

Annual Report of Activities 2019



Table of Contents

	From the Executive Director	3
	Highlights and Outcomes	6
	Work and Welfare	6
	Health and Care	9
	Bridging Function	13
	Projects 2018/2019	16
	Publications 2017/2018	35
	Books and Euro Centre Reports	35
	Policy Briefs	37
	Journal Articles and Blog Contributions	38
	Chapters in Books	39
	Reports and Working Papers	40
	Conference Papers and Presentations	42
	International Seminars	48
	Organisation	50
	Management and Staff	50
	Board of Directors	52
	NLOs (National Liaison Officials)	54

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the European Centre!



Sustainable development is a key challenge in the local, national and global context – and it continues to be a fundamental topic at the European Centre. Our annual Report of Activities is reflecting related challenges both in terms of achievements and in relation to caveats and setbacks.

Our engagement in research and policy consultancy in the UNECE Region takes place in an increasingly complex global situation. There are huge global challenges in a situation of weak international collaboration. There are vast social policy issues requiring attention, but combating inequalities, poverty and political instability as the roots of migration and environmental challenges remains a rather neglected argument in the political discourse.

Against this backdrop it is certainly a strength of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to have set an ambitious framework of social policy aspirations. Our contributions to the SDGs relevant to social and health policy are highlighted in each of the 26 projects that are briefly described in this report of activities, with more information to be found on our website www.euro.centre.org.

In the first place, we produced knowledge, evidence and policy recommendations regarding citizens' rights, workers' rights and the right to social protection and greater equality in Europe (SDG 1.3/SDG 10.4). Several activities were located in this area of policy and research such as, for instance, the 'Index of Rights-based Policies

for Older People' that has resulted in a report to assess the state of the art and potential improvements across the UNECE region. Combating discrimination in the field of work/employment on the grounds of gender, race and ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation (SDG 10.2) calls for raising awareness of the rights and the protection offered by existing legislation, but also for monitoring the implementation of international agreements. The European Centre contributed not only to a series of national awareness-raising workshops and international fora, e.g. regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Europe, but also to the assessment of deinstitutionalization strategies in EU Member States. To underpin political strategies with empirical evidence, we continue to use micro-simulation tools to measure the impact of planned reforms or specific challenges in relation to combating poverty and inequalities (SDG 1). For instance, our study on the extent and social determinants of non-take-up of minimum income benefit and monetary social assistance in Austria got ample media coverage in May 2019.

Another focus concerns social innovation in employment and the governance of labour markets, in particular with a view to better-tailored jobs, socially innovative entrepreneurship, and transitions in the already comprehensible future of work. We are exploring the persistent trend of recruiting and posting third-country nationals, for instance in the construction sector, to gain



insight, to promote social dialogue and eventually promote fair and safe working conditions for workers (SDG 8.8/SDG 10.7). A marked trend in social and health policies is to strengthen prevention by better coordinating relevant stakeholders, e.g. regarding narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol (SDG 3.5) – we are exploring better collaboration between police and social workers by means of joint training and dialogue.

Most of these challenges cannot be solved by national policies alone. International cooperation and mutual learning are therefore decisive tools to underpin not only the implementation of the SDGs, but social policy development in particular (SDG 17.16). Consequently, we have reinforced our involvement in the EU Mutual Learning programme by providing thematic expertise or by facilitating 19 peer reviews and mutual learning seminars, respectively, over the past two years. Between January and June 2019 we provided background papers to five Mutual Learning workshops in Brussels with DG Employment, renowned researchers and relevant stakeholder organisations addressing various issues and challenges of long-term care. With the aim of disseminating our expertise we also organised several presentations to international delegations, travelled to Ministries in member states, presented results at conferences, seminars and workshops, and designed tailor-made trainings for policy-makers. Policy-makers as one of our most important target-groups have also been addressed by an ever-rising number of Policy Briefs. The European Centre has continued to produce high quality empirical research as attested by the publication of several peer-reviewed articles by its researchers and their presence at a number of scientific conferences.

Our broad experience in comparative research and international practice of health and care as well as of work and welfare has resulted in pol-

icy consultancy and related projects in the EU Programmes EuropeAID, EaSI and the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service. Furthermore, our collaboration with WHO Europe (including a one-month secondment in Copenhagen), the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (including a joint Policy Brief on informal carers), and the UNDP (including further collaboration in the Western Balkans) continued to promote improvements in the governance of ageing, health and long-term care services, gender equality and employment services.

Our bridge-building function with the potential EU Accession countries has already resulted in several ongoing projects as well as in further missions and additional project proposals involving countries on the Western Balkan. Notwithstanding our impressive success-rate in tendering and grant acquisition in an increasingly competitive environment, it is part of our work to also deal with declined bids and other drawbacks. For instance, as we needed to cancel the 'International Bridge Building Winter School' in March 2019, we decided to stage a workshop in October, now with a focus on the SDG priorities and challenges in Eastern Partnership countries.

Doing relevant research for our key target groups is certainly being appreciated, but it is necessary to communicate our results also to a wider public. A special highlight during 2019 has therefore been the European Centre's entry into the world of social media. With our new twitter account and some improvements on our website we could already experience an important quantitative extension of our followers and visitors.

This short overview might certainly give an impression of busy times – and your impression is correct, in particular as we have not even mentioned all accompanying services yet. We owe a lot of thanks to our support and administrative



staff ensuring public relations, IT, editing, the organisation of travel arrangements and workshops, and in particular general administration and reporting. During this past year, staff were particularly under pressure at times, when deadlines of various projects were striking and shortages occurred due to staff turnover. Related job openings and selection processes thus needed to be arranged. By January 2019, Tamara Premrov and Leonard Geyer eventually joined the Work & Welfare Unit. Tamara is an economist who is finishing her Master in Economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business with a strong interest in inequality research and quantitative data analysis. Leo holds a Master in Political Economy of Europe from LSE and is about to get his PhD in Social Sciences from Bamberg University (Germany). He will complement the team with his expertise in active labour market policies, school-to-work transitions, social investment policies and social partnership. To our deep regret, Gudrun Bauer, an appreciated researcher in the Health & Care Unit, left us at the end of February 2019. We could not but accept her decision to search for new challenges that she eventually found in an interesting position in the city council of Vienna. By May 2019, we were informed by Katharine Schulmann that she will continue her PhD programme at Trinity College in Dublin on a full-time basis. We therefore hired two new colleagues who joined the Health & Care Unit by September: Selma Kadi and Cassandra Simmons. Selma is a sociologist with research interest in the fields of ageing and health who returned to Vienna from a post-doctoral programme at the Eberhard Karls University (Tübingen, Germany). Cassandra recently finished her Master in Economics at the University of Toronto before migrating to Vienna. She will complement the team as a researcher with a focus on quantitative policy analysis and inequalities in health and social care.

To make the future of the European Centre sustainable, we will need to retrieve, train and retain many more researchers with enthusiasm for social welfare policies and research. For doing so, it will also be essential to build stronger mechanisms and processes of international governance in social policies as a key to migratory processes and strategies against climate change. We therefore need the support of governments and policy-makers that do understand and value the benefits of international cooperation. To our great distress, in the year 2019 we lost one of our most valuable Members of the Board who represented this understanding in an exceptional manner. Davor Dominkuš had represented Slovenia on the Board of Directors for the past 8 years as a highly esteemed colleague and a tireless promoter of international cooperation and comparative research in the field of social policies – we will always cherish the memory of a true friend of the European Centre. Slovenia will now have the difficult task to find and nominate a successor but we are confident to welcome a new colleague soon.

As European Centre we are constantly responding to tenders and calls to compete on the European and regional market-places, with some aspirations to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the area of social policies, but we also depend on support by the international community. I would therefore like to thank all colleagues as well as the wide range of partners of the European Centre for their dedication, cooperation and support during this year. We are aware that much more will be needed in terms of international cooperation, financial regulation and global movements to reach these most ambitious goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring
Executive Director

Work and Welfare

Highlights

The Work and Welfare Unit of the European Centre implements projects in research and applied science in the fields of employment, social inclusion and social security (benefits & taxes). We apply comparative research methods and focus on the most disadvantaged groups of our society.

We implement projects in the fields of social inclusion, employment and social security

During the past 12 months we have implemented 12 projects; three of which were flagship projects in the area of posting (Posting of third country nationals, Posting of workers in Eastern Europe, Occupational safety and health of posted workers). Another three projects applied microsimulation methods (The EUROMOD microsimulation model, Social reform microsimulation Austria and Analysis of non-take-up of minimum income benefits in Austria). Together with other partners, our Unit also contributed to the implementation of Peer Reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion, to Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Workshops in Austria and to the Employment Thematic Network. Finally, the Unit is implementing a study to evaluate the support of the European Social Fund to promote social inclusion, combat poverty and any discrimination (Thematic Objective 9). Moreover, an Alpine Space project on transnational governance of active and healthy ageing (ASTAHG) as well as tailor-made training courses on social welfare issues for the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy are ongoing.

Strategic Aim of the 'Work and Welfare' Unit

The Unit aims to contribute to the improvement of social welfare policies

The strategic aim of the Unit is to conduct high-quality research and contribute to the improvement of social welfare policies and labour market programmes through policy consultation based on evidence-based research. We apply qualitative and quantitative research methods such as microsimulation and modelling, comparative research and case-studies as well as participatory design processes. Core areas in which our Unit has undertaken research and applied science during the past year comprise minimum income schemes, income distribution, poverty and material deprivation, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, labour market and employment trends, actions at the interface of social and labour market policy, the digitalised economy



('Work 4.0'), skill demand and migration, social policy dialogue, social innovation and transition processes. Within the European Centre's 'Bridge Building function', the Unit moreover addresses issues of European integration and social cohesion in EU enlargement countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership.

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:

- *Posting of workers*: We analyse the situation and working conditions of posted workers in a comparative perspective, assess institutional needs, apply foresight methods and draw lessons learnt on how to prevent social dumping.
- *Welfare State and governmental reforms*: Within tax-benefit micro-simulation projects, we simulate specific reforms of the welfare state in Austria. For example, the Unit analysed the non-take-up of minimum income benefits in Austria during the past year. Moreover, transnational governance models are developed within the ASTAHG project in the area of active and healthy ageing.
- *Mutual learning activities and stakeholder workshops*: As in previous years, the Unit contributed to the implementation of Peer Reviews and other mutual learning activities (by contract of DG Employment/European Commission under the lead partner ICF) as well as to the Employment Thematic Network as part of the ESF Transnational Cooperation (by order of DG Employment/AEIDL). Four papers have been written during the past year on innovative approaches towards inclusive labour markets in Europe. Our Unit also conducts training courses in social welfare issues for civil servants and other partners.
- *Further know-how transfer activities within the European Centre's Bridge Building function*: Two projects of the Unit – both in the area of posting – are currently assisting in know-how transfer within the UNECE region. The Unit's team, together with the team of the Health & Care Unit, coordinates the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN), a network of researchers, policy officers and civil society groups. We also run the network's website.

We focus on the most disadvantaged groups of our society

We foster mutual learning between organisations in social welfare

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 2018/2019 include, among others, the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), ministries such as the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection and public funding agencies (e.g. for the Interreg – Alpine Space Programme), research funding bodies such as the Anniversary Fund of the Austrian National Bank (*ÖNB-Jubiläumsfonds*) and research and applied science partners such as AEIDL – European association for information on local development (Belgium), ICF International (Belgium & United Kingdom) and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (Bulgaria).

We cooperate with a broad range of research and applied science funding bodies

During the past year, the 'Work & Welfare' Unit employed eight 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. foresight: scenario-building methodology) and target groups (e.g. disabled people, third-country nationals). During 2018/2019 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 2019/2020.



Health and Care

Highlights

The year of 2019 saw the Health and Care Unit consolidate its role as a knowledge centre for research on inequalities in health and care through the acquisition of grants in highly competitive calls. FUTUREGEN is a 3-year GENDER-ERA Net-funded project that aims to shed light on the evolution and determinants of inequalities in health and care across cohorts. We are coordinating this project, which includes partners from Sweden (Karolinska Institute) and Canada (Queen's University). It builds on ongoing research on inequalities in the context of other projects. One such project is DET_CARE-MIX in which the Health and Care Unit and the University of Ljubljana carried out the first qualitative 'dyad study' with users and their adult children in Austria and Slovenia. We have also acquired funding from the Anniversary Fund (*Jubiläumsfonds*) of the Austrian National Bank to investigate the distributional impact of the abolishment of the asset contribution for residential care in Austria (*Pflegeregress*). In the words of one of our partners, we maintain our "passion for equality"!

Besides inequalities, 2019 was also marked by a number of projects with a strong policy component in the area of disability. This included the active participation in the awareness-raising Action Workshops under the campaign "The EU helps fight discrimination at work" in Brussels, Warsaw and Bucharest, with further workshops planned for 2020. We were also actively involved in assessing the impact of projects on de-institutionalisation funded by the European Strategic and Investment Funds (ESIF) in Hungary and took part as rapporteur in the 10th Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), organised by the European Commission in Brussels. These projects involved various stakeholders – from governments to disability rights advocates and commercial firms – with a strong potential for a direct impact on policy-making.

During this year we have continued our involvement in a number of projects that seek to bring together different professionals and institutions to deal with key societal challenges regarding most vulnerable groups. The Erasmus+ funded international project 'SWaPOL', in which training modules are developed and tested to bring together members of the police force and social workers working with marginalised groups in the public space, is a

A knowledge centre for research on inequalities in health and care

Research, policy analysis and evaluation of policies and initiatives that target vulnerable groups

good example of such projects that we are currently leading. Integration is also the keyword for the projects “Interreg Austria–Hungary: New models to improve quality of life across the Austrian-Hungarian border region” and “Expert monitoring and evaluation of pilot projects to implement an integrated system for long-term care in Slovenia”. In both cases, the Health and Care Unit has been involved in the evaluation of the impact of these interventions – another important aspect of our portfolio of activities. Over the last two years, the Unit has also been involved in supporting the development of better social services for the most vulnerable groups in Kosovo, a project coordinated by Save the Children. This project, which is also part of our Bridge Building strategy, involved the establishment of partnerships across several stakeholders and levels of government to improve the quality of service delivery and we are now witnessing the results of these efforts. Vulnerable groups, but also work across the aisle, are also key to the project “Exchanging prevention practices on polydrug use among youth in criminal justice systems”. This is an international project involving partners from Denmark, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, for which results will be available very soon!

**Comparative
research and policy
analysis – key aspects
of our work**

In 2019 we launched the results of the Rights of Older People Index (ROPI), which has been proposed and generously funded by one of our Board Members, the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The findings of this project have been gathering quite some interest with the European Commission and other stakeholders and we are currently exploring ways to build on this. We have also collaborated with colleagues of the Work and Welfare Unit in preparing a report on loneliness among older people in Europe for our Spanish Board Members. These two projects are examples of the comparative research that is at the core of the aims of the Health and Care Unit, but also of the strong ties that we aim to maintain and develop with our Board Members. We take the opportunity to express our gratitude for their support and engagement!

We already mentioned our involvement in actions with a strong policy component in the area of disability. These were supplemented in 2019 by our participation in two processes with a clear potential to drive policy change in Europe. Members of the Health and Care Unit acted as thematic experts for a series of workshops on long-term care with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. In these workshops we had the opportunity to closely engage with the European Commission on a number of challenges in long-term care, from financing to workforce and quality. In parallel, the Unit has been closely involved with WHO Europe, particularly, its Gender Unit, in the development of policy tools to enhance gender equality in the context of long-term care policies that will be implemented by member states.



With regard to the personnel development of our team, we would like to welcome Selma Kadi and Cassandra Simmons as new researchers to the team. They will strengthen our research capacity in the areas of ageing, inequalities and health and we look forward to working together! Our special thanks go to Gudrun Bauer and Katharine Schulmann, two team members who left the Unit to pursue new career opportunities. Among other contributions, Katharine Schulmann has led the work that set the ground for the development of the Rights of Older People Index, while Gudrun Bauer was key in the implementation of the first survey on working conditions in the long-term care sector in Austria (NORDCARE Austria). We will be cheering for your success and looking forward to future collaborations!

The Aims of the 'Health & Care' Unit

The strategic aim of the Health & Care Unit is to contribute to the improvement of public 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 impact society, contribute to knowledge creation and advancement of research and assist policy-makers at the national and international level 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 in research and policy analysis. Research by the Health & Care Unit therefore always seeks to incorporate relevant stakeholders' contributions and feedback.

Research 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, we sought to achieve a better balance between short-term projects – usually acquired through tenders and with relatively generous 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, greater control over research and allow for better management of human resources. Concomitantly, this funding strategy is also pursued with the aim to secure medium-term funding allowing for a sustainable growth of the team – an inter-

mediate goal that could thus be achieved, in particular by acquiring funding for multi-year projects from the GENDER-ERA Net/FWF (e.g. FUTUREGEN, DET_CAREMIX), the INTERREG programme (e.g. 'New Models to Improve Quality of Life across the Austrian-Hungarian Border Region'), 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').

The team identified a number of topics where researchers from the Unit have 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, disability and evaluation of social policies. This will allow for tapping into new funding sources and expand the scope of projects to include Bridge Building countries, where evaluation expertise is a need.

Taking a proactive stance in acquisitions

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 projects FUTUREGEN and DET_CAREMIX are two examples of this approach. In parallel, 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 already mentioned report on loneliness among older people in Europe, prepared for IMSERSO (Spain), joint participation in tendering processes, and the ongoing project on the 'Rights of Older People in Need of Care and Support' with the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.



Bridging Function of the European Centre

Highlights

In 2018/2019 the European Centre further invested in its 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 European countries, the European Union and other relevant stakeholders at the international, European and national levels. We have been implementing projects on specific topics in the region (see below), further investing in the Eastern European Social Policy Network and co-organising and attending meetings with our colleagues in the region on country-specific requests. For instance, cooperation meetings with North Macedonia were organized in Skopje on 4 and 5 February 2019 with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Strategic Focus on Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP)

As a result of internal reflection and the participation in the Eastern Partnership Conference 2018, that took place in Vienna in the context of the Austrian EU Presidency, we put our present focus on increased collaboration with the Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP). As a first step, we singled out potential cooperation partners at research institutions, established contacts and intensified cooperation with both long-standing and newly nominated National Liaison Officials (NLOs). Staff members provided input to conferences and events in the region (e.g. at the Macro Conference 2018 – ‘Making investment work for people and public good’ on 19 October 2018, Chisinau, Moldova) and prepared project outlines based on needs expressed by our members from EaP countries. Finally, two small projects in the region have been approved, namely on ‘Social protection of the older population, de-institutionalisation and alternative care support in Armenia’ and on ‘Social services provision in the context of domestic violence in Armenia’. These projects are a consultancy offer to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and will be implemented until the first half of 2020.

We put our strategic focus on enhanced work with the EaP-countries

We implement internally-funded Bridge Building projects

The Bridge Building Event 2019 on Sustainable Development Goals – Priorities and Challenges of Social Policy in the Eastern Partnership Countries

In line with the above-mentioned strategic focus on the EaP countries and our work conducted in contributing to the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs, we organised a workshop entitled ‘Sustainable Development Goals – Priorities and Challenges of Social Policy in the Eastern Partnership Countries’. On 14-15 October 2019, civil servants from Bridge Building countries gathered at the European Centre with other experts and policy-makers from member states.

Continuous Work on the ‘Eastern European Social Policy Network’ (EESPN)

In 2018/2019 the European Centre work on the EESPN, which had been launched already in 2017, was continuing. The EESPN is a network of researchers, policy advisers and representatives of public authorities working in the field of social welfare policy. The website of the network is managed by the European Centre and can be found at <https://eespn.euro.centre.org/>. Login functions have been made available for members of the network over the past year.

We currently implement three larger projects in the region

Projects in the Bridge Building Region

- ‘Posting of third country nationals – Con3Post’ (01/2019 – 12/2020, funded by the EaSI Programme, DG Employment, European Commission; with contributions from Ukraine): The project explores a persistent and under-researched trend of recruiting and posting of third-country nationals in the construction sector in order to produce new evidence-based knowledge, provide space for multi-stakeholder transnational cooperation and exchange of information within and beyond the EU, contribute to nourishing social dialogue at the sectoral level and promote fair and safe working conditions for workers.
- ‘EEPOW – Posting of workers in Eastern Europe’ (01/2018 – 12/2019; funded by the EaSI Programme, DG Employment, European Commission; with contributions from North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania): The EEPOW project aims to proactively address the issue of posting of workers at the pre-accession stage by as-



sisting Eastern European countries, especially the four candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, in implementing the Directive already before it gets into force, and by assisting in the prevention of social dumping, i.e. the use of cheap labour, to minimise associated risks for workers.

- ‘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): The project contributed 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.

Future Developments and Prospects

In the near future, we will continue working closer with the EaP countries, focusing on key areas we have identified with the relevant stakeholders in the region, namely long-term care, labour market inclusion of vulnerable groups, social protection systems, and ‘active and healthy ageing’. During the upcoming year we aim to carry out two workshops in the EaP countries, one on long-term care and one on social security systems. Moreover, European Centre staff has already submitted several project proposals to intensify collaboration between the European Centre and its partners in the region.

In 2020, we will focus our BB cooperation work on long-term care and social security

Projects

Occupational Safety and Health of Posted Workers (POOSH)

Duration	01/2017 – 12/2018
Status	Completed
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Eszter Zólyomi, Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta, Sandra Scharf
External Project	
Coordinators	Kristina Toplak (2017) / Mojca Vah Jevšnik (2018), 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)
Associated Partners	Ministry of Labour and Pension System of the Republic of Croatia (Croatia), Labour Inspectorate of the Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue (Belgium), Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Legno Edili e Affini (Italy), European Trade Union Institute (Belgium), Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia), CONECT Association for Employment, Dialogue and Migration (Romania)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

The POOSH project focused on the under-researched, under-exposed and poorly addressed issue of labour and working conditions and occupational safety and health of posted workers.

Based on the comparative analysis of the nine country reports (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain), the findings indicate that the temporary, mobile and transnational character of posting affects the health and safety of posted workers in multiple ways. For instance, economic vulnerability and dependence on the employers make workers comply to poorer working and living conditions. Cases of injury reveal various irregularities to posted workers' health insurance and care as posted workers do not necessarily take advantage of the existing mechanisms for both prevention and protection. Furthermore, lack of or limited access to collective representation lowers workers' level of protection while language barriers limit their access to information. Therefore, stakeholders demand more coordinated and cohesive action.

European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD2018)

Duration	11/2018 – 01/2019
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Magdi BIRTHA
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The annual conference on the European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD) took place on 3-4 December 2018 in Brussels. Hosted by the European Commission, in partnership with the European Disability Forum, this event is part of the EU's wider efforts to promote the mainstreaming of disability issues, to raise awareness of the everyday challenges faced by persons with disabilities and exchange experiences on promising solutions.

Among other key topics, the 2018 conference gave policy-makers, high-level experts and civil society organisations the opportunity to discuss the potential shape of the next European Disability Strategy, but also the possible ways in which it could be implemented, notably in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The European Centre contributed to the conference report which is published on the European Commission's website and disseminated widely among policy-makers, the representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.

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

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

The European Centre was commissioned to underpin the implementation of the 'European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery' (EFA IHSD) by additional information at the interfaces between health

systems and long-term care (LTC) service delivery. In particular, six country case-studies were carried out in Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Romania and Turkey to inquire about the state of the art of LTC service delivery. The results of the case-studies (interviews, workshops and site-visits) were documented in technical reports that will feed into the further development of WHO Europe’s activities in promoting integrated health services delivery and the establishment of LTC systems in the WHO European Region. A final conference in December 2018 (Almaty, Kazakhstan) served to present results of the case-studies and to exchange experiences with a large number of Member States under the upbeat title ‘Leapfrogging the integration of long-term care for older people in the European Region: getting it right, fast’.

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

Duration	02/2017 – 02/2019
Status	Completed
Project Coordinators	Katharine Schulmann, Ricardo Rodrigues, Magdi BIRTHA
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Veronica Sandu, Eszter Zólyomi
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

People in older age groups occupy a growing share of the population in many European countries. Therefore, 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. This project aimed to propose a conceptual framework for a rights-based approach to long-term care and support, based on a literature review and DELPHI survey. This conceptual framework served as the basis for a comparative index (Rights of Older People Index – ROPI) and Scoreboard of Indicators to assess and monitor rights-based policies to long-term care and the outcomes of such policies. The ROPI and Scoreboard have been applied thus far to 12 countries in Europe.

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

Duration	04/2016 – 04/2019
Status	Completed
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs, Katarina Hollan, Anette Scoppetta, Katrin Gasior
Funded by	Anniversary Fund of the Austrian National Bank (ÖNB-Jubiläumsfonds)

Non-take-up of means-tested benefits is a widespread phenomenon in European welfare states. The project assesses whether the reform that replaced the monetary social assistance benefit by the minimum income benefit in Austria, has succeeded in increasing take-up rates. We use EU-SILC register data together with the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD/SORESI. The results show that the reform led to a significant decrease of non-take-up from 53% to 30% in terms of the number of households and from 51% to 30% in terms of expenditure. Estimates of a two-stage Heckman selection model show that pecuniary determinants (higher degree of need), lower application costs (unemployment, low education, renting one's home) and lower psychological barriers (size of municipality and lone-parenthood) are predictors of taking up the benefit.

Social Reform Microsimulation Austria (SORESI)

Duration	09/2012 – 04/2019
Status	Completed
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Tamara Premrov
Project Partner	Federal Computing Centre [<i>Bundesrechenzentrum</i>] (Austria)
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)

SORESI is a web application for Austria, based on the microsimulation model EUROMOD. The aim is to provide 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. SORESI offers the opportunity to play around with reform ideas and obtain their effects on the national poverty rate, income inequality indicators and different income groups.

Employment Thematic Network. ESF Transnational Cooperation (ETN)

Duration	11/2017 – 07/2019
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer
External Project Coordinator	Valentina Caimi, AEIDL (Belgium)
Project Partner	AEIDL – European Association for Information on Local Development (Belgium)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Transnational cooperation in the European Social Fund (ESF) aims at developing better and more effective employment and social policies and at improving the delivery of reforms by enabling people to learn from experiences and good practices in other countries. The European Commission set up nine Thematic Networks to support transnational cooperation. Anette Scoppetta acted as thematic expert for the Employment Thematic Network (ETN). The ETN was set up to exchange know-how on pressing ESF topics between ESF Managing Authorities and their partner organisations. Over the past years, network members discussed opportunities and challenges related to key issues of employment and labour market policies in the EU such as long-term unemployment, integrated services, risk profiling and outreach, female (un-)employment and work-life balance, career management and age management, labour market transitions in the Future of Work, socially innovative entrepreneurship and job carving and job crafting. Papers and key findings can be accessed via an Online Compendium: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality/employment-tn-online-compendium#etn>.

Work Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU (WF2019)

Duration	05/2019 – 08/2019
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Magdi Birtha
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

On 13 May 2019, the 10th Work Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), organised by the European Commission, took place in Brussels. Similarly to previous years, the event brought together stakeholders from the EU and Member States that play an active role in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD. These are Focal Points, Coordination Mechanisms and Monitoring Mechanisms from the Member States and the EU, along with civil society and relevant international bodies. For a decade, the Work Forum has been an important annual platform to share experiences and promote promising solutions to common challenges for persons with disabilities across the EU. In 2019, among other relevant matters, the Work Forum discussed the political participation of persons with disabilities in light of the 2019 European Elections.

The European Centre was responsible for drafting the conference report summarizing the main points and challenges highlighted during the Work Forum by the different speakers and participants. The report is published on the website of the European Commission.

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

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

The project aim was 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 implemented local action plans and allocated resources for their realization.



The European Centre provided a situation analysis of social service provision to the vulnerable and persons at risk across municipalities. In the ensuing phase, a capacity advancement system for various stakeholders was developed through workshops and conferences, ensuring a functional monitoring & evaluation model to guide and support the transformation process. Furthermore, the European Centre assisted in developing and utilizing a new financial and budgeting model for the central level, and supervised the development of municipal action plans for community-based social service delivery.

Deinstitutionalisation in Hungary. Support for the Assessment of the Calls for Proposals and Selected Projects (DI_HUNGARY)

Duration	02/2019 – 10/2019
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Magdi BIRTHA
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The European Strategic and Investment Funds (ESIF) support two operational programmes to transform institutional care to community-based services (deinstitutionalisation) in Hungary. The programmes aim to ensure the deinstitutionalisation of 10,000 persons with disabilities through the ESIF funds. The purpose of this project is to provide support to DG EMPL for the assessment of the calls for proposals and selected projects for deinstitutionalisation in Hungary.

As part of the expert assignment, data was collected through desk research, stakeholder interviews and field research. The final report assesses the compliance of the selected projects with international human rights law, in particular with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), and describes the current bottlenecks hampering an effective implementation of ESIF support for deinstitutionalisation in Hungary.

Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe (EEPOW)

Duration	01/2018 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, 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 the 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, Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency, Third EU Health Programme (2014-2020)

This project focuses on young drug users in contact with the criminal justice system. In this collaborative research project, interviews have been conducted with young people aged 14-25 to learn about trajectories and pathways of drug consumption in different settings and at different stages in the criminal justice process: In pre-trial detention, in-patient homes for drug treatment, in youth prisons, as clients of out-patient care facilities and in psychotherapy. Also, probation services have been examined that facilitate between the administrative systems of health and criminal justice. Specific interventions for health promotion on probation are examined in the partner countries 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 the criminal justice systems; 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.

Interreg Austria–Hungary: New Models to Improve Quality of Life across the Austrian-Hungarian Border Region (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 (until 6/2019), Michael Longhino, Chance B, Austria
Funded by	European Union, European Regional Development Fund

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' (AFR) 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 AFR project, which was piloted in 2018 and 2019.

In 2018, the European Centre team began to carry out the accompanying stakeholder evaluation based on stakeholder interviews and surveys of care users. The team will further examine the process and outcomes of the AFR project, resulting in a final report by the end of 2019. Findings will contribute to an evidence-based case and care management model in the region.

Tailor-made Training Courses on Social Welfare Issues

Duration	07/2019 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Kai Leichsenring, Sonila Danaj, Eszter Zólyomi, Magdi BIRTHA, Rahel Kahlert, Veronica Sandu
Funded by	Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development – Bulgaria (on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria)

The European Centre conducts tailor-made training courses for civil servants of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The training comprises five training courses in selected topics in social welfare, each lasting for two days. The training courses are focusing on (i) labour market and social policies, (ii) future of work, (iii) long-term care as well as on (iv) labour migration, occupational safety and health, and social dialogue.

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

Duration	05/2018 – 12/2019
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Kai Leichsenring
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Christian Boehler
Project Partners	Ministry of Health of the Government of Slovenia (Slovenia), Institute of Economic Research (Slovenia)
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 the rising demand with an appropriate supply of high-quality LTC services, both efficiency and effectiveness of care provision need to be improved. An integrated care approach has therefore been adopted by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoL). One of the key elements of this strategy is the establishment of easily accessible single entry points to enable users to access LTC services. Three pilot sites have been selected to test the new needs assessment instrument, the effectiveness of care coordinators, and the functioning of integrated care teams.

The specific objective of the European Centre’s technical assistance is to contribute to the transition toward an integrated system of LTC and to the evaluation of its short-term effects (baseline assessment). Several workshops will be organised and consultancy in the evaluation approach, the choice of monitoring tools and the analysis of data will be provided. The Slovenian team of experts will thus continue to monitor and evaluate the pilot projects with sufficient skills and know-how, based on international experiences and good practice.

Evolving Gender Differences in Health & Care across Cohorts (FUTUREGEN)

Duration	03/2019 – 02/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Eszter Zólyomi
Project Partners	Susan Phillips, Queen’s University (Canada); Stefan Fors, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
Funded by	Gender-ERA-Net, FWF – Austrian Science Fund, Swedish Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Women live, on average, longer than men, but live a greater portion of their lives in poor health. As a result, women are more likely than men to be informal caregivers, and to use care services. Older adults’ health and care-giving/receiving are two impactful examples of existing inequalities between men and women. FUTUREGEN aims to understand how entwined GENDER inequalities in health and caregiving/receiving evolve across GENERATIONS in connection with cultural and social contexts and individual realities, and how identified sex/gender inequalities may evolve in the FUTURE.

Current gender inequalities in health and care can be attributed to present-day circumstances and to how people live their lives. Both are changing, but we know little about how these changes are shaping health and care and future sex/gender inequalities. Are health inequalities between men and women narrowing as women achieve greater economic independence? Will shifting cultural norms mean that future generations of older men will provide more care? How are gender inequalities in health and care tied to socioeconomic conditions? Which measures of health avoid sex/gender bias? To answer these questions, the multidisciplinary FUTUREGEN team will use a twofold approach. It will apply novel quantitative methods (e.g. graphical modelling, decomposition strategy) to comparable international datasets covering Europe and North America. It will also obtain older people's views through participatory qualitative research methods involving older people in Austria, Canada and Sweden.

Awareness-raising Action Workshops in the EU Member States (EMPL_AwarenessRaising)

Duration	03/2019 – 03/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Magdi BIRTHA
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

On 7 May 2019, the European Commission launched a new campaign, i.e. “The EU Helps Fight Discrimination at Work” and as part of it, nine awareness-raising workshops are being organised in Member States. The aim of these seminars is to facilitate discussion among public and private employers on which practices are in place to provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation at the workplace and what challenges remain to combat their persistent discrimination on the labour market. The European Centre actively contributed to the first three seminars that took place in Brussels, Belgium (15/05/2019), Bucharest, Romania (07/06/2019) and Warsaw, Poland (27/06/2019). Six more events are foreseen until March 2020.

During the campaign and the national awareness-raising seminars, promising practices are collected from Member States on existing measures to provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation. In early 2020, a guidebook will be published and translated into all EU languages to present these practices and success stories on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market.

Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Workshops in Austria – ‘Leaving No One Behind’ (SDG)

Duration	01/2019 – 06/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Monika Hunjadi
External Project Coordinator	Andreas Schaller, Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection (BMASGK)

Engagement with stakeholders in the form of a structured and coherent nationwide mechanism that considers the provinces, municipalities and the civil society was recommended by the Austrian Court of Auditors after carrying out an audit of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The BMASGK and the European Centre organise five multi-stakeholder workshops on specific topics relevant for achieving the SDGs. Project aims comprise raising awareness about the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, information exchange between stakeholders, networking and compiling contributions from stakeholders for reporting. In 2019, three workshops took place (i) on the implementation of the SDGs targeted at people with disabilities on 27 March 2019 in Linz; (ii) on the implementation of the SDGs in the field of decent work for young people on 17 June 2019 in Graz; and (iii) on the implementation of the SDGs targeted at older people on 6 November 2019 in Vienna. Two additional workshops will follow in 2020.

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, Selma Kadi, Gudrun Bauer, Rahel Kahlert
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), 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 gain a better understanding of how older people make their choices regarding care, namely, who provides care and which 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). To this end, it uses a mixed methods methodology including qualitative and quantitative research methods on secondary (e.g. international surveys and national data) and primary data (semi-structured interviews) as well as stakeholder consultations and literature reviews.

The EUROMOD Microsimulation Model (EUROMODupdate2)

Duration	02/2012 – 08/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Tamara Premrov
External Project	
Coordinator	Holly Sutherland, ISER (United Kingdom)
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, the Austrian input data (EU-SILC national data) for the model, as well as validation. In 2019, the Austrian part of EUROMOD was updated to 2019 policy rules (including the introduction of the family tax credit ‘Familienbonus plus’) using the latest input data (SILC 2017, with incomes for 2016). A detailed description of the policy parameters, the micro-database as well as of validation results is provided in the EUROMOD country reports.

Abolishing Asset Contributions to Residential Care in Austria: Winners, Losers and Alternatives

Duration	06/2019 – 08/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Cassandra Simmons, Tamara Premrov, Kai Leichsenring
Funded by	Austrian National Bank – Anniversary Fund

The asset contribution to residential care in Austria (*Pflegeregress*) has been abolished in January 2018, increasing the scope for higher use of social assistance and higher demand for residential care for older people. There is currently no empirical evidence on the distributional effect of this measure across the income and wealth distribution. There has also been limited evidence-based discussion about funding alternatives to the abolished asset contribution and their distributional effects, respectively. Finally, to this date, there is no reliable information on the financial gap arising from waiving the asset contribution. This study seeks to bridge these gaps. In doing so, it will make a significant and timely contribution to the current policy debate in Austria on the *Pflegeregress*. In addition, the findings of the study will contribute to the still nascent literature on inequalities in long-term care, while the methodology used could be replicated in other national contexts.

Social Work and Policing. Vocational Training in Public Order Management (SWaPOL)

Duration	11/2018 – 10/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Günter Stummvoll
Project Team	Cornelius (Cees) Goos, Magdi BIRTHA
Project Partners	University College Gent (Belgium), University of Applied Science Graz: FH Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH (Austria), The Lisbon Municipal Police: Camara Municipal de Lisboa (Portugal), University of Porto: Universidade de Porto (Portugal)
Funded by	ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training, European Commission

Management of social order in public space has become a shared responsibility of policing authorities and welfare institutions. However, the collaboration of different players is often marked by tensions. Marginalised groups such as drug addicts, homeless people and youth are often victims of divergent professional work ethics. A good balance of social welfare and law enforcement policies underpins social inclusion of marginalised people in public space.

The aim of this project is to develop and implement a teaching- and training package for integration into existing curricula in vocational education and continuous training both at the police and in social work in European countries. A handbook for trainers will be developed and a pilot course (3+2 days) will be tested before it can be integrated in existing vocational training schedules at schools of social work and in the police force. A good balance of social welfare and law enforcement policies supports social inclusion of marginalised people in public space.

Training activities draw on recent developments in high-school didactics (student-centred learning, constructive alignment) and apply creative exercises and tasks for student involvement. The SWaPOL training will focus on (i) general questions on the professions of social work and police and their collaboration; (ii) substance use of young people and respective methods for prevention and harm reduction in the nightlife; and (iii) risk factors for homelessness and social isolation including housing conditions, gentrification, displacement, and mental illness.

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

Duration	12/2016 – 12/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Magdi Birtha, Michael Fuchs, Ricardo Rodrigues, Eszter Zólyomi, Katarina Hollan, Kai Leichsenring, Gudrun Bauer, Sonila Danaj
External Project Coordinator	Mattias Wihlborg, ICF (United Kingdom)
Project Partners	ICF International (Belgium and United Kingdom), 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 several mutual learning events during the past year (autumn 2018 – today):

- *Three Peer Reviews* ('Improving reconciliation of work and long-term care' in Berlin, Germany, 24-25 September 2018; 'The organisation, outcomes and effectiveness of social dialogue' in Brussels, Belgium, 23-24 October 2018; and 'Ensuring adequate assistance for those most in need (Minimum Income)' in Vilnius, Lithuania, 7-8 February 2019);
- *Four Capacity-building Seminars on Deinstitutionalisation* 'Moving towards independent living and community-based care' (Vienna, Austria, 6 December 2018; Zagreb, Croatia, 14 March 2019; Bratislava, Slovakia, 21 May 2019; and Brussels, Belgium, 17 June 2019);
- *Five Mutual Learning Workshops on Long-term Care*: 29 January 2019; 7-8 March 2019; 1-2 April 2019; 13-14 May 2019; and 13 June 2019 (all in Brussels, Belgium); and
- *Scientific Analytical Support*: Country reviews – Performance of EU candidate countries regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (December 2018 – January 2019).

Posting of Third-Country Nationals – Mapping the Trend in the Construction Sector (Con3Post)

Duration	01/2019 – 12/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer
External Project Coordinator	Mojca Vah Jevšnik, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)
Project Partners	ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia), UNIVE – Ca'Foscari University of Venice (Italy), JYU – University of Jyväskylä (Finland), UW – University of Warsaw (Poland)

Associated Institutions European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EU), Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue (Belgium), Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Slovenia), Regional State Administrative Agency for Southwestern Finland (Finland), Ukrainian Workers' Trade Union (Ukraine), Labour Inspectorate of Estonia (Estonia), Labour Inspectorate of the Territory of Venice (Italy), Italian Federation of Construction and Wood Workers (FILCA CISL) (Italy), Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) (Italy), UNDOK – The Trade Union Advice Centre for Undocumented Workers (Austria), European Trade Union Institute (EU), Association for Legal Intervention (Poland)

Funded by European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

Con3Post explores a persistent and under-researched trend of recruiting and posting of third-country nationals in the construction sector in order to produce new evidence-based knowledge, provide space for multi-stakeholder transnational cooperation and exchange of information within and beyond the EU, contribute to nourishing social dialogue at the sectoral level and promote fair and safe working conditions for workers. The project joins some of the leading scholars in the field of posting and EU labour market dynamics who will closely collaborate with regional/national stakeholders to map and explore the main flows of recruitment and posting of third-country nationals and outline the current and future implications of this persistent trend in the construction sector.

Framework Contract for the Provision of Services related to the Implementation of Better Regulation Guidelines

Duration	04/2019 – 12/2020
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Magdi Birtha, Leonard Geyer
External Project Coordinator	Tina Weber, ICF (Belgium)
Project Partners	ICF, Cambridge Econometrics, Kantar Public, Quantos, IZA
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The European Centre is a partner in a consortium to assist the European Commission in implementing the Better Regulation Guidelines. “Better Regulation” is a way of working to ensure that EU policies and laws are prepared in an open, transparent manner, informed by the best available evidence and backed by the comprehensive involvement of stakeholders to achieve the objectives at minimum cost. In this multiple framework contract we are carrying out studies in the field of employment, social affairs, labour mobility

and skills with the purpose of supporting: (i) impact assessment for the design and preparation of policies, programmes and legislation; (ii) evaluation to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and the added value; and (iii) monitoring their implementation. The following two activities are currently running: A study supporting the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020) as well as a study to evaluate the performance of the European Social Fund to promote social inclusion, to combat poverty and any discrimination (Thematic Objective 9).

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

Duration	04/2018 – 04/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Christian Boehler, Leonard Geyer
External Project Coordinator	Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
Funded by	Interreg – Alpine Space Programme (co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund)

Governments in the Alpine Space recognise the need to promote policies for active and healthy ageing (AHA). Ideally, efforts should be coordinated between authorities of different sectors, private operators, local governments, and researchers. 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. It will help Alpine Space regional governments to implement and monitor their AHA policies, local governments in identifying the most suitable initiatives for their territorial context and social innovators in channelling their services and products through local and international funding opportunities. ASTAHG will establish a transnational governance board involving the Alpine Space regions to identify common challenges in governance and innovation for AHA and to join efforts for finding new solutions. Governance models and a framework for innovation delivery will be proposed to Alpine Space territories in order to coordinate AHA initiatives and policies across different sectors, at different territorial levels and involving all relevant actors.

Publications

Books and Euro Centre Reports

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Scoppetta, A. (2019). *Future of work: Labour market transitions in the spotlight*. On behalf of AEIDL/European Commission. Brussels/Vienna: ESF Transnational Platform/European Centre.

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Boehler, C., Schulmann, K. & Leichsenring, K. (2018). *Befragung angehender AllgemeinmedizinerInnen und FachärztInnen für Kinder- und Jugendheilkunde in Wien*. Vienna: European Centre.

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Stummvoll, G., Kahlert, R. & Goos, C. (2019). *Zwischen Kriminalität und Krankheit – Junge Drogenstraftäter an der Schnittstelle von Justiz- und Gesundheitssystem*. ÖGS Kongress, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie, 26-28 September, Salzburg, Austria.

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Scoppetta, A. (2019). *Social innovative entrepreneurship: Concept links & challenges*. Paper presentation, ETN Meeting, 19-20 March, Berlin, Germany.

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Birtha, M. (2019). *Introduction of EU funding instruments for transition to community-based care and support*. Seminar on “Moving towards independent living and community-based care – EU funding instruments to support the development of community-based services for children without adequate parental care”, 14 March, Zagreb, Croatia.

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Leichsenring, K. (2019). *The future of long-term care: Is transformational innovation really achievable?* Panel discussion at the International Conference of the LTC Alliance, “Transforming Long-Term Care of Older Adults: Towards a Radically New Vision”, 1 March, Florence, Italy.

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Birtha, M. (2019). *Policy monitoring for healthy ageing in Europe: Are our measures and metrics fit for purpose?* WHO Regional Workshop for National Policy Experts on Healthy Ageing, 26-27 February, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Rodrigues, R. (2019). *Gender unbalance on paid and unpaid care*. Presentation at the WHO Working Meeting with Experts on Gender and Health in the WHO European Region, 20-21 February, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Leichsenring, K. (2019). *Combating ageism by extending the integrated life-course perspective*. Euro-Ageism ITN-Project Training School, 13 February, Tampere, Finland.

Leichsenring, K. (2019). *The need for developing integrated health and long-term care service delivery – challenges and potentials*. Presentation at the Ministry of Health, 5 February, Skopje, North Macedonia.

Scoppetta, A. (2019). *Policy and practice solutions for vulnerable groups – results of current research activities*. Presentation at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 4 February, Skopje, North Macedonia.

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Fuchs, M., Hollan, K. & Schenk, M. (2019). *Analyse der nicht-krankenversicherten Personen in Österreich*. Paper presented at the 17th Meeting of the Austrian Platform for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the National EU 2020 Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion, 8 January, Vienna, Austria.

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Scoppetta, A. (2018). *Introduction to labour market transitions*. “Future of Work” ETN Meeting, 12-13 December, Brussels, Belgium.

Leichsenring, K. (2018). *Towards a framework for the integration of health and social sectors for the provision of long-term care*. Presentation at the Workshop on Integrated Delivery of Health and Social Services for Older People in the WHO European Region: ‘Leapfrogging the Integration of Long-term Care for Older People in the European Region: Getting It Right, Fast’, 11-13 December, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Fuchs, M. (2018). *Take-up measurement and policies: Austria and comparative perspective*. Paper presented at the European Workshop on Policies to Reduce Non-Take-Up of Social Benefits, 10 December, Paris, France.

Leichsenring, K. (2018). *Investing in our future: how to foster youth employment and employability?* Moderation of Panel III at the Eastern Partnership Annual Conference, 7 December, Vienna, Austria.

Scoppetta, A. (2018). *Social innovations in Austria*. Serbian Study Visit, 6 December, Belgrade, Serbia.

Stummvoll, G. (2018). *SWaPOL – Social Work and Policing*. Best Practice Conference of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), 5 December, Vienna, Austria.



Bauer, G., Leichsenring, K. & Rodrigues, R. (2018). *(Lebens-)Qualität in der Langzeitpflege: Zur Diskrepanz zwischen Messung, Darstellung und Erwartungen*. Pflegekongress 17, 31 November – 1 December, Vienna, Austria.

Birtha M. (2018). *Long-term care – the problem of sustainable financing*. COFACE Seminar ‘Economics at the Service of Society’, 23 November, Brussels, Belgium.

Leichsenring, K. (2018). *Healthy ageing and the need for an integrated system of long-term care*. Congress AdinBerri Strategy for Healthy Ageing, 22-23 November, San Sebastian, Spain.

Stummvoll, G. (2018). *Paradigmen zur Kriminalpolitik in der Sicherheitsgesellschaft*. Workshop zur Baukultur Wien. MA19 Magistrat der Stadt Wien, 21 November, Vienna, Austria.

Birtha, M. (2018). *Challenges and innovations to support Article 19 UNCRPD: Activism towards creating inclusive communities*. Guest lecture at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland, 16 November, Galway, Ireland.

Danaj, S. (2018). *An overview of the Posting of Workers Directive and posting in the EU*. Presentation at the EEPOW National Workshop North Macedonia, 6 November, Skopje, North Macedonia.

Stummvoll, G. (2018). *Drug treatment for young people in a coercive context: A paradoxical choice*. Annual Conference of the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR), 24-26 October, Lisbon, Portugal.

Scoppetta, A. (2018). *How can private investments work for the public good and for people?* MACRO Conference 2018, 19 October, Chisinau, Moldova.

Danaj, S. (2018). *Occupational health and safety of posted workers in the EU: A comparative report*. POOSH Final Conference and Roundtable Event, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 11 October, Venice, Italy.



International Seminars

Tim Huijts

Social inequalities in health in Europe: patterns, explanations and implications

3 September 2019

Enkeleida Tahiraj

Universal basic income: a discussion on the Western Balkans

18 June 2019

Sonja Spitzer

Who is telling the truth? Biases in self-reported physical and cognitive health status of older Europeans

23 April 2019

Susan Philips

How to study whether gender affects health: evidence, biases, possible solutions

20 March 2019

John Reynaert

Social dumping in transport: the road to Slovakia

25 January 2019

Ludovico Carrino

Vulnerability and long-term care in Europe – an economic perspective

23 January 2019

Livia Elisa Ortensi

Reaching hard-to-reach migrant populations using different methodologies

7 November 2018

Organisation

Management and Staff

Management

Kai Leichsenring, Executive Director

Ricardo Rodrigues, Head of Health and Care, Deputy Director

Anette Scoppetta, Head of Work and Welfare, Deputy Director

Judith Schreiber, Head of Administration and Finance

Researchers

Gudrun Bauer (until February 2019)

Magdi Birtha

Christian Boehler

Sonila Danaj

Michael Fuchs

Leonard Geyer

Katarina Hollan (sabbatical leave from December 2018 to December 2019)

Stefania Ilinca

Selma Kadi

Rahel Kahlert

Kai Leichsenring

Tamara Premrov

Ricardo Rodrigues

Veronica Sandu

Katharine Schulmann (until August 2019)

Anette Scoppetta

Cassandra Simmons (as of October 2019)

Günter Stummvoll

Eszter Zólyomi

Administration, Public Relations and IT

Monika Hunjadi
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