






# Annual Report of Activities 2020



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

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## Dear Colleagues and Friends of the European Centre!



The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health, social and economic developments have a stranglehold over all of us. Back in the beginning of March, the European Parliament informed us about its 'temporary lockdown'. At that time, we still believed to realize an event to discuss our study on the 'Rights-based approach in long-term care' by the end of that month. A few days later, we knew better and continued work from home. We had to adapt quickly and learned how to cope with the lockdown, physical distancing, sanitizing, videoconferencing, home office and new ways of working at a distance. While many of us were used to working from home for one day per week, teleworking now became the new default option for all. A hardship for our international staff consisted, however, in waiting patiently to be able to visit families and friends at home.

Compared with other sectors, however, we were relatively fortunate as we did not have to work at the frontline, nor apply for subsidised short-time work and could implement home office measures. Staff were able to choose between working in the office (in single rooms) and at home, according to personal preferences, family and housing situation.

Given the already packed agenda on project work, COVID-19 even increased our workload with emerging new initiatives and opportunities. For instance, within a few weeks, our colleagues from the International Long-Term Care Policy Network had forged a website providing resour-

ces to support community and institutional long-term care responses to COVID-19, with regularly updated country reports and transversal analyses to which we contributed from Austria. On our own website, we created blogs on 'Research in the time of COVID-19'. Moreover, a wide range of proposals have been submitted responding to new 'fast track' COVID-19 calls at national and European levels. We also participated in the development of specific surveys and studies to forge future, evidence-based research on the impact of COVID-19 in different social contexts.

As it had become palpable from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public health crisis concomitantly entailed both economic and social crises that call for immediate and firm action in employment policies, in combatting poverty and mitigating inequalities and in improving health and long-term care systems. All these topics are core to the European Centre's expertise. Both ongoing projects and new proposals have therefore started to explicitly embed the challenges and consequences of COVID-19 in their analyses and policy recommendations.

We should assume that during a global crisis international and multilateral support and cooperation would skyrocket. Already by March 2020, the UN underlined in its report 'Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19' that "(m)ore than ever before, we need solidarity, hope and the political will and cooperation to see this



crisis through together". Indeed, unprecedented amounts of money have been deployed in the meantime to mitigate the impact of the crisis, and we have also seen some solidarity among individual countries. However, the general trend of the past decade, with a rising number of governments that allegedly strengthened their 'national self-interest', was metaphorically and bluntly highlighted as well. Closed borders and national rankings based on doubtful statistics regarding tests, number of infections or number of deaths were only a few indicators of lacking trust and solidarity across Europe, with EU Brexit negotiations as well as challenges of climate change and conflicts about migration policies ailing in the background.

Against this backdrop, international organisations' appeals and policy recommendations (UN, 2020; ILO, 2020; OECD, 2020) could likely be perceived as whistling in the dark. Even so-called success-stories such as the consensus found around the European Recovery Fund (European Commission, 2020) leave us with concerns, considering the ensuing cuts in EU health, innovation and research budgets.

Uncertainties are therefore a key issue for developing coping strategies at micro-, meso- and macro-levels during this unique transformation. Both research and social policies are struggling to ease these uncertainties, to provide evidence and support, wherever necessary and possible, and to foster trust, confidence and solidarity. I am therefore very pleased that we were able to renew the assignments of international and Austrian Board Members. We are also glad about a prolific and regular exchange with the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

At the European Centre, we do our best to unease uncertainties of staff, to offer opportuni-

ties for flexible working conditions, and for future-oriented careers. We are delighted that three colleagues accepted our offer for open-ended contracts this year. With one colleague returning back from other assignments, while others used short educational leaves to finish PhD or Master theses, there was always some movement but overall, we were able to reduce staff turnover, and we continue to grow slowly with two additional job vacancies that should be filled by 2021.

A major challenge during 2020 was certainly to continue our work under conditions of teleworking and teleconferencing. Apart from the framework contracts with the European Commission, there were ongoing flagship projects such as FUTUREGEN, analysing gender differences in health and care, and DET\_CAREMIX, identifying the determinants of use of care in Austria and Slovenia, that needed to switch from face-to-face project meetings to web conferences. The same was true for some new prestigious projects that had only just commenced. For instance, the project 'Intergenerational fairness' with the Fondazione Brodolini and LSE had just kicked-off before COVID-19 kicked in. The project 'Bridging the gaps between legislation and practice in the posting of workers' (POW-BRIDGE) was still able to hold its kick-off meeting at the European Centre in February, but then needed to rearrange the collaboration and already planned meetings.

The Management Team together with project coordinators closely monitored the potential impact on timelines and resources to avoid bottlenecks and delays. Colleagues did a marvelous job in reshuffling tasks and resources, so that only a few projects needed to apply for extension or to postpone starting dates, e.g. where travel or fieldwork had become impossible or physical meetings had to be postponed, as in the case of the SDG awareness raising workshops in Austria. Likewise, our internal projects on 'Life courses



and related policies affecting women's old-age pensions' and 'Mapping promising social services and policy measures to support the independent living of older people', became slightly delayed.

A major impact was felt regarding conferences and the peer review programme. We were quickly getting used to webinars and then started to conceive also peer reviews online (with our partners ICF and the European Commission), and it is likely that such formats will stay with us also in a future, post-Corona time, whenever this will be. We therefore need to monitor attentively, whether and in what way digitalised networking will be hampering or facilitating international cooperation.

As of to date, the investment in social media and the website to enhance dissemination of ideas and findings has resulted in positive feedback and an increased visibility of the European Centre, with a now monthly newsletter, an enhanced website of the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN), and about 500 followers on Twitter.

The acquisition of new projects is an intrinsic and central part of researchers' job profiles. All in all, we continue to be successful in an increasingly competitive market. But a moment of special delight came in June, when we were informed by the European Commission that our proposal on 'Supporting inclusive development of community-based long-term care services' (InCARE) had eventually been successful. This proposal had already been submitted during September 2019 but its evaluation became postponed due to the formation of the new EU Commission – and, COVID-19. The project, co-funded by the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme, is close to our heart as it involves colleagues from Austria, the UK, Spain, the Netherlands and North-Macedo-

nia and is as such an outcome of our bridge-building efforts, based on our long-standing expertise in long-term care policies. In addition, we are satisfied that investments in respective networking in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries resulted in several other joint activities during this year. For instance, we coordinated a quick update of the review of Western Balkan economies' performance regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights, and we are working on a feasibility study for projects on reforming child protection systems in Albania, Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Ukraine. These achievements also facilitated the renewal or prolongation of our Memoranda of Understanding with Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Ukraine.

A new initiative was launched following several training activities, namely after a successful tailor-made training for representatives of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy during autumn 2019. Numerous colleagues crafted the European Centre Training Programme with a range of modules, from employment and social inclusion to rights, inequalities and policies on ageing. The target groups of these trainings are interested entities and organisations, namely policy-makers, NGOs, social partners and service providers. Based on the basic modules, we offer tailor-made workshops that can take place in Vienna, but under current circumstances we are also developing online facilitation.

It has always been my great pleasure to represent ageing research at the UNECE Working Group on Ageing that has now become the Standing Working Group on Ageing. As European Centre we are contributing expertise to Policy Briefs and we started to prepare for the next Ministerial Conference on Ageing that will take place in 2022 in Rome.



Another interesting aspect of this year's work has been our collaboration with the Innovative Training Network EuroAgeism, which entails the hosting of Early Career Researchers (ECR). Unfortunately, this activity was slightly hampered by COVID-19 but we are optimistic to welcome another three to five ECRs to work with us over the coming year.

To get a comprehensive overview of all our activities, this report highlights projects, publications and conference presentations.

During this unprecedented period, I was very thrilled by researchers, administration, IT and public relations who adapted so quickly to the new situation and found ways to produce high-quality research, to disseminate policy expertise and to keep the European Centre up and running. I would therefore like to express my thankfulness to all staff and to all partners and supporters of the European Centre across the UNECE region. Even if it sounds like whistling in the dark again, I continue to be poised that we will be able to strengthen international cooperation also in the future by creating trust, confidence and solidarity.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring  
Executive Director

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# Work and Welfare

## Highlights

Within the European Centre's Work and Welfare Unit, we design, coordinate, and implement projects in the fields of social inclusion and integration; labour market and social security; and the ageing society. Our Unit employs researchers and policy advisers experienced in various social scientific methods. Our core expertise comprises:

1. *Research*: qualitative and quantitative research methods such as micro-simulation and modelling, comparative research and case-studies. We have specific expertise in minimal income schemes, income distribution, poverty and material deprivation, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, labour market and employment, skill demand and migration, social innovation and transition processes.
2. *Policy consultation*: planning, monitoring and evaluation of social welfare policies and labour market programmes. We have specific expertise in active and passive labour market policies, networking of different stakeholders, social policy dialogue and other consultation processes by using various formats such as focus groups, participatory design of workshops and training methods.

**We design, coordinate, and implement projects in the fields of social inclusion and integration; labour market and social security; and the ageing society**

During the past 12 months we have implemented 18 projects. Three of them were flagship projects in the area of posting: Posting of third-country nationals; Posting of workers in Eastern Europe; and Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers. Another four projects applied microsimulation methods: The EUROMOD microsimulation model; Social reform microsimulation Austria; Microsimulation related to planned changes of the Austrian family tax credit 'family bonus'; and Study on intergenerational fairness. The latter project is implemented under the theme of demographic change, a focal area of the European Centre. In this area, the Alpine Space project on transnational governance of active and healthy ageing (ASTAHG) and a study on New challenges and developments in life courses and related policies affecting women's old-age pensions, have been conducted in 2019/2020, in addition.

**WW flagship projects are implemented in posting of workers, microsimulation and the ageing society**

Reducing inequalities is core in many projects realized in the Work and Welfare Unit. This may concern specific target groups such as the homeless,



within the project ‘Mapping trends and policies to tackle homelessness in Europe’; children, within the project ‘Indicators for measuring child poverty and its combating in European cities’; and disabled persons, within the projects ‘Comparative analysis of inclusive employment of persons with disabilities – Study for the European Observatory’ and ‘Social situation analysis in Austria – Contributions by the European Centre’. Within the latter project, we analyse the situation for affected groups (here: people with disabilities as well as single parents) prior to COVID-19 based on the existing information and data of research on special attention and elaborate on available information based on COVID-19 both as an amplifier and as a trigger for new problems.

Similar to previous years, our Unit contributed to the implementation of the project ‘Peer Reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs, and inclusion’, together with other partners. We furthermore continued working on the implementation of ‘Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Workshops’ in Austria and conducted ‘Tailor-made training courses’ on social welfare issues.

### Strategic Aim of the ‘Work and Welfare’ Unit

**We focus on policy areas in high need for change**

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 comparative analysis and policy consultation based on evidence-based research. Core areas in which our Unit has undertaken research and applied science during the past year, comprise employment and labour market (including labour mobility), poverty and material deprivation, social security and social inclusion of vulnerable groups, and ageing society and actions at the interface of social and labour market policy.

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 policy areas in high need for change due to rising inequalities and poverty:





- *Labour Mobility*: We have trained and experienced researchers in the study of the nexus between various forms of employment and migration and the related social welfare areas. We specifically offer research on: cross-border labour mobility including posting, temporary agency work and seasonal work, EU and third-country temporary and permanent labour migration, employment and/or migration policy analysis, labour and social rights of migrant workers, occupational safety and health of mobile workers, and the transposition, implementation, and enforcement of EU law in the Member States as well as the candidate countries.
- *Tax/benefit-microsimulation with EUROMOD/SORESI*: With EUROMOD/SORESI it is possible to carry out tailor-made fiscal and distributive simulation analysis based on latest EU-SILC micro data for diverse implemented, planned, or hypothetical policy changes. The basic scope of the model includes social (insurance) contributions, income taxes and monetary benefits. Our task as the Austrian expert team within the EUROMOD-update project is to provide an annual update of policy parameters, the Austrian input data for the model, as well as validation. In addition, we offer tailor-made fiscal and distributive simulation analysis for diverse clients.
- *Active labour market policy (ALMP)*: Researchers at our Unit have ample expertise in ALMP. We study and assess measures for different target groups that are implemented at different levels of governance. Specifically, we identify promising practices and develop recommendations for innovative ALMP solutions, organise mutual learning events to support the structured exchange of experience and know-how between stakeholders, conduct comparative research, and study the interplay of ALMPs with other policy areas such as passive labour market policy and social policy (e.g. unemployment benefits, minimum income schemes) as well as gender policy, vocational education and training and disability policy
- *Active and healthy ageing (AHA)*: We have been a promoter of AHA over the past decades by building on collaboration with the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and the European Commission. We offer to develop innovative policies, pathways, and systems to improve services in support of an ageing population, consultancy in the implementation of innovative solutions in support of AHA, capacity-building and training for stakeholders, development of metrics and indicators to measure progress towards an age-inclusive society, and evaluation of AHA policies and innovations.
- *Poverty and inequality*: We have long-standing experience in providing policy-relevant research on poverty and income inequality contributing to the monitoring of living standards across Europe and the evaluation of policies as regards the life chances and well-being of different groups

**We offer tailor-made fiscal and distributive simulation analyses**

in society. Our core areas of expertise encompass comparative analysis of the risk of poverty, income distribution, material deprivation as well as deprivation of non-monetary aspects of well-being such as housing, access to services, social isolation, analytical and methodological support (e.g. conceptualisation and development of indicators), and assessing the impact of tax-benefit systems.

## The Unit's Team, our Clients and Brief Outlook

During the past year, the 'Work & Welfare' Unit employed seven members, which complement each other regarding their academic background, research areas as well as methodological skills (quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method analysis as well as policy consultancy and training). We furthermore have accomplished or plan to have secondments again during 2020.

**The Unit's projects  
are based on  
international  
cooperation and  
networks of partners**

The Unit's projects are based on international cooperation and networks with partners particularly from the EU and beyond. Our clients in 2019/2020 include, among others, the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), ministries such as the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and public funding agencies (e.g. for the Interreg – Alpine Space Programme), municipalities (City of Vienna) and social partners (Chamber of Labour Austria). Research and applied science partners include ICF International (Belgium and the United Kingdom) and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (Bulgaria).

The Unit aims at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams in its thematic core areas. The Unit constantly expands its skills and knowledge base towards new thematic areas and target groups. During 2019/2020, the Unit developed project ideas and submitted several proposals that will shape future activities. On the reporting date of 1 July 2020, the Unit, for instance, counted 17 acquisitions including project submissions and agreements of partners in sharing for an upcoming open call. However, we are also driven by incoming requests for calls for proposals and tenders. As a corollary, the Unit created a sound basis for further activities in 2019/2020.



# Health and Care

## Highlights

The pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 and its tragic consequences placed health, healthcare and particularly care for older people in the limelight of policy concerns and research. It highlighted the importance of access to healthcare, quality of care provided, working conditions in the care sector and inequalities in health – topics on which research and policy analysis at the Health and Care Unit have focused throughout the years. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, researchers from the European Centre were called upon by the WHO to discuss the effects of the pandemic and how best to tackle them. At the same time, we produced a number of short statements published on our website highlighting relevant issues such as the capacity of healthcare systems to respond to the pandemic or its effect on people with disabilities. As these lines are written, we are in the process of analysing the results of a survey on the effects of the pandemic on informal carers in Austria, together with colleagues at other research centres in Austria. The pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 also impacted ongoing projects, not only as we tried to address it in our research and policy analysis, but also as it forced us to adapt timelines, meetings and collection of evidence in the field. Despite the constraints, the team was nonetheless able to successfully take care of the challenges we faced throughout the first months of 2020.

During this year, we continued to carry out research on inequalities in health and care. In FUTUREGEN, we alongside colleagues from the Karolinska Institute (Sweden) and Queen's University (Canada) continued to analyse the evolution and determinants of inequalities in health and care across cohorts in Europe and Canada. A parallel project on the determinants of care use in Austria and Slovenia coordinated by the University of Ljubljana (DET\_CAREMIX) is coming to a conclusion with relevant findings on the unequal use of different types of care for older people in the two countries. We are also currently analysing the distributional impact of the abolishment of the asset contribution for residential care in Austria (*Pflegeregress*), for which we aim to have results by the end of 2020. We are also working together with WHO Europe – a long-standing partner of ours – to develop a gender framework for long-term care, which would enable policy-makers to tackle gender equality through the development of long-term care services.

**A year marked by the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2: adapting and contributing to tackling it**

**A Knowledge Centre for research in inequalities in health and care**

We have also returned to two issues that have been long-standing topics at the Health and Care Unit: integrated care and quality management in long-term care. Regarding the first, we will be coordinating a three-year project – InCARE – funded by the EaSI programme of the European Commission. This project involves partners and governments from Austria, Spain and the Republic of North Macedonia and will aim to develop and assess integrated care services for older people through a novel approach that brings together cooperation between stakeholders, evidence-based decision-making and capacity-building. On quality management, we are following up and updating on a project developed some years ago for the European Social Network titled ‘Contracting for quality’. This project will update the analysis on the functioning of care markets to reflect developments such as the EU Directive on public procurement and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In 2020 we continued to develop projects with a strong policy component in the area of disability. This included the active participation in the awareness-raising Action Workshops under the ‘The EU helps fight discrimination at work’ campaign that was completed this year. Other projects in this area involved a close collaboration across the two Units of the Centre as they focused on employment of people with disabilities, for example.

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

We also continued our involvement in a number of projects that target vulnerable groups. The Erasmus+ funded international project ‘SWaPOL’ is one example of such projects. Despite the pandemic we were able to carry out training modules with members of the police force and social workers working with marginalised groups in the public space. In 2020 we have also carried out policy analysis on and evaluation of policies to support children and adolescents – a relatively new topic at Health and Care. This included a situation analysis with respect to children’s rights and their fulfilment in Croatia, a project funded by UNICEF which is part of the child rights monitoring (CRM) framework. The other project focusing on children currently underway is the feasibility study for the programme ‘Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children’s rights’, which is part of the Bridge Building (BB) projects of the European Centre. The BB remains a key area of the European Centre, to which researchers of Health and Care have contributed throughout 2020. This included, for example, the updated review of the performance of Western Balkan economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights carried out early this year.

Besides the BB, we are also very much focused on strengthening ties with our Board Members. Together with colleagues from the Work and Welfare Unit, we have mapped trends and policies to tackle homelessness, a project initiated and funded by Board Members, i.e. the Swedish Ministry of Health



and Social Affairs. We are also presently involved in a project that aims to collect and assess promising social services and policy developments that allow older people to live independently. This was a project proposed to and approved by the Board Members during the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of 2019 and for which we aim to present results for both projects in early 2021. We already mentioned that DET\_CAREMIX has been carried out with Slovenian partners, but this year we also completed the 'Expert monitoring and evaluation of pilot projects (EXPO\_SI) to implement an integrated system for long-term care (LTC) in Slovenia'. Both projects are part of a close and ongoing involvement of Health and Care with Slovenia in the context of the reform of their long-term care system.

We already mentioned our involvement in actions with a strong policy component in the area of disability. These were supplemented in 2020 with our participation in the Peer Review process of DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, which included a review of access to healthcare and of policies to support the conciliation of informal care and paid work. This involvement is also one in which we aim to contribute to address the effects of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

## 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 and originality with a strong emphasis on comparative analysis. 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 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 in research and policy analysis. Research by the Health & Care Unit therefore always seeks to incorporate relevant stakeholders' contributions and feedback, thus enabling the co-creation of knowledge.

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

## Strategic Goals

Following the strategy for the Unit jointly developed by the team already in early 2016, we continued to aim for a balance between short-term pro-

jects – usually acquired through tenders with short duration (often shorter than 12 or even 6 months) and with tight deadlines but relatively quick decision processes– 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 being carried out with the aim to secure medium-term funding that enables stability of human resources and investment in developing the human capital of the team. We will continue this strategy to secure a sustainable funding of the current research team. While some of the multi-year projects have been completed or are coming to a conclusion (e.g. ‘Exchanging prevention practices on polydrug use among youth in criminal justice Systems’ [EPPIC] and DET\_CAREMIX), we have already secured a large new multi-year project – the above-mentioned InCARE project funded by the European Commission’s EaSI programme – and have other proposals waiting for decision in the pipeline.

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, disability and evaluation of social policies. This would allow for tapping new funding sources and better include topics of concern for the Bridge Building countries, where evaluation expertise is a need.

**Strengthening the ties  
and involvement of  
Board Members with  
our research**

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 finance research projects that result from the team’s initiative (the projects FUTUREGEN and the UNICEF-funded project on children’s rights in Croatia, are examples of this). Concomitantly, the co-operation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care 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 project on homelessness prepared with the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the active involvement of our Swiss Board Member as a member of the Sounding Board of FUTUREGEN and the inclusion of IMSERSO from Spain as one of the project partners of InCARE. These are partnerships that are central to us and that we aim to further develop and strengthen, with the InCARE project serving as a possible blueprint for eventual future collaborations with Board Members.





# Bridging Function of the European Centre

## Highlights

In 2019/2020, 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 following EU candidate countries and countries of the Eastern Partnership: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.

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.

**We invest in the strategic goal of bridging knowledge and policy evidence in social policy research between East and West**

## Renewals of MoUs – Memorandums of Understanding

Since 2014/2015, the European Centre together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection has conducted missions to the above countries with the aims of exchanging know-how and developing Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between the European Centre and the respective ministries responsible for social policy.

Missions have been accomplished and MoUs signed and renewed after the three-year period. As of August 2020, we have signed MoUs for a period of five years with Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine; and MoUs with Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Moldova are currently in the process of renewal. In these countries, National Liaison Officials (NLOs) have been nominated as contact persons to enable a constant exchange with the European Centre. Clarification and identification processes are still ongoing in Montenegro.

**Memorandums of Understanding are signed between nearly all BB countries and the European Centre**



## Strategic Focus on Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP)

As a result of an internal reflection in 2018, we continued to focus on increased collaboration with the Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP) during the past 12 months. In response to interests and needs expressed from those countries, two small projects have been approved in Armenia, 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 constitute a consultancy offer to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia in 2019 (partly still to be implemented in 2020). Their implementation is still pending, lately due to COVID-19. Moreover, we are running the project 'Feasibility Study for the programme "Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children's rights"', which comprises a comprehensive analysis of the current child protection policies in Albania, Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Ukraine.

## Continuous Work on the 'Eastern European Social Policy Network' (EESPN)

### Launch of blogs and a monthly newsletter for the EESPN

The European Centre's Website of the Eastern European Social Policy Network/EESPN (see <https://eespn.euro.centre.org/about/>) which was set up in 2017, was strengthened in 2020 by fostering exchange between its members via the launch of blogs and a monthly newsletter. EESPN is a network of researchers, policy advisers and representatives of public authorities working in the field of social welfare policy.

## Projects in the Bridge Building Region

The European Centre recently implemented or is still working on the following projects in the 'BB-Bridge Building' region (and even beyond) that are funded by third parties:

- 'Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers' – POW-BRIDGE: EaSI Programme, DG Employment, European Commission; 01/2020 – 12/2021.
- Feasibility Study for the programme 'Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children's rights: SOS Children's Villages Worldwide'; 06/2020 – 12/2020.



- ‘Posting of third country nationals/Mapping the trend in the construction sector’ – Con3Post: EaSI Programme, DG Employment, European Commission; 01/2019 – 12/2020.
- ‘Updated review of the performance of Western Balkan economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights: Regional Cooperation Council’; 03/2020 – 04/2020.
- (Upcoming 11/2020 – 10/2023) EaSI Programme, DG Employment, European Commission): ‘Supporting IN-clusive development of community-based long-term CARE services through multi-stakeholder participatory approaches (InCARE)’
- Finally, the European Centre is also partnering with ICF in a consortium to implement the Mutual Learning Programme of DG Employment: ‘Peer reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion’ (12/2016 – 12/2020), in which the BB target countries partly participate.

**BB projects are developed that help addressing urgent issues in social welfare policy**

## Future Developments and Prospects

With these various activities the European Centre brings together researchers and policy-makers throughout the UN-European Region and better understands and advances social welfare policies in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and EU (potential) candidate countries. In the upcoming year, we will continue our work in the BB region by further strengthening the exchange via the EESPN. Moreover, European Centre staff has already submitted several project proposals to intensify collaboration between the European Centre and its partners in the region.

# Projects

## Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe (EPOW)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2018 – 12/2019
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Sonila Danaj
<b>Project Team</b>	Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>Project Partners</b>	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, European Movement in Albania, PUBLIC (North Macedonia)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

The project activities included an assessment of the institutional needs of candidate countries, mutual learning (peer reviews) in EU Member States (Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia), and national workshops in the candidate countries. The assessment of the institutional capacities and needs of the four candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia to implement the Posting of Workers Directive (96/71/EC) was conducted in the context of the policy process cycle and in terms of six interdependent domains: legal framework, institutional arrangement, inter-agency cooperation, human resources, stakeholder engagement, and public governance.

Findings indicate that the Directive has been only partially transposed in the Western Balkan countries and the existing legislation does not include all elements of the relevant Directive. To address the needs identified, candidate countries must complete the legal framework and establish protocols of intra-agency cooperation, mandate public authorities and build their capacities on posting, as well as include social partners more actively in the process.

The project achieved its objectives and improved cooperation among participating countries' stakeholders through country workshops and peer reviews, as well as information-sharing through events and publications.

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

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

The project focused on young drug users in contact with the criminal justice system. Young people aged 14-25 were interviewed to learn about trajectories and pathways of drug consumption in different settings and stages of the criminal justice process, i.e. in pre-trial detention, in-patient homes, youth prisons, out-patient care facilities and psychotherapy. Also, probation services have been examined that facilitate between the administrative systems of health and criminal justice. The project has successfully:

- addressed issues of health, healthy environments, and social inequality of a vulnerable group of young people (those in touch with criminal justice systems) who are at greater risk than their contemporaries of developing problem drug use, including polydrug use and use of NPS;
- identified and described drug using trajectories of the target group and identified key intervention points to facilitate prevention and intervention efforts and promote healthier lifestyles;
- identified and developed tools (e.g. guidelines for quality assurance) and mechanisms (e.g. Criminal Justice Practitioner Forum) to facilitate the implementation of 'best practice' approaches in EU Member States;
- facilitated the exchange of knowledge across partner countries and across other EU Member States (research-based and experiential knowledge, shared and jointly developed).

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

<b>Duration</b>	01/2017 – 12/2019
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Rahel Kahlert (PC), Katharine Schulmann, Christian Boehler
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Christoph Pammer, Sandra Probus, Michael Longhino, Chance B Sozialbetriebs GmbH
<b>Project Partners</b>	Chance B Sozialbetriebs GmbH (Austria), United Health and Social Care Győr (Hungary), Pálos Károly Social Service Centre and Child Welfare Service (Hungary), Care Centre Zalaegerszeg (Hungary), Fonds Soziales Wien (Austria)
<b>Funded by</b>	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) contributed to bringing this vision to the Hungarian-Austrian border region. A major goal was 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 aimed at linking and supporting stakeholders and organizations in care provision within the Hungarian-Austrian region.

The European Centre’s task was to scientifically support and evaluate the AFR project. A pre-post survey of 100 health and care experts indicated that networking and collaboration improved during AFR. Also, 230 older clients reported their health status, assessing it about 3% higher at the end – compared to older people without AFR services.

The evaluation pointed to a positive direction of AFR effectively addressing growing LTC needs, and recommended:

- making services participative, integrated and interdisciplinary,
- considering regional differences, and
- continuing AFR sustainably.

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

<b>Duration</b>	05/2018 – 12/2019
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Kai Leichsenring
<b>Project Team</b>	Rahel Kahlert, Christian Boehler
<b>Project Partners</b>	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia, Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute of Economic Research (Slovenia)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)

Over the past decade, Slovenian governments have put the reform of long-term care (LTC) high on their agenda. The Ministry of Health (MoH), in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoL), has steered the LTC reform. Apart from funding and other issues, this reform entails to implement an integrated network of formal care providers, informal caregivers, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders. A first step to provide coordinated LTC services in the communities has been a pilot project to establish easily accessible one-stop shops, care coordination and integrated care teams.

The European Centre provided technical assistance and contributed to the implementation and evaluation of the pilot. This included consultancy on methods and tools for trainings of care coordinators, for monitoring and evaluation as well as for analysing the baseline assessment. Several workshops helped to prepare the general approach, training materials and evaluation reports. Together with the national evaluation team, the European Centre trained and involved professionals to develop their skills for further monitoring and the final evaluation of the pilot project. The project was slightly hampered by changing governments in Slovenia, but there are chances that a new Long-term Care Act will be prepared, including the further roll-out of the integrated care approach in Slovenia.

## Tailor-made Training Courses on Social Welfare Issues

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

The European Centre conducted tailor-made training courses for civil servants of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The training comprised five courses in selected topics of social welfare, each lasting for two days. The topics covered included labour market and social policies, future of work, labour migration, occupational safety and health, social dialogue, and long-term care.

## Developing a Conceptual Model to Address Gender in Long-term Care (WHO\_LTC\_Gender)

<b>Duration</b>	10/2019 – 02/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Ricardo Rodrigues (PC), Stefania Ilinca, Veronica Sandu
<b>Project Partner</b>	WHO Europe
<b>Funded by</b>	WHO Europe

Gender – understood as the social norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men – has an important influence on how needs for long-term care arise, evolve, are experienced and addressed. This project aimed to develop and apply a gender approach in strengthening the integrated delivery of health and social services for long-term care. It sought to provide guidance on assessing and implementing policies and integrated services that contribute to equity, eliminate discrimination and challenge gender stereotypes. A draft framework for gender and long-term care has been developed based on a literature review. This framework has been applied to the analysis of the situation in Romania by means of secondary data analysis and a country mission that included expert interviews with government officials, stakeholders and experts.



## Microsimulation Related to Planned Changes of the Austrian Family Tax Credit “Family Bonus”

<b>Duration</b>	02/2020 – 02/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov
<b>Funded by</b>	Chamber of Labour Vienna

The microsimulation analysis related to three scenarios: 1) Regulations as in 2018, prior to the introduction of the “family bonus”; 2) Policy regulations as of February 2020 (from the prior ÖVP/FPÖ government); and 3) Planned reform of the “family bonus” in 2022 according to the new government programme (ÖVP/Greens government). For the analysis, the tax-/benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD/SORESI based on latest EU-SILC 2018 data (indexed to 2020) has been used.

The findings showed that the planned extension of the “family bonus” by the ÖVP/Greens government is more considerate of the lowest income class than the current ÖVP/FPÖ policy. In absolute numbers, the relief by the ÖVP/Greens government will on average benefit the lowest income decile with EUR 40 per household and year. In contrast, the middle-income classes can expect an income increase of up to EUR 108 (the calculations refer to all households including those without children).

It can be concluded that the “family bonus” remains tailored to the middle class. Although the increased negative tax provides also an improvement for low-income earners, the model does not represent a targeted instrument to combat (child) poverty. However, the tax credit might also be regarded as an instrument to relieve the burden of current taxpayers and provides for a horizontal redistribution from income earners without children to income earners (of the same income level) with children.

## The EUROMOD Microsimulation Model (EUROMODupdate2)

<b>Duration</b>	02/2012 – 08/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Matteo Richiardi, ISER (United Kingdom), JRC Seville
<b>Funded by</b>	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.

## Comparative Analysis of Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities – Study for the European Observatory for Inclusive Employment and Sustainable Development Goals

<b>Duration</b>	12/2019 – 03/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Eszter Zólyomi, Magdi BIRTHA
<b>Funded by</b>	Weber Shandwick (Belgium)

The study contributed to research carried out by the ‘European Observatory for Inclusive Employment and Social Development Goals’, with the aim to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities for socially-inclusive companies to include persons with disabilities in the labour market. The report prepared by the European Centre provided a comparative assessment of policies, approaches and specific measures for the work integration of persons with disabilities focusing on six social economy organisations and companies in six European countries: Belgium (Flanders), France, The Netherlands, Spain, Slovenia and Sweden. The report also identified gaps in information and data and provided recommendations with regard to focal areas for the future.

## Updated Review of the Performance of Western Balkan Economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (Western Balkan EPSR)

<b>Duration</b>	03/2020 – 04/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Rahel Kahlert (PC), Sonila Danaj, Anette Scoppetta
<b>Project Partners</b>	Country experts in six Western Balkan countries
<b>Funded by</b>	Regional Cooperation Council

Although these countries are not yet EU Member States, it is important to monitor their achievements and reform efforts with regard to social rights as candidate and potential candidate countries. This is particularly important given the challenges those countries face, including an aging population, challenges at the labour market, poverty, etc. The European Centre was engaged as the international expert organisation in the reviews prepared in 2018. The aim of the updated reviews was the 2020 actualization of the existing reviews on issues relevant to the European Pillar of Social Rights in the Western Balkan: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, and Serbia. From a policy perspective, it is important to monitor the level of progress of the candidate and potential candidate countries, in terms of identifying important progress, persistent gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to inform policy-makers on potential areas of intervention, reform and upgrade as well as on further improvements.

## Social Situation Analysis in Austria – Contributions by the European Centre

<b>Duration</b>	06/2020 – 08/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Anette Scoppetta
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs, Tamara Premrov
<b>Project Partners</b>	WIFO – Austrian Institute of Economic Research, IHS – Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, Vienna University of Economics and Business / Research Institute Economics of Inequality, Vienna University of Economics and Business / NPO Competence Center
<b>Funded by</b>	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

While the project ‘Social Situation Analysis’ has four modules, the European Centre contributed only to Module III – ‘Expertise on affected groups’. We drafted a chapter on single parents and one on people with disabilities. These chapters cover the overall situation prior to COVID-19 based on the existing information and research data, with special attention paid to the EU-SILC data. We elaborated on available information taking COVID-19 both as an amplifier and as a trigger for new problems. We also included derivations consisting of gaps and weaknesses in the social system, possible research approaches, and recommendations for action (short, medium and long-term). Gender and migration are horizontally covered themes of both chapters.

The comprehensive analysis captures the status quo of the social situation of specific groups in Austria and includes anecdotic evidence of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. The need for action and research to provide a fact-based foundation for the start of a broad stakeholder dialogue is underlined as well as the development of short- and medium-term options for action aiming at long-term strategies for resilience.

## Awareness-raising Action Workshops in the EU Member States (EMPL\_AwarenessRaising)

<b>Duration</b>	03/2019 – 09/2020
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Magdi BIRTHA
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

In May 2019, the European Commission launched a new campaign titled ‘EU vs. Discrimination: The EU helps fight discrimination at work’. As part of the campaign, eight awareness-raising workshops were organised in Member States. The aim of these seminars was to facilitate discussion among public and private employers on which existing practices are in place to provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation in the workplace and which challenges remain to combat their persistent discrimination in the labour market.

The European Centre actively contributed to all seminars that took place in Brussels, Belgium (15 May 2019), Bucharest, Romania (7 June 2019), Warsaw, Poland (27 June 2019), Sofia, Bulgaria (18 October 2019), Prague, Czechia (6 December 2019), Vilnius, Lithuania (15 January 2020), Zagreb, Croatia (24 January 2020) and Budapest, Hungary (24 February 2020).

During the campaign and the national awareness-raising seminars, promising practices were collected from Member States on existing measures to provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation. A guidebook was published and translated into all EU languages to present these promising practices on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market. The guidebook was launched by the European Commission at a dedicated webinar on 11 September 2020.

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

<b>Duration</b>	01/2019 – 11/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta (PC), Leonard Geyer, Monika Hunjadi
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Andreas Schaller, Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
<b>Funded by</b>	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Engagement with stakeholders in the form of a structured and coherent nationwide mechanism that considers provinces, municipalities and civil society was recommended by the Austrian Court of Auditors after carrying out an audit of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Ministry together with the European Centre organised 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.

Three workshops on the implementation of the SDGs took place in 2019 and another one was implemented in 2020: ‘People with disabilities’ (27 March 2019, Linz); ‘Decent work for young people’ (17 June 2019, Graz); ‘Older people’ (6 November 2019, Vienna); ‘Reducing poverty and inequalities’ (27 January 2020, Salzburg). The fifth workshop on ‘Health and wellbeing of children and young people’, scheduled for 21 September 2020 in Innsbruck, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 measures.

## Determinants of Use of Care in Slovenia and Austria (DET\_CAREMIX)

<b>Duration</b>	06/2017 – 11/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Ricardo Rodrigues
<b>Project Team</b>	Stefania Ilinca, Selma Kadi, Rahel Kahlert
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Valentina Hlebec, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
<b>Project Partners</b>	University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Institute for Economic Research (Slovenia)
<b>Funded by</b>	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;
- which are the factors impacting their choices (e.g. cultural values, financial constraints, preferences, household composition);
- how are these factors themselves shaped by public policies; and
- whether they are different between groups of LTC users (e.g. socio-economic conditions)?

To this end, a mixed-methods methodology was decided. On the one hand, this includes quantitative research methods applied on secondary data (i.e. SHARE data) to estimate determinants of caregiving and care-receiving across socio-economic groups as well as to study growing inequalities in care provision by education among older working-age women in Austria, following the pension reform of the early 2000s. On the other hand, this is complemented by a qualitative study on dyads (users of long-term care and their family carers) and their use of different forms of care. This latter study focuses on the role of family ties and life-course trajectories in determining choices made within dyads.



## Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Croatia (SitAn UNICEF Croatia)

<b>Duration</b>	04/2020 – 11/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Veronica Sandu (PC), Magdi BIRTHA, Rahel Kahlert
<b>Funded by</b>	United Nations Children's Fund Croatia

The Situation Analysis of children's rights and wellbeing is a UNICEF flagship product designed to inform policy dialogue, partnerships, and interventions to improve the lives of children. It is an assessment of the country situation, with respect to children's rights and critical issues affecting their realization. This is a crucial part of the child rights monitoring (CRM) framework and represents a key UNICEF programmatic output that helps to focus on knowledge gaps related to inequities and child deprivations. The study will draw on an extensive desk review and key informant interviews with a diverse range of actors. The project will result in a comprehensive report validated by the key stakeholders and partners. The analysis will eventually contribute to the (re)formulation of Croatia's key national strategies to integrate the priorities for the most disadvantaged children and adolescents into the socio-economic development agenda.

## Mapping Trends and Policies to Tackle Homelessness in Europe

<b>Duration</b>	12/2019 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Eszter Zólyomi (PC), Magdi BIRTHA, Michael Fuchs, Ricardo Rodrigues
<b>Funded by</b>	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The project provides a comparative assessment of national policies crucial for preventing and addressing homelessness. Focusing on a group of European countries and building on a rights-based approach, the research looks at the extent to which states are upholding the right to housing and ensure access to affordable housing, social support and health care. Specific attention will be paid to policies and services targeting older people, persons with mental health problems and persons with addiction problems. Activities include a literature review and consultation with experts and stakeholders from the areas of homelessness and housing exclusion; a multi-dimensional framework with indicators to assess and monitor policies for a selected group of European countries; and a comparative analysis and final report.

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

<b>Duration</b>	12/2016 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Anette Scoppetta
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi BIRTHA, Sonila DANAJ, Michael FUCHS, Leonard GEYER, Kai LEICHSENRING, Ricardo RODRIGUES, Veronica SANDU, Eszter ZÓLYOMI
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Mattias Wihlborg, ICF (United Kingdom)
<b>Project Partners</b>	ICF International (Belgium and United Kingdom), Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale (Italy), RadarEurope (The Netherlands)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

EU policy-making in employment, social affairs and inclusion primarily takes place through intergovernmental coordination, which is based on mutual learning among EU-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 until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic during which the holding of those events came to a halt (autumn 2019–today):

- *Four Peer Reviews* ('Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age', in Berlin, Germany, 23-24 September 2019; 'Access to social assistance and rights for homeless people', in Brussels, Belgium, 3-4 October 2019; 'Entrepreneurship training for the unemployed', in Vienna, Austria, 24-25 October 2019; 'Employer service delivery' (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, postponed to autumn 2020);
- *EaSI 2019 Annual Conference* – 'From EaSI to ESF+: Supporting the sustainability of social and employment projects' (Brussels, Belgium, 30 September 2019).

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

<b>Duration</b>	01/2019 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj (PC), Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Mojca Vah Jevšnik, ZRC SAZU (Slovenia)
<b>Project Partners</b>	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)
<b>Funded by</b>	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. Using the action research methodology and utilizing the methods of focus group and foresight, Con3Post will collect relevant data to inform key stakeholders and policy-makers about the current and future trends and provide guidelines for strategic decision-making and planning on the sectoral, national/regional and EU level.

## Better Regulation Guidelines. Framework Contract for the Provision of Services related to the Implementation of Better Regulation Guidelines (BRG)

<b>Duration</b>	04/2019 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta (PC), Magdi BIRTHA, Leonard Geyer
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Tina Weber, ICF (Belgium)
<b>Project Partners</b>	ICF, Cambridge Econometrics, Kantar Public, Quantos, IZA
<b>Funded by</b>	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: 1) impact assessment for the design and preparation of policies, programmes and legislation; 2) evaluation to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and added value; and 3) monitoring their implementation.

The following two activities are currently running: A study supporting the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), and a study supporting the 2020 evaluation of the support to promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination by the European Social Fund (Thematic Objective 9).

## New Challenges and Developments in Life Courses and Related Policies Affecting Women's Old-Age Pensions

<b>Duration</b>	01/2020 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov
<b>Funded by</b>	European Centre

There is a considerable gender pension gap within the European Union related to acquired entitlements and (if there is an entitlement) also related to the amounts of resulting old-age pensions. Both can be traced back to different life patterns of women and men. Political areas on the European and national level, which are relevant in the context of the corresponding debate, are equality policy, employment policy and pension policy. Those have proven to be quite successful in the prevention of gender-specific discrimination.

During the last decades, many pension reforms in Europe targeted the adequacy of pensions, the adaptability of pension systems to changing environments, and the safeguarding of financial sustainability, with mixed outcomes related to the pension entitlements of women. The analysis will look at the kind and areas of policy reforms, favourable pension systems or elements as well as their policy impact and will also point towards policy recommendations based on good practices (What should the national states do?) and (potential) improvements over time.

## Study on Intergenerational Fairness

<b>Duration</b>	01/2020 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov, Leonard Geyer, Ricardo Rodrigues
<b>External Project</b>	
<b>Coordinators</b>	Barbara De Micheli (Project Manager), Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), Michele Raitano (Scientific Coordinator), Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
<b>Project Partners</b>	FGB – Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), LSE – London School of Economics (United Kingdom)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The purpose of this study is to pursue an assessment of various possible policy choices while providing a methodology for assessing intergenerational fairness. For the analysis we will use the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD. In order to assess the underlying effects leading to a potential shift in the income distribution between generations in the course of the economic crisis, the effects of discretionary policy changes, automatic stabilisers (such as progressive tax systems, unemployment or social assistance benefits) and socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population will have to be disentangled.

In terms of policy recommendations, we will compare the simulated disposable income of an individual/household before and after the hypothetical reforms, keeping all other effects constant. The selection of policies will not focus a priori on younger age groups. Instead, we will first check who benefitted/lost in the aftermath of the crisis in the different Member States and then choose relevant policies.

## Feasibility Study for the Programme “Reforming Child Protection Systems: Strengthening Children’s Rights”

<b>Duration</b>	06/2020 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Veronica Sandu (PC), Rahel Kahlert, Magdi Birtha
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Kornelia Maier, SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide, Hermann Gmeiner Fund Germany
<b>Funded by</b>	SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide

The Feasibility Study of the new SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide programme ‘Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children’s rights’ provides a comprehensive analysis of the child protection policies in five countries from the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Ukraine. Further, it evaluates *ex-ante* the extent to which the proposed programme would contribute to the fulfilment of human rights of children in the region. The study focusus on children living in formal care (residential and family-type care), children temporarily separated from their parents, and children at risk of being separated from their parents. The existing needs of the target groups are identified and we look at how national systems react to these needs to identify the childcare policy gaps in each country. The study also evaluates the SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide programme based on its relevance in supporting the target group, its effectiveness, efficiency, significance, and sustainability.

## Social Reform Microsimulation Austria (SORESI)

<b>Duration</b>	09/2012 – 01/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov
<b>Project Partner</b>	Federal Computing Centre [ <i>Bundesrechenzentrum</i> ] (Austria)
<b>Funded by</b>	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

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. You can try SORESI immediately and run your own simulations for free.

## Contracting for Quality in Long-term Care in Europe. Follow-up Study (C4Q2)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2020 – 12/2020
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Kai Leichsenring (PC), Rahel Kahlert, Selma Kadi
<b>External Project</b>	
<b>Coordinators</b>	Alfonso Lara Montero and Martin Lichte, European Social Network (Brussels)
<b>Funded by</b>	ESN – European Social Network

The long-standing cooperation of the European Centre with the European Social Network (ESN), has often focused on the relationships of public authorities with providers and users, on the regulatory framework of the EU and on the quality of long-term care in Europe. Latest EU regulations on public procurement as well as the establishment of the European Pillar of Social Rights that includes “the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality”, stimulated the ESN to commission the European Centre with a study on how public procurement in long-term care could contribute to ensure quality and how local authorities have learned to choose providers based on the best price-quality ratio.

Based on desk research and a survey among ESN members, we analysed how EU law in general, and the 2014 EU Public Procurement Directive in particular, influence public authorities’ ability to ensure quality LTC services and in what way local authorities are trying to link contracts to the provision of good quality LTC.



## Distributional Impact of Asset Contributions to Residential Care in Austria (PFLEGEREGRESS)

<b>Duration</b>	06/2019 – 01/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Ricardo Rodrigues
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs, Kai Leichsenring, Cassandra Simmons, Tamara Premrov
<b>Funded by</b>	Anniversary Fund of the Austrian National Bank ( <i>ÖNB-Jubiläumsfonds</i> )

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)

<b>Duration</b>	11/2018 – 02/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Günter Stummvoll
<b>Project Team</b>	Cornelius (Cees) Goos, Kai Leichsenring, Willem Stamatiou
<b>Project Partners</b>	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)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training

Management of social order in public space has become a shared responsibility of authorities and welfare institutions. However, the collaboration of different stakeholders is often marked by severe tensions, as organisations often differ in their strategies and approaches to public order management. In this project we are dedicated to facilitate a good balance of social welfare and law enforcement policies to support social inclusion of marginalised people such as drug users and homeless people. We aim in particular to contribute to the development of mutual understanding, skills and competences for a better collaboration between social workers and police officers.

Therefore, a common training course has been developed and tested for social workers and police officers in all partner countries. Appropriate teaching material was produced and released for a sustainable implementation of the training in the future. This 5-day training course follows international didactical standards of student-centred learning and offers a good mix of knowledge transfer, exercises, exchange and field visits. Topics such as prevention of drug addiction and homelessness are emphasized in this vocational training.

## Mapping Promising Social Services and Policy Measures to Support the Independent Living of Older People: A Compendium of Good Practices on Community-based Services for Older People (IL\_OlderPeople)

<b>Duration</b>	11/2019 – 03/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi BIRTHA (PC), Veronica Sandu, Rahel Kahlert
<b>Funded by</b>	European Centre

Following the impact of deinstitutionalisation efforts in the disability or childcare sector, there has been already some progress in long-term care to move from an institutional type of solutions towards integrated models, embedded in the community. However, unlike in other sectors, there is not enough knowledge nor evidence when it comes to ensuring independent living of older people and where such good practices exist. Additionally, there is limited understanding on what constitutes a good practice (criteria, dimensions, etc.) and how to ensure transferability. Considering the increasing interest of public authorities, both within the European Union and beyond (e.g. in Eastern Partnership countries), towards sustainable, community-based policy solutions and measures, this project aims to narrow this gap and explore existing non-residential service provision available to older people in six European countries.

The aim of this research is threefold:

- To map existing non-residential, community-based social services that support the independent living of older people in six European countries (AT, SE, ES, SI, PL, CH).
- To develop an adequate tool for the assessment and evaluation of what is a good/promising practice in this area.
- To present a compendium of good practices (case-studies) of community-based care and support services for older people (considering vulnerability dimensions, such as gender, migrant background, etc.).

## Indicators for Measuring Child Poverty and Its Combating in European Cities

<b>Duration</b>	06/2020 – 04/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Michael Fuchs (PC), Tamara Premrov
<b>Funded by</b>	City of Vienna – MA 40

In this project commissioned by the City of Vienna, the European Centre will identify indicators related to child poverty in European cities, taking into account the following dimensions:

- 1) Definition of child poverty;
- 2) Prevalence of child poverty;
- 3) Consequences of child poverty related to health and nutrition, social participation, education, social mobility, labour market integration and housing situation;
- 4) Living conditions of children concerned; and
- 5) Measures to combat child poverty.

The indicators will be coordinated with the cities involved (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bratislava, Edinburgh, Frankfurt/M., Ghent, Helsinki, Lyon, Nantes, Stockholm, Tallinn, Utrecht, Vienna, Warsaw, Zagreb) and will serve as discussion input for the city roundtable in Vienna scheduled for spring 2021.

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

<b>Duration</b>	04/2018 – 04/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Christian Boehler (PC), Rahel Kahlert, Leonard Geyer, Veronica Sandu
<b>External Project Coordinator</b>	Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
<b>Project Partners</b>	AREA Science Park (Italy), Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy), Local Health Authority n.1 Dolomiti (Italy), National Institute of Public Health (Slovenia), University of Salzburg (Austria)
<b>Funded by</b>	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 domains 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.

## Bridging the Gap between Legislation and Practice in the Posting of Workers (POW-BRIDGE)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2020 – 12/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Sonila Danaj
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta, Eszter Zólyomi, Rahel Kahlert, Leonard Geyer, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>Project Partners</b>	UNIVE – Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), CSPV SAV – Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia), CMR UW – University of Warsaw (Poland), PUBLIC (North Macedonia), CSP – Center for Social Policy (Serbia)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

POW-BRIDGE studies the gap between procedures (legal basis) and practices (experiences) in posting rule enactment, identifies challenges and develops and shares effective ways of addressing these challenges for posting companies and implementation agencies. It particularly investigates how the Directive interplays with other EU and national legislation in terms of social security, health insurance, temporary agency work, and company law. The geographical scope of the action includes Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and North Macedonia.

The research component of the project will focus on national rules and regulations on social security, health insurance, temporary agency work and company law – aspects that have been less studied in this context. The method used for the primary data collection will be based on vignettes, which will be specifically designed to meet the purposes of the assessment, i.e. elicit insights from both sides of the institutional relationship: posting employers and street-level bureaucrats/state agencies' representatives on posting practices. The kick-off, mutual learning labs, strategic board meetings, and the final international conference will serve as activities that aim to both enhance cooperation and assist in sharing information among participating stakeholders and to a wider audience.

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

<b>Duration</b>	03/2019 – 12/2021
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Ricardo Rodrigues
<b>Project Team</b>	Stefania Ilinca, Eszter Zólyomi
<b>Project Partners</b>	Susan Phillips, Queen's University (Canada); Stefan Fors, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
<b>Funded by</b>	Gender-ERA-Net, FWF – Austrian Science Fund, Swedish Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

In old age (60+), women live, on average, longer than men, but live a greater portion of their lives in poor health. At the same time, women are more likely to use care services than men and to be informal care-givers. Older adults' health and care-giving/receiving are two clear examples of existing inequalities between men and women. FUTUREGEN aims to understand how entwined GENDER inequalities in health and care-giving/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 future generations of older men will provide more care? Which measures of health avoid sex/gender bias?

To answer these questions, we currently carry out a cohort analysis of changes to health and care inequalities and a study on the effect of widowhood on the use of different forms of care. A review of methods to study intersectionality of gender and socio-economic inequalities has been carried out and a qualitative study on the views of older people on healthy ageing is planned.

## Supporting INclusive Development of Community-based Long-term CARE Services through Multi-stakeholder Participatory Approaches (InCARE)

<b>Duration</b>	11/2020 – 10/2023
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	Stefania Ilinca
<b>Project Team</b>	Kai Leichsenring, Rahel Kahlert, Selma Kadi
<b>Local and Policy Partners</b>	Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Austria), Chance B Gruppe (Austria), Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales (IMSERSO) (Spain), Fundacion Instituto Gerontologica Matia (INGEMA) (Spain), Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (North Macedonia), Ministry of Health (North Macedonia), Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia
<b>Technical Partners</b>	Stichting Vilans (Netherlands), Care Policy and Evaluation Centre / London School of Economics (United Kingdom), Eurocarers (Belgium)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

European countries face the formidable challenge of providing adequate, affordable and sustainable support to their ageing populations. Socially innovative approaches are required to manage the inherent complexity of LTC systems and respond to such challenges in a flexible but coordinated fashion at all governance levels.

InCARE aims to promote participatory, innovative and integrated approaches to LTC policy and service development by focusing on aspects that are instrumental for system sustainability and innovation capacity: multi-stakeholder cooperation, evidence-based decision-making, capacity building and skills transfer. Technical partners will provide support with research, outreach, implementation and evaluation activities, while national partners will develop a coherent local approach to LTC policy and service design.

The project includes formative research activities in support of policy processes, within a Theory of Change process, national pilot implementation activities specific to each participating country, as well as evaluation and monitoring of the outcomes.



# Publications

## Books and Reports

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Boehler, C., Geyer, L., Müllauer, A., Kapferer, E. & Koch, A. (2020). *ASTAHG Alpine Space transnational governance on active and healthy ageing – Report on the classification of AHA initiatives*. Vienna: ASTAHG Project/European Centre.

Danaj, S., Geyer, L., Cukut Krilić, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (2020). *From Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria via Slovenia: Migration and posting of third country nationals in the EU. A regional case study*, European Centre Report. Vienna: European Centre.

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Kahlert, R. & Boehler, C. (2020). *Begleitende Evaluation aus der Perspektive von Akteuren. Als Teil der wissenschaftlichen Begleitung und Evaluation des Projekts “Age-friendly Region” – Case und Care Management in West-Ungarn und in der Steiermark*. Vienna: European Centre.

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Müllauer, A., Kapferer, E., **Boehler, C., Geyer, L.** & Koch, A. (2020). *ASTAHG Alpine Space transnational governance on active and healthy ageing – Report on the classification of AHA stakeholders*. Vienna: European Centre.

Sandu, V. & Birtha, M. (2020). *Mapping promising social services and policy measures to support the independent living of older people. Literature review: Definitions, models and dimensions of good practices*. Vienna: European Centre.

Schmidt, A.E., **Leichsenring, K.**, Staflinger, H., Litwin, C. & Bauer, A. (2020). *The impact of COVID-19 on users and providers of Long-Term Care services in Austria*. Report available at [L7Covoid.org](https://l7covid.org), International Long-Term Care Policy Network, CPEC-LSE.

Zólyomi, E. & Birta, M. (2020). *Towards inclusive employment of persons with disabilities: A comparative study of six social economy organisations and companies in Europe*. Vienna: European Centre.

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European Union Access City Award Network / Birta, M. (Rapporteur) (2019). *EU accessible cities for inclusive tourism*. 2nd Network Meeting. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

ICF & European Centre [E. Zólyomi] (2019). *Peer Review on access to social assistance and rights for homeless people*, Synthesis report. Brussels: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

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## Policy Briefs

Boehler, C. & Öylü, G. (2020). *Tackling ageism during a global health crisis: Multilevel, intersectoral and transnational collaboration for active and healthy ageing*, Policy Brief 2020/5. Vienna : European Centre.

Simmons, C., Leichsenring, K., Navarini, L. & Rodrigues, R. (2020). *Co-financing residential care for older people: models and equity implications*, Policy Brief 2020/4. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A. & Stott, L. (2020). *Unleashing transformation through partnerships – The lost potential of SDG 17*, Policy Brief 2020/3. Vienna: European Centre.

Filipovič Hrast, M., Srakar, A., Perviz, L. & Hlebec, V. (2020). *The use of formal and informal care services in Slovenia: Availability issues and challenges to gender and income equality*, Policy Brief 2020/2. Vienna: European Centre.

Stummvoll, G., Kahlert, R. & Goos, C. (2020). *Prevention and treatment of substance abuse among young people in criminal justice systems*, Policy Brief 2020/1. Vienna: European Centre.

## Journal Articles and Blog Contributions

Danaj, S. (2020). Book review: From migrant to worker: global unions and temporary labor migration in Asia, by Michele Ford. *ILR REVIEW*.

Durazzi, N. & **Geyer, L.** (2020). Apprenticeships: A public option. *Social Europe*.

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Fuchs, M., Hollan, K., Gasior, K., Premrov, T. & Scoppetta, A. (2020). Falling through the social safety net? Analysing non-take-up of minimum income benefit and monetary social assistance in Austria. *Social Policy Administration*, 2020, 1-17 (early view).

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Leichsenring, K. (2019). Pflege neu denken – Community Power in den Niederlanden. *Lebenswelt Heim – Zeitschrift des Bundesverbandes Lebenswelt Heim*, 22(84), 34-37.

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Sowa-Kofta, A., **Rodrigues, R.**, Lamura, G., Sopadzhian, A., Wittenberg, R., Bauer, G., Frisina Doetter, L. & **Ilinca, S.** et al. (2019). Long-term care and migrant care work: Addressing workforce shortages while raising questions for European countries. *Eurohealth, Quarterly of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*, 25(4), 15-18.

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Danaj, S., Hollan, K. & Scoppetta, A. (2020). Labour mobility and OSH vulnerability of posted workers: The cases of Austria and the Slovak Republic. In: Diaz Bretones, F. & Santos, A. (Eds.), *New hazards, new workers: Health, safety and wellbeing in migrant workers*. Basel: SpringerLink.

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## Working Papers

Danaj, S., Zólyomi, E., Vah Jevšnik, M., & Cukut Krilić, S. (2019). *Implementing the Posting of Workers Directive in the Western Balkans: An institutional analysis*, EEPOW Comparative Working Paper. Vienna: European Centre.

Rodrigues, R. & Ilinca, S. (2019). *How does she do it all? Reconciling employment and caregiving to older people among Austrian women with different education degrees*, European Centre Working Paper. Vienna: European Centre.

Zólyomi, E. (2019). *Thematic discussion paper 1. Peer Review on Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age*. Brussels: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

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## Conference Papers and Presentations

Scoppetta, A. (forthcoming 2020). *PES services for employers: Focussing on competences of persons with disabilities is key for success*. Expert paper for the Peer Review on "Employer Service Delivery".

Leichsenring, K. (2020). *The role of migration in long-term care – European patterns*. ICMPD webinar – The Future of Care Workers' Mobility, 4 June, Vienna, Austria.

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# Organisation

## Management and Staff

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*(to be nominated)*

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Federal Social Insurance Office

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(pending)

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Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

### Austria

Georg Reibmayr

Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

### Azerbaijan

Irada Usubova (*in process*)

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

### Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lejla Mujkić

Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

### Cyprus

Toula Koloumou

Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance

### Finland

Minna-Liisa Luoma

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

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Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

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Ministry of Social Affairs

### Kosovo

Muhamet Klinaku

Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo

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*(pending)*

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*(pending)*

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Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs

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Institute for Labour and Family Research

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Social Protection Institute

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