework conditions for promoting innovation. This translates into 'frontrunner' countries (e.g. DE, NL, AT) that have made strides towards scaling up complex, integrated service innovations, and 'laggard' countries (HU, RO, EE) where innovations tend to be less complex, operate on a small-scale often without public support, and are vertical or isolated interventions.

A large variety between the countries was also found with respect to healthy life expectancy and related trends. The focus of MOPACT research on 'Health and well-being' was on social involvement and its meaning for healthy life expectancy (HLE), especially for older people with health limitations. Results identified societal strategies for fostering social participation, even if results of the quantitative analysis showed that social participation as such does not significantly contribute to increasing HLE, a key policy goal defined by the EU 2020 strategy.

Another goal of this strategy as well as of most national policies on ageing has been 'Extending Working Lives'. MOPACT research in this area showed that strategies primarily (or even exclusively) aiming at working longer through financial incentives are of very limited success if not closely linked to workplace-related HR policies. In Central and Eastern European countries external incentives and support (e.g. legal incentives, professional advice) are needed most. Attitudes and values are playing a prominent role. In other countries, e.g. Germany, health, skills and working conditions are the most significant points of departure for designing policies and measures. The concepts of age management and life-cycle oriented HR policies need to be adapted accordingly.



New Models to Improve Quality of Life across the Austrian-Hungarian Border Region (Age-Friendly Region)

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	Christoph Pammer, Chance B (Austria)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chance B – Sozialbetriebs-GmbH (Austria)• United Health and Social Care Győr (Hungary)• Pálos Károly Social Service Centre and Child Welfare Service, Szombathely (Hungary)• Care Centre Zalaegerszeg (Hungary)• Fonds Soziales Wien (Austria, Supporting Partner)
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Katharine Schulmann, Christian Böhler
Funded by	EU / European Regional Development Fund – INTERREG V-A, Austria-Hungary 2014-2020 (ATHU12)

In 2010 the World Health Organisation launched the initiative ‘Age-friendly World’. The vision is to reshape towns and regions into living spaces in which to grow old. The project ‘Age-friendly Region’ contributes to bringing this vision to the Hungarian-Austrian border region. A major goal is to develop and implement a bilateral case and care management model in order to improve the living situation and quality of life of older people in need of care in their home environment. The project also aims at linking and supporting stakeholders and organizations in care provision within the Hungarian-Austrian region.

The European Centre’s task is to scientifically support and evaluate the project. In 2017, the European Centre team developed quality standards and indicators for Case and Care Management for the border region through input from Hungarian and Austrian experts and practitioners. These will contribute to establishing a case and care management model in the region, which will be piloted starting in 2018.

Non-Take-Up of Minimum Income Benefits in Austria

Duration	03/2016 – 04/2018
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katrin Gasior, Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta
Funded by	Anniversary Fund of the Austrian National Bank

The project seeks to measure and analyse the targeting efficiency of minimum income benefit (*Bedarfsorientierte Mindestsicherung*) and its predecessor, monetary social assistance (*Sozialhilfe*), i.e. the benefits of last resort in Austria. The main reason for the change from monetary social assistance to minimum income benefit in 2010/11 was to combat poverty but also to facilitate (better) access to the benefit. The replacement of monetary social assistance by minimum income benefit in combination with the recent change in the EU-SILC from survey to register data offer an interesting and unique opportunity to investigate the access to benefits:

- 1) The quantitative analysis, tax-benefit microsimulation based on the model EUROMOD/SORESI with latest micro-data available from EU-SILC 2015 with incomes for 2014 as well as EU-SILC 2010 with incomes for 2009, will be combined with administrative data. Gaps between take-up and entitlements as well as determinants for non-take-up can thus be identified and quantified by comparing proportions of households that fulfil the entitlement criteria with proportions of actual beneficiaries.
- 2) Furthermore, expert interviews will provide an in-depth understanding of the quantitative results, and also of the efficiency of the policy reforms and institutional processes following the change from monetary social assistance to minimum income benefit.

Occupational Safety and Health of Posted Workers (POOSH)

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2018
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	Kristina Toplak, ZRC SAZU (Slovenia)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia) • SNSPA – The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Centre for European Studies on Human Migration (Romania) • UniVE – Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage (Italy) • UniROS – University of Rostock, Chair of Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship Education (Germany)
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta
Funded by	European Commission / DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (Project Number VS/2016/0224)

The occupational safety and health (OSH) of posted workers is regulated by Article 3 of the Directive 96/71/EC in the framework of provision of services and is inextricably linked to the assurance of decent working conditions. The project focuses on the underresearched, underexposed and poorly addressed issue of OSH of posted workers. The objectives of the project include:

- 1) enhancing transnational cooperation between national competent bodies, social partners and NGOs concerned with OSH and working conditions of posted workers, with the aim of exchanging best practices and to discuss possible forms of further cooperation, improve cooperation, facilitate multilateral initiatives leading to better monitoring and response to violations of labour rights, and develop policy recommendations;
- 2) improving access to information on decent working conditions and OSH of posted workers; and
- 3) providing comprehensive research on OSH-related vulnerabilities of posted workers and regulatory protection in place in nine EU countries covered in the project. The European Centre is mainly responsible for the Comparative Research Study.



Peer Reviews and Other Mutual Learning Processes in the Fields of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Duration	12/2016 – 12/2020
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinators	Helen Tubb and Ruth Santos, ICF (Belgium and UK)
Project Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICF International (Belgium and UK) • IRS – Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale (Italy) • RadarEurope (The Netherlands)
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Michael Fuchs, Ricardo Rodrigues, Eszter Zólyomi, Monika Hunjadi, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

EU policy-making in employment and social affairs primarily takes place through intergovernmental coordination, which is based on mutual learning among Member States to foster greater policy convergence towards agreed EU policy objectives. Mutual learning is thus a key component of the European Semester and the Social Open Method of Coordination; it is therefore crucial to the success of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The mutual learning process implemented by the project should provide participants with a platform that enables debates and critical thinking to rise beyond the aspect of information presentation thanks to the use of innovative methods to enhance learning. Mutual learning thereby involves the exchange of experience and good practice around the full spectrum of the policy cycle, from planning and design to implementation and monitoring.

This is achieved by establishing two broad levels of exchange:

- 1) at the overall policy level, addressing the key conditions and requirements for policy change; and
- 2) at the more practical and detailed level, addressing the opportunities and constraints for policy implementation considering national or regional differences.

Mutual learning can be facilitated through several types of activities such as peer reviews, peer learning, policy learning conferences and events, working groups, expert groups, etc. These various formats will be used throughout.



People not Covered by Health Insurance

Duration	2016 – 2017
Status	Ongoing
Partner	Martin Schenk, Diakonie Österreich (Austria)
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan
Funded by	Hauptverband der österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger (Umbrella Organisation of the Austrian Social Insurance Institutions)

The project – as a follow-up to an earlier study in 2003 – aims at the quantitative and qualitative assessment of people not covered by health insurance in Austria. It will focus on an estimation of the number of people concerned, their socio-demographic characteristics, causes for and duration of non-coverage as well as their coping behaviour in case of illness.

Prevention of Disability Benefit Dependency and Activation of Young Persons

Duration	2016 – 2017
Status	Completed
Project Team	Michael Fuchs
Funded by	Bundesamt für Sozialversicherung / BSV (Switzerland)

In this short expertise the European Centre analysed recent disability policies in Austria, among them the disability pension reform 2013 and the introduction of “fit2work” – a service with a focus on occupational secondary prevention. Together with the expertise for other European countries (Denmark, Sweden, United Kingdom, Netherlands), the findings were used as input to reform debates in Switzerland with its growing number of young persons claiming disability pensions.



The resulting comparative research report contains an overview of selected reforms, experiences and lessons from the five European countries. Currently it cannot be verified that countries with an increased minimum pension age within the disability insurance system are more successful in terms of work integration. However, results support the key assumption for the further development of the disability insurance in Switzerland: the younger a person, the more intensified efforts are needed for integration. The report also shows a convergence of reform targets in the comparison countries and Switzerland: coordinated integration is being promoted, while pensions are only granted as late as possible.

Public Attitudes to Welfare, Climate Change and Energy in the EU and Russia (PAWCER)

Duration	07/2016 – 09/2018
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CESSI – Institute for Comparative Social Research Ltd. (Russia) • Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) • Institut für Höhere Studien (Austria) • University of Tampere (Finland) • FORS – Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (Switzerland) • Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France) • Cardiff University (United Kingdom)
Project Team	Orsolya Lelkes, Anette Scoppetta
Programme	ERA.net, RUS Plus Joint Call for S&T Projects
Funded by	FWF – Der Wissenschaftsfonds

The goal of the PAWCER project is to conduct comparative research on public attitudes to welfare, climate change and energy, all of which are relevant for understanding conflict, identity, and memory. While economic challenges threaten the fundamental relations of solidarity in European welfare states, climate change is likely to become the leading environmental driver of human conflict, and energy to continue fueling geopolitical tensions. The European Centre is involved in the work package on “Public Attitudes towards the Welfare State”. The aim is to explore similarities and differences of attitudes and values towards solidarity and welfare states within and between countries in Europe and Russia.



Reviews of Scientific Evidence and Policies on Nutrition and Physical Activity

Duration	02/2017 – 12/2017
Status	Ongoing
External Project	
Coordinator	Christina Dziewanska-Stringer, ICF (Belgium and UK)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICF International• University of Birmingham (UK)• European Public Health Alliance (Belgium)
Project Team	Ingrid Zechmeister-Koss, Ricardo Rodrigues, Stefania Ilinca, Katharine Schulmann
Funded by	European Commission / DG Santé

Following an increased interest at the EU level in the prevention of chronic diseases, in this EU-Commission (DG Santé) funded project, comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence and policies related to nutrition and physical activity are carried out. In addition to the literature reviews, a series of expert workshops – each of them dealing with one review objective – is being held.

The core task of the European Centre team in this project is to develop, facilitate and summarise these expert workshops with the goal to evaluate and validate the literature review results and to develop conclusions that may be relevant for policy-making. The overall aim is to create a strong evidence base for effective and efficient actions to tackle chronic conditions in Europe, with particular focus on overweight and obesity.

Social Enterprises in Active Labour Market Policies in Macedonia (BACID)

Duration	12/2016 – 05/2017
Status	Completed
External Project	
Coordinator	Klimentina Ilijevski, PUBLIC
Partner	PUBLIC – Association for Research, Communications and Development (Macedonia)
Project Team	Orsolya Lelkes
Funded by	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT) and KDZ – Centre for Public Administration Research



The project investigated and compared fruitful frameworks for social enterprises in Macedonia within existing active labour market programmes across the European Union to build a strong pillar for the development of social entrepreneurship in Macedonia. It aimed to transfer know-how about the design and implementation of support measures for the development of social entrepreneurship between Macedonian partners and the European Centre. A set of policy tools was proposed based on international practice that can enhance the capacity of regions and municipalities to support social enterprises with the inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

Social Situation Monitor

Duration	04/2013 – 03/2017
Status	Completed
External Project Coordinator	Terry Ward, Applica (Belgium)
Project Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISER (UK) • TARKI (Hungary) • Applica (Belgium) • Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) • CEPS/INSTEAD (Luxembourg)
Project Team	Orsolya Lelkes, Katrin Gasior, Katarina Hollan, Stefania Ilinca, Ricardo Rodrigues, Andrea E. Schmidt, Katharine Schulmann, Eszter Zólyomi
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Ensuring continuity of the European Observatory on Demography and Social Situation, this project aimed at providing policy-relevant analytical and methodological support on the developments in income distribution, poverty, social exclusion and material deprivation as well as health, helping the Commission in its efforts to monitor living standards and life chances across the EU and across diverse groups in society, and to evaluate how policies affect them.



SORESI

Duration	09/2012 –
Status	Ongoing
Project Partner	Bundesrechenzentrum [Federal Computing Centre] / BRZ (Austria)
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

SORESI is a web application for Austria, based on the microsimulation model EUROMOD. It provides a web-based tool for policy-makers and the broader public to simulate policy reforms and to analyse their social impact, namely the effects on the national poverty rate, income inequality indicators and different income groups. In 2017, SORESI was updated to 2017 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2015 with incomes for 2014).

Study on the “Social Dimension” of the EU

Duration	2016
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Kai Leichsenring, Michael Fuchs
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

The study on the “social dimension” of the EU aimed at identifying thematic key areas that should be covered by benchmarking processes during the next upward policy convergence to strengthen the social dimension of the EU. The study not only suggests potential benchmarking indicators but also discusses their pros and cons. This includes considering the pitfalls for benchmarking the “Social Union”. Accompanying measures are suggested that might lead the EU to benchmarking from its manifold experiences and social systems.



Support for Better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups in Kosovo

Duration	04/2017 – 09/2019
Status	Ongoing
External Project Coordinator	Save the Children (Sweden)
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Children Sweden • Save the Children International Kosovo Office
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Sonila Danaj, Stefania Ilinca, Günter Stummvoll
Funded by	European Union Office in Kosovo (EuropeAid/151280/DD/ACT/XK), SIDA Sweden

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the effective transformation of the social service system in Kosovo by focusing on improved quality, availability and sustainability of local social and community-based service delivery for children and vulnerable people living at social risk. Central, municipal and non-state actors including NGOs and social enterprises engage collaboratively in community-based social service delivery. Municipalities will implement local action plans – with the support of licensed social service providers – and allocate resources for their realization.

The European Centre leads or participates in the following tasks:

- 1) Conduct a situational analysis of social service provision to the vulnerable and at-risk at the municipal level;
- 2) Establish a tripartite stakeholder participatory forum to support the transformation process;
- 3) Develop the capacity of various stakeholders; and
- 4) Develop a functional monitoring and evaluation model.

Survey on Working Conditions of the Long-term Care Workforce in Austria (NORDCARE)

Duration	2016 – 2017
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Gudrun Bauer, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	Arbeiterkammer Wien

Demographic ageing has resulted in increasing need for long-term care services. In order to ensure the sustainability and efficacy of long-term care systems, it is paramount to have a well-qualified, motivated and healthy workforce. To this end it is important to have a good picture of the present working conditions of the long-term care workforce in order to anticipate future needs in this area.

This study was commissioned by the *Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für Wien*, with the purpose of gathering information on the working conditions of the long-term care workforce in Austria. The study aims to cover both those employed in the home and in the residential care sector. The questionnaire used has been adapted from a similar sister study conducted in the Nordic countries (NORDCARE), Germany and Canada (among others), so that in a second step international comparisons may be drawn.

The study is based on a survey of a random sample of workers from different home and residential care providers in three regions in Austria (Vienna, Upper Austria and Salzburg). The survey was conducted both online and postal and covered a total of 1,110 workers. Quantitative research methods are used to analyse the results of the survey (e.g. as regards differences by region, type of provider, working conditions of particular professions in the care sector or workers of particular backgrounds such as migrant care workers). The final report will provide an analysis of findings and relevant policy options. A follow-up comparison with results from the other NORDCARE surveys conducted in Germany and Sweden is under consideration.



The Role of Performance Indicators within the Framework of the National Quality Certificate

Duration 09/2016 – 09/2017

Status Completed

Project Team Gudrun Bauer, Kai Leichsenring, Ricardo Rodrigues

Funded by Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Over the past few years about 40 Austrian care homes applied on a voluntary basis to obtain the Austrian National Quality Certificate (NQZ). During this certification process, the assessment of results has reportedly been one of the major challenges for care home managers and external auditors. These experiences offer an important basis for identifying and assessing the utilisation of performance indicators by care homes. Based on a review of international literature with a focus on progress in measuring quality of life in care homes, the main aim of this study was to investigate on the implemented performance indicators by means of an analysis of documentation provided by care homes that have applied for certification.

Furthermore, the study identified the views of relevant stakeholders by means of expert interviews to gain insights into the experiences, motivations and suggestions for improving the Austrian National Quality Certificate. In addition, focus groups with retired people were conducted to identify relevant quality performance indicators for potential care home users. Overall, the study contributed to enhanced transparency and user-friendliness and provided recommendations and tangible initiatives for further improvement.

Towards a Rights-based Approach in Long-term Care: Building an Index of Rights-based Policies for Older People in Europe

Duration	02/2017 – 01/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Katharine Schulmann, Stefania Ilinca, Ricardo Rodrigues
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The study takes as its starting point the increasing attention being given in policy and research circles to the promotion of older people's rights, and the implications of applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to the provision of health and social care services. Based on a review of the literature on this topic and drawing insights from the literature on the rights of people with disabilities, a framework for conceptualising a HRBA to long-term care will be developed.

The framework will be validated and refined in a focus group convening international experts with academic, advocacy, and practice-based backgrounds and will ultimately inform the development of an index of human rights-based policies in long-term care. The Index will enable the monitoring of care policies across countries and the extent to which they support needs of older individuals from a rights-based perspective, allowing for comparison and mutual learning. After validation through a DELPHI exercise, the index will be piloted on a sample of six European countries.



Training Course 'Work 4.0'

Duration	2016 – 2017
Status	Completed
External Project Coordinator	Wolfgang Schabereiter, Brain Plus GmbH (Austria)
Project Team	Anette Scopetta, Katarina Hollan, Monika Hunjadi
Funded by	Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH / FFG

The so-called 'Industry 4.0' is regarded as the 4th Industrial Revolution and has enormous impacts on the world of work. It influences qualification needs, work organisation, the quality of work, and, more general, the collaboration between humans and technology.

To assist 'small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) in their preparation for current and upcoming changes, a curriculum for the training course 'Work 4.0' was developed. The course covered major work-related topics in its seven training modules such as new forms of work organisation, changes/needs for 'learning & skills', diversity, gender and the ageing of the workforce. The modular training course for SMEs in Styria (seven modules) was implemented during the first months of 2017.

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Matthias Wismar:

Cross-border mobility of health professionals: Managing trade-offs between efficiency and ethics

20 June 2017

Hildegard Theobald:

Care workers with migrant backgrounds in professional long-term care provision in Germany: Patterns of integration and the interaction of policy fields

17 May 2017

Éva Fodor:

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1 February 2017

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