




Annual Report of Activities 2018



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Dear Colleagues and Friends of the European Centre!



At times of super-fast communication via the Internet, political decision-making via Twitter and the exponential growth of research papers published it is likely that annual reports of activities will soon be threatened by extinction. For the moment, however, our yearly activity report remains an opportunity to pause for a moment and to keep hold of achievements that have been plentiful also over the past year.

Project-related work from acquisition to publication as well as networking and policy consultancy shaped our engagement for enhancing social policy-making in the wider Europe. With 17 ongoing and 13 completed projects during the course of this year our team was able to cover a wide range of issues at stake, and an extended number of countries in the UNECE Region.

The Work & Welfare Unit, led by Anette Scopetta, developed background reports and training material for high-level workshops at national and regional level to better integrate public employment services and social welfare in the Western Balkans. The Unit also became an established expert pool on issues of labour migration and posting of workers. Furthermore, the Unit continued to build on constantly updated micro-simulation tools, not least to analyse potential impacts of planned or debated reforms in various areas of social policy in Austria. These activities, together with briefing notes, publications and a number of presentations at international conferences, contributed to pursue our general mission – to

underpin social policy-making with empirical evidence of good practice.

The same is true for the Health & Care Unit, led by Ricardo Rodrigues, where the traditional focus on long-term care and integration of health and social care, including quality of care work, has now definitely been complemented by research on health systems, the potential impact of new technologies and related issues of health economics. This was underlined by newly presented and successful proposals, a wide range of publications and conference papers. Another advancement consisted in developing an ‘Index of Rights-based Policies for Older People’ that will become an innovative tool to assess the state of the art and potential improvements across the UNECE region, also with a view to monitoring related UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Last but not least, the research strand on drug policies in the social space successfully continued its engagement in promoting policies aiming at inclusive approaches in a public and institutional dialogue.

Over the past year, the bridge-building function with countries of the Eastern Partnership and potential EU Accession countries has become part and parcel of many new projects and ongoing activities, including the first Workshop with National Liaison Officials on ‘Bridge-building in Social Welfare Policy’ as well as presentations and networking activities in the Western Balkan countries.



The intensive workload accomplished would not have been possible without the elevated engagement of all staff members. At the same time, staff gained additional experience and skills leading to new personal orientations and exploits. Katarina Hollan won a bursary to do her PhD at Manchester University and left the European Centre by September 2018. We wish her success with her studies and still hope to welcome her again in three years' time. Stefania Ilinca also won a bursary for a one-year training course in Ireland, and we are looking forward to her return to full-time work by next September. Furthermore, Katharine Schulmann also set out to her PhD studies at Trinity College in Dublin with a perspective to return working at the European Centre by September 2019. After one year at the European Centre, Ingrid Zechmeister-Koss returned to the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment in Vienna, where she had been offered a management position. And finally, after more than 13 years, we terminated our collaboration with Orsolya Lelkes, and we take this opportunity to express our thankfulness for her engagement with the European Centre and our best wishes for her new professional orientation. While most of these developments were cheerful for the individual colleagues, management needed to look for new staff to fill the gaps in human and professional resources. Fortunately, we were able to retrieve two colleagues to join the Health & Care Unit already by August 2018. Magdi Birtha from Hungary will contribute to our focus on human rights of older people and in long-term care, while Veronica Sandu from the Republic of Moldova will strengthen our bridge-building competencies with the Eastern Partnership countries based on her broad expertise in economics and public policy design. During Summer 2018 two additional job openings have been announced with the aim to complement the Work & Welfare Unit with additional expertise in social policy analysis and labour market research.

An important milestone had already been achieved by December 2017 when the new Company Agreement was signed. Its implementation required the issuing of individual contracts for all staff, including the renegotiation of several individual assignments. In concomitance with more than a dozen research proposals and additional reporting and invoicing duties, administrative tasks once again increased, while the number of administrative staff did not. Judith Schreiber as Head of Administration was most thankfully able to ensure organisational support and financial backing to make researchers work on contents and further development.

On top of these achievements we were also able to once again present a sound and consolidated balance sheet, based on income from small and medium-sized projects as well as on the sustained financial support of Austria as the host country and member states represented in the Board of Directors. We are grateful for this support and strive to further improve our relations with the member states, e.g. in the context of new and ongoing common projects (Sweden, Slovenia, Western Balkan countries) or project proposals, and intensified knowledge exchange such as during the first NLO Bridge-building workshop (with representatives from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, Austria and Slovakia) as well as by presentations and workshops organised in Spain and the Slovak Republic.

International relations also need to keep pace of, seemingly, more and more rapid changes at ministries and related agencies. This year, we are pleased to welcome Carmen Orte Socias, who became Director General of IMSERSO by June 2018, as our new Board Member from Spain. The NLO Assembly could actually be extended as new members joined from countries who had long been absent, in particular France, Ireland and the



UK, while new or additional NLOs were nominated by Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, and the Ukraine.

Unfortunately, however, we could not prevent the Slovak Republic from leaving the Board of Directors by 2019. We would therefore like to thank Kvetoslava Repkova for her long-standing engagement as a Member of the Board and express our gratitude that she will continue to represent the Slovak Republic as a National Liaison Official.

A key issue on the European Centre's research agenda has ever been the impact of population ageing on intergenerational solidarity, health, employment and social policies. We are therefore continuing our engagement with the UNECE Working Group on Ageing with contributions to research and awareness-raising, we intensified our cooperation with the Joint Programming Initiative 'More Years, Better Lives', and we became a partner of the international network EuroAgeism which is dedicated to the training of a new generation of Early Stage Researchers in the field of ageism. This commitment will be an opportunity to underpin and advance our new research focus towards a life-course perspective on ageing and social policies, which will also take centre-stage during the planned International Bridge Building Winter School in 2019.

The directions of future work of the European Centre have thus been shaped, with a strong belief that an evidence-base for social policies is needed to enhance social inclusion and sustainability of all European societies under conditions of globalisation, demographic and technological change. For their most valid contributions to this overall aim I would like to thank all researchers and administration as well as all other partners of the European Centre for their dedication, cooperation and support during this year.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring
Executive Director

Work and Welfare

Highlights

We address hot topics such as social policy reforms and access to social benefits

The Work and Welfare Unit of the European Centre implements projects in research and applied science, which currently cover the following hot topics: social policy reforms and access to social benefits; inequalities, employment and social inclusion, especially in the digitalised economy ('Work 4.0') and of posted workers; and the interface between social and labour market policy ('Integrated case management systems').

Project highlights of the past 12 months concern the start of six new projects, whereas two projects concern tax-benefit microsimulation in Austria (introduction of a basic security for children; planned government reforms) and one project refers to employment policies within the EU (contribution to the Employment Thematic Network of the ESF Transnational Platform). Another project that started in 2018 regards the posting of workers (EU-funded project on the preparation of the implementation of the EU Directive on the posting of workers and the prevention of social dumping to minimise associated risks for workers in the EU and four candidate countries of the Western Balkans). Additionally, the Unit, together with its partners, successfully implemented projects that have started in previous years, such as the 'Peer Reviews and Other Mutual Learning Processes in the Fields of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion', and many others.

Strategic Aim 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. Within the European Centre's 'Bridge Building function', the Unit addresses issues of European integration and social cohesion in EU enlargement countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership. Our methods comprise 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 Unit's Working Areas in a Nutshell

When conducting research and implementing policy advice projects the Unit focuses on the most disadvantaged groups of society:

- *Welfare State and governmental reforms:* Within projects in tax-benefit microsimulation in 2017/2018, we simulated specific reforms of the welfare state in Austria such as basic security for children, Hartz IV and planned governmental reforms in more general terms (EUROMOD/SORESI). Moreover, we analysed the situation of people not covered by health insurance in Austria and (currently still ongoing) measure the target efficiency of the minimum income benefit and its predecessor benefit called monetary social assistance, the benefits of last resort in Austria. Furthermore, in response to the request by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament in view of its delegation visit in early May 2018, the European Centre compiled a medium briefing note on Social and Employment Policies in Austria.
- *Mutual learning activities in the field of employment and social inclusion:* The Unit contributed to the implementation of eight Peer Reviews and other mutual learning activities during 2017/2018 in total (by contract of DG Employment/European Commission under the lead partner ICF). Furthermore, we scrutinised practices of EU Member States concerning risk profiling and outreach activities to tackle long-term unemployment (Discussion Paper), provided inputs on good practices within the EU and beyond and facilitated the implementation of the Employment Thematic Networks as part of the ESF Transnational cooperation (by order of DG Employment/AEIDL).
- *Posting of workers:* Within the two projects that are currently implemented at the Unit regarding the posting of workers, we analyse the situation of occupational safety and health of posted workers (e.g. country comparison Austria and the Slovak Republic; POOSH project) and assess the institutional needs of the candidate countries to prepare for the directive and prevent social dumping together with our partners in Southeast Europe (project EEPOW).
- *Further Know-how transfer activities within the European Centre's Bridge Building function:* The Unit contributed to the setting-up of integrated case management systems in the Western Balkans (contracted by UNDP/ILO and co-funded by ADA) by assessing methods currently used by Public Employment Services (PES) and Centres for Social Welfare (CSW) in the region supporting labour market inclusion of hard-to-employ groups, developing guidelines and toolkits and implementing

By conducting research and implementing policy advice, the Unit focuses on the most disadvantaged groups of our society

We foster mutual learning between organisations in social welfare

training courses in the region. Additionally, the ‘Work and Welfare’ Unit – together with the ‘Health and Care’ Unit – organised the ‘Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare’ to build capacities for overcoming societal challenges within Europe.

The Unit’s Team, our Clients and Brief Outlook

The Unit’s projects are based on international cooperation and networks with partners particularly from the EU and beyond. Our clients in 2017/2018 include, among others, the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), the European Parliament, Eurofound, international organisations such as UNDP, ministries such as the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, research funding bodies such as the Anniversary Fund of the Austrian National Bank and the FWF – Austrian Science Fund, and other organisations like the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions, The Austrian Chamber of Labour and Volkshilfe Österreich.

During the past year, the ‘Work & Welfare’ Unit employed six members, which complement each other regarding their academic background, their research areas as well as their methodological skills (quantitative, qualitative and mixed method analysis as well as policy consultancy and training). We aim at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams in our thematic core areas. The Unit constantly expands its skills and knowledge base towards new thematic areas (e.g. needs assessment techniques) and target groups (e.g. youth, the low-skilled). During 2017/2018 the Unit developed project ideas and submitted several proposals that will shape future activities. The Unit is also driven by received requests, calls for proposals and tenders, many of which have been addressed over the past 12 months. As a corollary, the Unit created a sound basis for further activities in 2018/2019.

We acquire projects under various national and EU funding streams in the areas of employment, social security (benefits and taxes) and social inclusion



Health and Care

Highlights

For the Health & Care Unit, 2018 mostly witnessed a consolidation of the research carried out in the areas of inequalities, policy evaluation, Bridge Building, integrated care and human rights as a result of projects acquired in the past year. This has been translated into the publication of a number of peer-reviewed articles, reports and Policy Briefs where the findings from research and policy evaluation have been disseminated to different stakeholders (academics, policy-makers, society). As some of these projects mature, further findings and publications are expected and these will also serve the aim of increasing the visibility of key topics in care and health research and of the European Centre as a whole.

The research carried out during this period also enabled the Health & Care Unit to strengthen its ties with Board Members – a key aim of our work. As part of the two-year project funded by the Swedish government ('Towards a Rights-based Approach in Long-term Care. Building an Index of Rights-based Policies for Older People in Europe'), we have had the opportunity to work closely with several Board Members in gathering information for the construction of an index on the protection of human rights for older people. This close collaboration was instrumental in allowing us to gather a wider and more precise range of data to include in the index, thus improving its robustness, and will enable the countries represented in the Board to benefit from the research carried out in this project. In addition, a new project was acquired with funding from the European Commission that will see us working closely with the Slovenian government and research partners in that country in the implementation and evaluation of case management in Slovenia (Expert Monitoring and Evaluation of Pilot Projects, EXPO_SI). Together with the ongoing DET_CAREMIX project that compares the choices of older people in Austria and Slovenia, the Health & Care Unit will thus continue to have a close connection with Slovenia. Still regarding Board Members, the Health & Care Unit was also selected through open competitive tendering to carry out a study on expectations and preferences of paediatricians and general practitioners in Vienna, thus building on the Unit's long-standing expertise on workforce issues.

Consolidation of research on long-term care and health

Strengthening the ties with Board Members: a key aim and asset of the Unit

Apart from the new projects listed above, researchers from the Health & Care Unit were also selected to carry out other novel projects during 2018. These included two projects with a strong emphasis on evaluation of public policies: one that focused on reviewing methods for the economic evaluation of e-health and another (ongoing) that will seek to help regional governments in the Alpine Region to assess the best policies and interventions to bring about health and active ageing. Another project acquired and completed during the year enabled researchers from the Unit to contribute to a high impact report from the WHO Regional Office for Europe on the gender dimensions of ageing (WHO Report Men's Health). The Health & Care Unit has long been committed to working across science boundaries and involving practitioners – a commitment that is clearly on display in the new Erasmus+ funded project 'SWaPOL', in which training modules will be developed and tested to bring together members of the police force and social workers in several European countries.

Expanding core areas of competence of the team

Finally, 2018 was also a year in which the Health & Care Unit continued to expand its core team competences with the inclusion of two new researchers. The Unit now has an enhanced ability to carry out projects in the Bridge Building countries (e.g. Western Balkans) and in the area of disability, human rights and de-institutionalization, which will be of added value for the current and future projects.

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, such as inequalities in long-term care, new approaches in social innovation and preventative strategies. By doing so, it is indispensable to recognize 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 already in early 2016, the team sought to achieve a better balance between short-term projects – usually acquired through tenders and with relatively gener-

ous funding but of short duration (often shorter than 12 or even 6 months) and with tight deadlines – and more medium/long-term projects – usually funded through 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. This strategy has already allowed the Unit to acquire funding from the FWF (e.g. DET_CAREMIX), several INTERREG programmes (e.g. ‘New Models to Improve Quality of Life across the Austrian-Hungarian Border Region’, ASTAHG), the European Union Office in Kosovo and SIDA Sweden (‘Support for better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups in Kosovo’) and the Third EU Health Programme (‘Exchanging Prevention Practices on Polydrug Use among Youth in Criminal Justice Systems’) for multi-year projects.

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 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 (the ongoing project DET_CAREMIX, funded by the FWF, and the completed NORDCARE survey of working conditions in long-term care in Austria, funded by the Austrian Chamber of Labour, are two examples). Also the cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection has been intensified by regular meetings, the organisation of workshops and additional studies, as has the cooperation with other national governments that compose the Board of the European Centre. Among these, we highlight the regular meetings and workshops held with IMSERSO from Spain, the ongoing project on the ‘Rights of Older People in Need of Care and Support’ with the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the frequent collaborations with the Slovenian government, among others.

Bridging Function of the European Centre

Highlights

Following the growing interest in the European Centre's Bridge Building ('BB') function, the Centre has enhanced its 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: during 2017/18 the Eastern European Social Policy Network has been expanded, the 'Western Balkan Mod' initiative launched, a call for papers for the 'BB Winter School on Social Welfare' issued, and project ideas developed together with NLOs from the 'BB' region.

Expanding the 'Eastern European Social Policy Network' (EESPN)

The EESPN has expanded in number of members, projects and events

The EESPN, which has been launched already in 2017, has grown in number of members, projects and events. The EESPN is a network of researchers, policy advisers and representatives of public authorities working in the field of social welfare policy. Next to 'word-of-mouth' publicity, contributions of European Centre staff to workshops, seminars and conferences such as the European Commission's conference 'Boosting the Social Dimension' (31 January 2018, Belgrade/Serbia) and the conference 'The Future of the Welfare State in the Western Balkans' (6-8 June 2018, Belgrade/Serbia) assisted in making the EESPN known both by the research community as well as by civil servants in the 'BB' region. Login functions will soon be available for members of the network. This should further ease the process of uploading information at the website (<https://eespn.euro.centre.org/>).

Joining Forces with National Liaison Officials (NLOs) in Applying for Third Funding

Joint project ideas were developed during the first NLO-Workshop

The European Centre organised the first NLO-Workshop 'Bridge Building in Social Welfare Policy' in Vienna, on 19-20 April 2018. The 15 participants of the workshop discussed common interest areas and developed joint project ideas. As a result of the meeting, two (bilateral) project proposals are already under way (submitted to calls for proposals). In addition, further project ideas are waiting to be drafted and submitted still in 2018/19.



Launch of the 'Western Balkan Mod' Initiative

The EUROMOD Research Workshop (17-18 September 2018, Vienna, Austria) is organised together with ISER/University of Essex (United Kingdom) and has a specific session dedicated to the European Centre's 'Western Balkan Mod' initiative. The Research Workshop is implemented back-to-back with the EUROMOD Conference and will gather researchers and public representatives with expertise in tax-benefit microsimulation from Austria and the Western Balkan countries. The aim of the workshop is to enhance the exchange and learning regarding the model. Moreover, the 'Western Balkan Mod' initiative will be discussed and launched. The initiative includes the setting-up of a research network of experts in tax-benefit microsimulation of all six Western Balkan states with the final aim to strengthen the usage of the model in all states.

Exchange on tax-benefit microsimulation between all six Western Balkan states

Bridge Building Winter School on Social Welfare

The European Centre is organizing the international 'Bridge Building Winter School' (4-8 February 2019 in Vienna, Austria) to further focus its activities in the (potential) candidate countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership. The theme of the winter school is 'Life-course Oriented Social Policies in Eastern Europe'. Taking a life-course perspective in the development and implementation of social policies opens possibilities for discussing specific economic and societal challenges such as demographic change, digitalisation and wealth distribution in a more holistic way. The 'Bridge Building Winter School' will gather 12 scholars with expertise in life-course oriented social policies related to the labour market, employment, gender, ageing, digitalisation, wealth, social inclusion, as well as health and long-term care. The aim of the winter school is to discuss and develop papers focusing particularly on life-course approaches and the interfaces between traditional life stages within the following eight areas:

The EESPN Winter School 2018 focusses on 'Life-course Oriented Social Policies in Eastern Europe'

- (1) life-course oriented work-life balance concepts; (2) life-course oriented working schemes (working times, working life models and working conditions such as age management); (3) socio-economic security over the life course; (4) unconditional and 'conditional' minimum income schemes; (5) transitions from school to work, from unpaid (care) work to paid work, from working abroad to reintegration into the country of origin, from work to pension, from work to work (via training), etc.; (6) appropriate care leave and lifelong training regulations; (7) novel ways of vocational education to support occupational career changes (innovative technologies and new skills development); and (8) issues of governance and the regulatory framework to underpin a life-course approach in social policies.

Projects in the Bridge Building Region

Ongoing project acquisition and project implementation in the 'BB' region

In 2017/18, the European Centre implemented or currently implements four projects in the 'BB' region (and even beyond):

- 'Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkans' (06/2017 – 06/2018; by order of UNDP; co-funded by ADA): The project aimed to improve labour market governance in all six Western Balkan countries to develop integrated support and outreach to individuals at risk of exclusion;
- AWLCP – 'Albania Working Life Country Profile' (05/2018 – 07/2018); Eurofound has recently included candidate countries in its Working Life Country Profile series. The profile for Albania presents an overview of the industrial relations and working conditions in the country in the same comparable template.
- 'EEPOW – Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe' (01/2018 – 12/2019; EaSI Programme/DG Employment), with contributions from Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania;
- 'Support for Better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups in Kosovo' (04/2017 – 09/2019; implemented in cooperation with Save the Children; funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo and SIDA, Sweden) with the aim to contribute to the effective transformation of the social service system in Kosovo – focusing on improved quality, availability and sustainability of local social and community-based service delivery for children and vulnerable people living at social risk; and
- 'PAWCER – Public Attitudes to Welfare, Climate Change and Energy in the EU and Russia' (03/2016 – 09/2018; funded by ERA.net, RUS Plus Joint Call for S&T Projects, FWF – Austrian Science Fund).

Future Developments and Prospects

Focus on social security, social protection and social service provision

Social systems in Eastern Europe and especially in the Western Balkan countries vary largely regarding institutional set-up, (financial) sustainability, regional policy frames as well as target group coverage, modalities and conditionalities and the provision of cash (social benefits) and non-cash (social services) support. By fostering mutual exchange and learning between the Accession & Eastern Partnership countries and the EU countries, especially neighbouring countries with experiences during recent enlargement rounds and/or those with comparable baseline situations in Eastern Europe, the European Centre aims at focussing its activities on the development of appropriate policies and programmes in social security, social protection and social service provision together with the partners in these states.

Projects

Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare. Building Capacities to Overcome Societal Challenges

Duration	03/2017 – 10/2017
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Anette Scoppetta
Project Team	Guhrun Bauer, Christian Boehler, Sonila Danaj, Rahel Kahlert, Kai Leichsenring, Orsolya Lelkes, Katarina Hollan, Monika Hunjadi, Ricardo Rodrigues, Judith Schreiber
Project Partner	Central European Initiative (Italy)
Funded by	Central European Initiative

By implementing the Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare, the European Centre built upon our network established between researchers, governments and civil society organisations, the Eastern European Social Policy Network. Speakers from research and applied science as well as from civil society and from public authorities provided high-level inputs and up-to-date knowledge for the summer school participants – thereby stimulating policy dialogue among its participants and beyond.

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

Duration	06/2017 – 06/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Anette Scoppetta
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Orsolya Lelkes, Kai Leichsenring, Monika Hunjadi
External Project Coordinator	Vesna Dzuteska-Bisheva (UNDP), Istanbul Regional Hub (Turkey)
Funded by	UNDP (Istanbul Regional Hub and regional offices)

The project ‘Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkan economies’ is an integrated part of the project ‘Promoting Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans’, coordinated by UNDP and the ILO. The project objectives were (1) to improve labour market governance through expansion of institutional capacities of Public Employment Services and Centres for Social Welfare in order to develop integrated support and outreach to individuals at risk of exclusion; (2) to develop innovative solutions fostering inclusive labour markets through piloting and/or scaling up new tools and approaches to reach those who are most distant from the labour market; and (3) to promote convergence towards EU and global practice through peer learning. The project consisted in the compilation of background reports, high-level and regional workshops as well as a related toolkit and training materials.

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

Duration	03/2016 – 09/2018
Status	Completed
Project Team EC	Anette Scoppetta, Orsolya Lelkes
External Project Coordinator	GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany)
Project Partners	GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany), Institute for Comparative Social Research Ltd. (Russia), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Institut für Höhere Studien (Austria), University of Tampere (Finland), Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences (Switzerland), Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France), Cardiff University (United Kingdom)
Funded by	ERA.net, RUS Plus Joint Call for S&T Projects, FWF – Austrian Science Fund

The aim of the PAWCER project was to conduct comparative research on public attitudes to welfare, climate change and energy, all of which are relevant to understanding conflict, identity, and memory. The methods used included cross-national analyses of survey and contextual data.

PAWCER delivered innovative and relevant knowledge on attitudes towards solidarity and energy issues by (1) delivering comparable data; (2) building on current state-of-the-art research but expanding it to the Russian context; and (3) disclosing similarities and differences between attitudes towards solidarity and energy issues within and between countries in Europe and Russia.

Conceptual Note on Long-term Care and Universal Health Coverage

Duration	12/2017 – 08/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
External Project Coordinator	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Funded by	WHO Regional Office for Europe

As part of Sustainable Development Goal no. 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – policy-makers from around the world have pledged to take decisive steps to ensure universal health coverage (UHC). As population is ageing fast in Europe, it is high time to discuss what are the implications of this pledge to long-term care systems, whose coverage remains far from universal, even in Europe. The aims were to discuss the application of the concept of UHC to long-term care in the context of Europe and develop and publish a conceptual note on the issue.

WHO Report Men’s Health: Health and Ageing among European Men (WHO_MenHealth)

Duration	04/2018 – 05/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Kai Leichsenring
External Project Coordinator	WHO Regional Office for Europe
Funded by	WHO Regional Office for Europe

Gender norms and roles are a key determinant of health for both women and men, particularly when considering a life-cycle approach to health. The WHO office for Europe will publish a report that addresses the health status of men in the European region and how these are influenced by prevailing notions of masculinity, welfare regimes and life-cycle and cohort-specific aspects (e.g. labour market participation, health behaviours). The report will review the latest evidence of factors influencing the health status of men,



taking into consideration both the country diversity of the European region and the intersectionality of health (i.e. the conjunction of gender with other factors such as social class or ethnicity). For this report, researchers at the European Centre have been commissioned to author the chapter on ageing, which includes retirement and ill health, living arrangements of older men, men as carers and loneliness and social isolation.

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

Duration	10/2016 – 12/2017
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Gudrun Bauer, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	Chamber of Labour for Vienna

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 aimed to cover both those employed in the home and residential care sector. The questionnaire used was 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 were drawn. The study was 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, Salzburg) and covered a total of 1,110 workers. Quantitative research methods were used to analyse the results such as differences by regions, type of provider or its size, working conditions of particular professions in the care sector and workers of particular backgrounds such as migrant care workers.

A Comparative Analysis of Working Conditions in the Care Sector across Three Austrian Regions (LänderNORDCARE)

Duration	06/2018 – 11/2018
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Gudrun Bauer, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	Chamber of Labour of Upper Austria (Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für Oberösterreich)

This study was commissioned by the Kammer für Arbeiter und Angestellte für Oberösterreich to compare working conditions in Upper Austria with two other Austrian regions (Vienna and Salzburg) using the data gathered by the NORDCARE Austria study. This comparison will focus on specific aspects of working conditions such as the impact of staff ratios and internal organization of work on working conditions, using bivariate and multivariate statistical analysis. Its scope includes both workers employed in the home care and institutional care sector. The study will deepen the understanding of working conditions in the care sector in Austria, showcasing the potential for comparative research within Austrian regions enabled by the data collected by the NORDCARE study.

Medium Briefing Note: Social and Employment Policies in Austria

Duration	03/2018 – 04/2018
Status	Completed
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Eszter Zólyomi, Sonila Danaj
External Project Coordinator	Birgit Rasehorn, Inbas (Belgium)
Funded by	Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament

In response to the request by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament in view of its delegation visit in early May 2018, the European Centre compiled a medium briefing note. The analyses undertaken refer to recent developments in employment and related policies, in social affairs and related policies, a mapping of priorities of the Austrian Presidency of the EU in the field of employment and social affairs and of other relevant initiatives in the pipeline.

Albania: Working Life Country Profile (AWLCP)

Duration	05/2018 – 07/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Sonila Danaj
External Project Coordinator	Christian Welz, Eurofound (Ireland)
Funded by	Eurofound

Eurofound has recently included candidate countries in their Working Life Country Profile series. The profile for Albania presents an overview of the industrial relations and working conditions in the country in the same comparable template. Through desk research and a review of existing data, the processes, actors and trends in the fields of industrial relations and working conditions in Albania are identified. Some of the highlights of the report include: Key economic and labour market figures, actors and institutions, the collective bargaining system, industrial action and disputes, individual employment relations, wage developments and minimum wage, working time, health and well-being, skills, learning and employability, work organization and equality and non-discrimination at work.

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

Duration	08/2016 – 12/2017
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Kai Leichsenring
Project Team	Gudrun Bauer, Ricardo Rodrigues
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

Over the past few years about 40 Austrian care homes have attained a certification according to the Austrian National Quality Certificate. The assessment of results has reportedly been one of the major challenges for care home managers and for external auditors. These experiences offered an important basis for identifying and assessing the utilisation of performance indicators by care homes. The study investigated on the implemented performance indicators by means of an analysis of documentation provided by care homes that applied for certification. Based on a review of international

literature with a focus on progress in measuring quality of life in care homes, the study contributed to enhanced transparency and user-friendliness by involving relevant stakeholders in interviews and focus groups in the development of recommendations and tangible initiatives for further improvement.

Reviewing Methods for the Economic Evaluation of eHealth

Duration	11/2017 – 06/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Christian Boehler
Project Team	Ingrid Zechmeister-Koss, Stefania Ilinca; Gudrun Bauer
External Project Coordinator	Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions (HVB)
Funded by	Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions (HVB)

As the relevance of eHealth in the provision of healthcare is rapidly increasing, decision-makers require information to help them decide which innovations are worthwhile. The study aimed at reviewing current methods for the economic evaluation of eHealth and at identifying methodological challenges, together with potential solutions. In addition, practice examples from other European countries were analyzed to assess eHealth decision-making processes. The study was based on a systematic review of the methodological literature on economic eHealth evaluation and on desk research for analysing decision-making processes for provision, reimbursement and pricing of eHealth in other European jurisdictions.

Assessing the Motivation, Expectations and Preferences of Medical Residents. A Survey in the Fields of General Medicine and Paediatrics

Duration	01/2018 – 06/2018
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Christian Boehler
Project Team	Katharine Schulmann, Kai Leichsenring
External Project Coordinator	Stadt Wien, Magistratsabteilung 24, Gesundheits- und Sozialplanung
Funded by	Stadt Wien, Magistratsabteilung 24, Gesundheits- und Sozialplanung



Even though the number of current residents in general medicine and paediatrics may be sufficient to cover the demand in primary care in the Vienna region, many residents seem to opt for alternative career paths, potentially leading to shortages in care coverage in the primary care sector in the future. The objective of this study was to learn more about the motivation, expectations and preferences of residents to understand what drives their career choices, and how to make the primary care sector a more attractive career option. An online survey was carried out and a focus group session organised. Project results also comprise recommendations about how primary care could be turned into a more attractive career option.

The EUROMOD Microsimulation Model (EUROMODupdate2)

Duration	02/2012 –
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan, Katrin Gasior
External Project	
Coordinator	Holly Sutherland, ISER (UK)
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 the 2018 policy system), the Austrian input data (EU-SILC national data, latest data SILC 2016) for the model, as well as validation. In 2017/18 EUROMOD (together with SORESI) was used for simulations of planned tax-/benefit-reforms by the new Austrian Government, for a simulation of an introduction of a basic security for children in Austria and for non-take-up analysis of minimum income benefit in Austria.

From 17-18 September 2018 the European Centre together with ISER/University of Essex, organized the Vienna EUROMOD Workshop. The Workshop comprises the following sessions: Tax-benefit microsimulation in Austria; Western BalkanMod initiative of the Eastern European Social Policy Network; New research directions using EUROMOD. About 100 researchers from all over Europe participated in the workshop.

Social Reform Microsimulation Austria (SORESI)

Duration	09/2012 –
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan
Project Partner	Bundesrechenzentrum [Federal Computing Centre] (Austria)
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health 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 2017/18, SORESI was updated to 2018 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2016 with incomes for 2015).

In 2017/18 the updated EUROMOD/SORESI was used as a basis for simulations of planned tax-/benefit-reforms by the new Austrian Government, for a simulation of an introduction of a basic security for children in Austria and for non-take-up analysis of minimum income benefit in Austria (see below).

Analysis of Non-Take-Up of Minimum Income Benefits in Austria

Duration	04/2016 – 04/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta, Katrin Gasior
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*), which are the benefits of last resort in Austria. The main reason for the change from monetary social assistance to the minimum income benefit in 2010/11 was to combat poverty but also to facilitate (better) access to the benefit. Both, the replacement of monetary social assistance by minimum income benefit as well as the recent change in the EU-SILC from survey to register data, offer an interesting and unique combination to investigate the access to benefits.

Simulations of Planned Government Reforms with EUROMOD/SORESI

Duration	12/2017 – 07/2018
Status	Completed
Project Team	Katarina Hollan, Michael Fuchs
Funded by	Chamber of Labour Vienna

Following published reform details for tax-benefit policies for the period 2017-2022 by the new Austrian Federal Government, the European Centre analysed the distributional impact of two envisaged tax-benefit reforms: the introduction of the “family bonus” tax credit and the changes in relation to unemployment assistance and minimum income benefit. With our expertise in tax-/benefit microsimulation modelling, using the Austrian EUROMOD module and the SORESI model, the European Centre provided an in-depth analysis of the budgetary and distributional consequences of the reforms, looking at the effect of the policy changes both at the household (including at-risk-of-poverty rates) and individual levels.

Simulation of Introducing a Basic Security for Children in Austria

Duration	06/2018 – 07/2018
Status	Completed
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan
Funded by	Volkshilfe Österreich

This project analysed the effects of introducing of a basic security for children in Austria. The rationale for such a proposal is that monetary benefits for children should be stronger related to the material situation of the household and the (lacking) financial resources for children. While maintaining the hitherto existing level of financial support for all children almost entirely, families with low incomes and with social disadvantages would particularly benefit from such a reform. For the analysis, the tax-/benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD/SORESI for the year 2018 was used based on EU-SILC 2016 data provided by Statistics Austria.

Thematic Network Employment. ESF Transnational Cooperation (ETN)

Duration	11/2017 – 07/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Anette Scoppetta
External Project Coordinator	Toby Johnson, AEIDL (Belgium)
Funded by	AEIDL by order of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Transnational cooperation in the European Social Fund (ESF) should help to develop better and more effective employment and social policies and to improve the delivery of reforms, essentially by enabling people to learn from experiences and good practice in other countries. Transnational cooperation is implemented in three different ways: on the basis of common themes, whereby Member States benefit from an EU-level platform established and operated by the Commission (the Common Framework); without central coordination (the flexible approach); and through a combined approach of the above. Employment is one of the common themes. The Thematic Network Employment aims at helping Member States to improve the services they provide for the long-term unemployed and for people who want to develop in their careers. Core outputs will be White Papers on particular themes, which set out lessons that can be passed to other countries and regions.

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

Duration	12/2016 – 12/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Anette Scoppetta
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Orsolya Lelkes, Ricardo Rodrigues, Eszter Zólyomi, Katarina Hollan, Kai Leichsenring, Gudrun Bauer, Sonila Danaj, Magdi Birtha, Monika Hunjadi
External Project Coordinator	ICF (Belgium)
Project Partners	Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale (Italy), RadarEurope (The Netherlands)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

EU policy-making in the area of 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 OMC (Open Method of Coordination); it is therefore crucial for the success of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The European Centre actively contributed to eight mutual learning events since its start in 2017.

- Peer review on ‘Competence check for the labour market integration of female refugees’ (Vienna, Austria, 26-27 June 2017)
- Peer review on ‘Single mothers facing poverty: providing adequate financial, material and social support for sustainable social integration’ (Genk, Belgium, 5-6 October 2017)
- Peer review on ‘Social protection information systems’ (Vilnius, Latvia, 23 November 2017)
- Peer review on ‘Germany’s latest reforms of the long-term care system’ (Berlin, Germany, 11-12 January 2018)
- Peer review on ‘Work-capacity assessment and employment of persons with disabilities’ (Riga, Latvia, 26-27 April 2018)
- Peer Review on ‘Way to work – strengthening the links between active labour market policy measures and social support services’ (Vilnius, Lithuania, 11-12 June 2018)
- Peer Review on ‘The efficient transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU OSH legislation’ (Copenhagen, Denmark, 19-20 June 2018)
- Peer Review on ‘Homelessness from a child’s perspective’ (Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 June 2018)
- Seminar on ‘Work 4.0 – digitalisation of the labour market’ (Prague, Czech Republic, 28 February 2018)

Occupational Safety and Health of Posted Workers (POOSH)

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2018
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Sonila Danaj
Project Team	Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta, Sandra Scharf, Eszter Zólyomi
External Project Coordinator	Kristina Toplak, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)
Project Partners	Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia), The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania), Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), University of Rostock (Germany)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

The POOSH project focuses on the underresearched, underexposed and poorly addressed issue of labour/working conditions and 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 labour/working conditions of posted workers; (2) improving access to information on decent labour/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 the nine EU countries covered by the project (www.poosh.eu).

Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe (EEPOW)

Duration	01/2018 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Sonila Danaj
Project Team	Katarina Hollan, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
Project Partners	Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia), CIOFS – Formazione Professionale (Italy), Center for Social Research Halle (Germany), Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Employment Agency of Montenegro (Montenegro), European Movement in Albania, PUBLIC (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
Associated Partners	The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Integration Saxony-Anhalt (Germany) Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (FYROM)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

The EEPow Project proactively addresses the issue of posting of workers at its pre-accession stage by assisting the four candidate countries: Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, and Serbia in implementing the Posting of Workers Directive already before it gets into force, and by assisting in the prevention of social dumping, i.e. the use of cheap labour, to minimize associated risks for workers. The project activities include an assessment of the institutional needs of the candidate countries, mutual-learning activities (peer reviews) in the EU Member States (Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia), and national workshops in the candidate countries.

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

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Günter Stummvoll
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Willem Stamatiou, Cornelius (Cees) Goos
External Project Coordinator	Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (United Kingdom)
Project Partners	Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University (United Kingdom), Change Grow Live (United Kingdom), Aarhus University (Denmark), Eclectica (Italy), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020)

This project focuses on prevention policy and practice for young people aged between 15 and 24 who have been in contact with the criminal justice system. Specific interventions for health promotion in prison settings and in institutions of restorative justice are examined in six European countries (UK, Italy, Denmark, Poland, Germany and Austria) to prevent onset of drug use, reduce escalation and intervene to reverse problematic substance use. The core objectives of the project are, first, to exchange knowledge about best practice interventions to prevent illicit drug use among vulnerable young people in touch with the criminal justice systems in partner countries; second, to examine the appropriateness of existing standards within the criminal justice context and develop a set of guidelines adapted to initiatives for the target group; third, to assess the extent to which intervention models are transferable among countries and cultures in Europe.

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

Duration	12/2016 – 01/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Kai Leichsenring
Project Team	Gudrun Bauer, Stefania Ilinca, Ricardo Rodrigues
External Project Coordinator	Juan Tello, WHO Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen and Almaty)
Project Partners	WHO Regional Office for Europe, Eva Kernstock, Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
Funded by	WHO Regional Office for Europe

This study was commissioned by WHO Europe with the objective to underpin the implementation of its ‘European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery’ (EFFA IHSD). The multiple challenges at the interfaces between health systems and LTC have been addressed by evidence from experiences and models across Europe to achieve solutions with improved outcomes in terms of quality of care from a patient’s perspective, effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

The study has been based on specific applied methodologies encompassing literature analysis to adapt the existing EFFA IHSD by adding and elaborating on the particular features of LTC, case studies to apply the adapted Framework to six countries (Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Turkey) representing different stages or regimes of LTC delivery and to identify the barriers, enablers and success factors under different systemic conditions. The final report will provide a horizontal analysis of findings and relevant policy options.

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 Coordinators	Katharine Schulmann, Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Eszter Zólyomi, Magdi BIRTHA, Veronica Sandu
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Ensuring that all older people have the opportunity to continue to actively participate in society and that those with care needs have access to affordable, quality long-term care is an important issue facing policy-makers. In recent years, international, regional and national legal instruments have increasingly promoted a human rights-based approach to enshrining the rights of older people in law and making sure that these rights are incorporated in policy and practice.

Based on both qualitative and quantitative methods, the project will propose a conceptual framework for a rights-based approach to long-term care and support, building in particular on the disability rights discourse. Furthermore, a comparative index will be developed to assess the extent to which different countries are adopting a rights-based approach to long-term care. The index will finally be piloted by analysing and comparing the results for a select group of European countries, including time-varying indicators.

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

Duration	01/2016 – 12/2018
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Gudrun Bauer, Kai Leichsenring, Christian Boehler
External Project Coordinator	Jose-Luis Fernandez, Personal Social Services Research Unit, London School of Economics (United Kingdom)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The increased demand for long-term care has raised concerns about the sustainability of current funding arrangements in long-term care. In response to these concerns, countries have sought to improve the integration of health and long-term care, tap into the resources provided by informal carers, enhance personalization and person-centred care and improve prevention. The question remains, however: Which of the current policies and initiatives in each of these areas offers the best outcomes for the resources invested?

The European Centre carried out a synthesis of existing evidence on cost-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), integrated care provision.

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

Duration	06/2017 – 06/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Gudrun Bauer
External Project Coordinator	Valentina Hlebec, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
Project Partners	University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Institute for Economic Research (Slovenia)
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 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 conditions.

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

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Rahel Kahlert
Project Team	Katharine Schulmann, Christian Boehler
External Project Coordinator	Christoph Pammer, Chance B (Austria)
Project Partners	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)
Funded by	European Union, European Regional Development Fund, Interreg Austria-Hungary

In 2010 the WHO 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 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.

The European Centre’s task is to scientifically support and evaluate the project. In 2017, the European Centre developed quality standards and indicators for Case and Care Management for the border region through input from Hungarian and Austrian experts and practitioners. These contributed to a case and care management model in the region, which is piloted and evaluated in 2018 and 2019.

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

Duration	04/2017 – 09/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Rahel Kahlert
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Veronica Sandu, Günter Stummvoll, Kai Leichsenring
External Project Coordinator	Trim Kabashi, Save the Children Kosovo (Kosovo)
Partners	Save the Children Sweden (Sweden), Save the Children International Kosovo Office (Kosovo)
Funded by	European Union Office in Kosovo, SIDA Sweden

The project aim is to contribute to the effective transformation of the social service system in Kosovo by focusing on improved quality as well as availability and sustainability of local social and community-based service delivery for vulnerable people. Municipalities will implement local action plans – with the support of licensed social service providers – and allocate resources for their realization.

The European Centre provides a situation analysis of social service provision, develops a capacity advancement system, assists in developing and utilizing a new financial and budgeting model next to municipal action plans, and develops a functional monitoring & evaluation model.

Alpine Space Transnational Governance of Active and Healthy Ageing (ASTAHG)

Duration	04/2018 – 04/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Christian Boehler
Project Team	Veronica Sandu
External Project Coordinator	Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
Funded by	European Union, European Regional Development Fund, Interreg – Alpine Space Programme

Governments of the Alpine Space Programme region recognise the need to promote policies for active and healthy ageing (AHA). Ideally, efforts should be coordinated between authorities. In reality, however, the topic is often managed entirely by healthcare and welfare authorities, which limits the perspective of active ageing to the health and independent living domain and neglects cultural, economic and social aspects, which also actively involve the elderly. ASTAHG will identify and tackle common challenges for promoting AHA within and across regions by helping regional governments to implement and monitor their AHA policies, local governments to identify the most suitable initiatives for their territorial context and social innovators to channel their services and products. ASTAHG will establish a transnational governance board. Governance models and a framework for innovation delivery will be proposed to coordinate AHA initiatives and policies across different sectors, at different territorial levels and involving all relevant actors.

Support to the Implementation of an Integrated System for Long-term Care in Slovenia. Expert Monitoring and Evaluation of Pilot Projects (EXPO_SI)

Duration	05/2018 – 08/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Kai Leichsenring
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Christian Boehler
Funded by	European Commission, Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)

The Slovenian government has put the reform of long-term care (LTC) high on its agenda. To match this rising demand with an appropriate supply of high-quality LTC services, an increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of care provision is needed. Related legislative preparations have been taken, including the creation of an integrated network of formal care providers, informal caregivers, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders providing coordinated LTC services in the communities. This entails the establishment of easily accessible entry points in order to enable users to access LTC services and the integrated network to deliver coordinated services. The specific objective of the European Centre’s technical assistance is to contribute to the implementation of the pilot to support the transition towards an integrated system of long-term care and to the evaluation of its short-term effects (baseline assessment) by taking into account good practices and lessons learned by other countries in addressing similar situations.

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Publisher

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Copy-Editing & DTP Willem Stamatou

Design Barbara Waldschütz

