






Annual Report of Activities 2021



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

Table of Contents

	From the Executive Director	3
	Highlights and Outcomes	7
	Work and Welfare	7
	Health and Care	12
	Bridging Function	16
	Projects	20
	Publications	54
	Books and Chapters in Books	54
	Journal Articles	56
	Policy Briefs	57
	Report and Working Papers	58
	Conference Papers, Presentations and Blogs	60
	Organisation	64
	Management and Staff	64
	Board of Directors	66
	NLOs (National Liaison Officials)	68



Dear colleagues, friends, supporters and interested followers of the European Centre!

After some time of pondering, I eventually gave up to find an intelligent opening line of this letter with new expressions of how ‘unprecedented’, ‘challenging’ or ‘disruptive’ the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences have been. Instead, the key question for us must be whether, after the “hostile decade for social policy” (Farnsworth & Irving, 2020) from 2010 to 2020, we are now experiencing a renaissance of public policies to sustain the social fabric, of “politics of belonging” (Tanner et al., 2021) or also “a new social contract” (Shafik, 2021).

While this may be dismal prospects for the prevailing neo-liberal discourse, it could be motivating for all those who are working to underpin social policies with research evidence. For instance, on how to overcome social inequalities, how to design decent labour conditions or active labour market policies, how to address the ‘care gap’ or the ‘gender pay gap’, and how to prevent social exclusion to ‘leave no one behind’. These would be great prospects for the European Centre and our expertise that is showcased in this Annual Report of Activities. Still, as an intergovernmental organisation we continue to be concerned about the state of intergovernmental cooperation, and the (lack of) significance of social and health policies in on-going ‘recovery’ funding. In spite of impressive wordings in international declarations, and even in spite of unprecedented allocations of public budgets, we observe a climate of national redress with rising authoritarianism, of

weak interest in international cooperation and a lack of policy coordination and trust.

And yet we are witnessing an acceleration of global challenges from climate change and economic turmoil to regional (surrogate) wars and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore important to continue all our efforts towards finding shared approaches and cooperating across borders. The European Centre is always ready to contribute to these efforts and to underpin strategies for appropriate social policies by empirical research, the exchange of good practices and related evidence. Together with our partners from the UNECE Region we adamantly trust in the coming of a more ‘friendly decade’ for social policy, including actions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to develop more integrated care systems and to tackle the next phase to fulfil the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).

As for the SDGs we have combined our bridge building function with a series of peer reviews with the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan countries in an important project funded by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. What is more there is a range of on-going and concluding research projects that address relevant SDGs in the areas of fighting inequalities, promoting decent work, health and partnerships.



To promote more person-centred and integrated long-term care systems, the on-going project InCARE is now implementing most exciting pilot projects in Spain, North Macedonia and Austria. Furthermore, we have contributed important bits to an intensive study providing evidence and background information to future strategies of the European Commission (DG Employment) in the area of long-term care.

In addition, the European Centre is heavily engaged with the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing in the preparations of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Ageing, including a joint 'NGO and Research Forum', that will take place in Rome in June 2022.

Over the past few years, the European Centre has become a place where decent and flexible working conditions, stable employment contracts and the opportunity to develop personal skills have become a centerpiece of management strategies. During the pandemic this has resulted in new types of learning and working – from home (wherever this may be) or at the premises that have never been completely closed. Like any other organisation we had to learn new ways of communicating, of presenting online, and of meeting with colleagues and partners. According to some internal surveys, staff and management have been coping rather well and showed agile abilities to adapt, but additional measures will be implemented after this long period to support mental health and coping strategies.

Once more we have also witnessed that an implicit function of the European Centre has likely become to prepare scholars for moving to other international organisations such as WHO. This has recently resulted in higher fluctuation, i.e. a most lamentable loss of staff, including related knowledge and skills. These changes have certainly impacted on the workload and reorganisation

of tasks of the remaining staff. We have therefore prepared for at least two job openings during autumn and hope to be able to catch up and regain the previous number of staff by 2022. Departures concerned also our administration as Willem Stamatou reached his pension age and left the European Centre after more than 30 years of service – a most impressive career pattern that has become quite rare during this very time-span. We wish all colleagues who left us under these circumstances – among other things averse to farewell-parties – all the best for their future and hope that in some cases this will also include further cooperation with the European Centre.

Due to these fluctuations and the continuous acquisition of new projects the Management Team together with project coordinators was again overwhelmed with reshuffling tasks and resources. Still, most deadlines could be kept, and the quality of our deliverables continued to be excellent according to partners' and commissioners' feedback.

A major setback has however been that we eventually had to stop 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'. Given the overall workload it was necessary to set priorities in the direction of funded projects, but we continue to develop new ways of facilitating internal funding with the Board of Directors.

While we are all getting used to online conferences and webinars, many of us are missing the direct exchange during physical meetings, the possibilities for networking and the joint development of new ideas and projects with partners. Following training and peer-learning for online-meetings we have gained some experience in using new online tools to mimic participatory



training, moderated group work and creative ways of involving participants. However, we still felt a different kind of energy when we started collaborating in a physical setting again, in small workshops to start with. In the meantime, we continue to be patient before larger seminars and conferences will be organised ‘normally’ again.

During this past year our engagement in disseminating results has been intensified, including via our website and social media. The number of peer-reviewed articles reached an all-time high with 8 published and another 7 articles under review. In addition, we produced 12 Policy Briefs, 14 contributions to books, 17 reports as well as a number of blogs and articles in traditional media. Apart from internal team meetings and project meetings held as video-conferences, we spent more time in front of the screen by giving more than 40 presentations at online-conferences, workshops and webinars.

With respect to acquisitions we once again experienced the ups and downs of tendering processes – following a short period of refusals at the beginning of the year, a whole range of successful bids could be celebrated during the rest of the year. The financial stability of the European Centre has thus never been endangered due to diligent and most motivated staff.

Personally, I am most grateful to the Board of Directors for prolonging my contract for another period of five years. I see this as an appreciation of my achievements which, however, would not have been possible without the support and engagement of my colleagues. It will be necessary to keep the motivation and the commitment of each and every staff member also during the challenging next year when we will be confronted with on-going social, economic (and political) consequences of the pandemic that will continue

to shape our lives. To promote smart social policies aiming at reducing inequalities, preventing further cracks in the social tissue and proposing new ideas to generate social security over the life-course will remain our main drivers – together with all member states, research partners and civil society across the UNECE Region.

As we are approaching our 50th anniversary in 2024 we are appreciative to the founders and to all stakeholders that have been and still are currently supporting the European Centre as a unique organisation with its affiliation to the United Nations. From the times of Cold War till today – with new and partly deeper divisions across the world and across the UNECE Region – we have witnessed that, in particular during times of crises, social policies are able to mitigate the impact of economic, financial and other crises, to diminish inequalities and to create employment. However, we have also seen that progress is not a natural one-way street. The ‘social elevator has been broken’ (OECD, 2018) already before the pandemic and similar to climate-related measures we need to take urgent action for improving the social opportunities for future generations – this calls for more, rather than less international cooperation. To this end we’ll invest all our energies in making this a “friendly decade for social policy” with decent social security, active labour market policies and user-friendly social and health care services.

My gratitude goes to all staff, affiliated researchers, partners and supporters of the European Centre who are accompanying us in this effort.

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 on the social integration of vulnerable groups. The Unit conducts comparative research that contributes to the UN Agenda 2030 and the European Union's Priorities, especially the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Unit comprises of experienced researchers and policy advisers with the following expertise:

The Unit works towards policies that aim at reducing inequalities and poverty

1. *Research:* Scientific methods applied entail qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis as well as mixed methods, including microsimulation, distribution analyses, case studies, data gathering based on vignettes, focus groups, expert interviews, biographical interviews, surveys and foresight. We have specific expertise in income distribution, poverty and material deprivation, policies for vulnerable groups, labour market and employment, labour mobility, social innovation, and transition processes.
2. *Policy consultation:* We design, monitor and evaluate social welfare and labour market policies, conduct peer reviews and other mutual learning activities, and offer policy advice and trainings based on evidence-based research. We have specific expertise in networking stakeholders with different institutional background, social policy dialogue and policy consultation processes by using various formats such as participatory design of workshops and training methods.

During the past 12 months, the 'Work & Welfare' Unit employed ten researchers who have been involved in more than 20 projects as well as in bridge building as well as in other networking and dissemination activities.

Strategic Aim of the ‘Work and Welfare’ Unit

The strategic aim of the Unit is to conduct high-quality research and contribute to improved social welfare and labour market policies through comparative analysis and policy consultancy. The Unit’s knowledge base is constantly updated and expanded based on project acquisition and implementation. We currently organise our work primarily within the following thematic clusters:

- *Social Security*
- *Labour Mobility*
- *Active Labour Market Policy*
- *Social Support Services*

Within these clusters, the Unit implements various flagship, medium-sized and small-sized projects that aim at minimizing inequalities and reducing poverty:

- *Social Security:* With the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD we carry out tailor-made fiscal and distributive simulation analysis for various actual or hypothetical policy changes using the latest EU-SILC micro data. The basic scope of the model includes social (insurance) contributions, income taxes and monetary benefits. Our task as EUROMOD national team for Austria is to provide an annual update of policy parameters, the Austrian input data for the model, as well as validation. Based on this expertise our team has implemented and updated SORE-SI, an online tax-benefit microsimulation calculator for Austria, for many years. One of our most recent projects is the simulation of a job guarantee for long-term unemployed in Austria, which was commissioned by the Chamber of Labour Vienna. Moreover, we act as consortia partner and contribute to studies, such as to the EU ‘Study on Intergenerational Fairness’. Nowadays, the team also contributes to the EUROMOD-JRC web interface, an online tool that provides a simplified access to the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD.
- *Labour Mobility:* Our well-trained and highly experienced researchers study 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, seasonal work and undeclared 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 (OSH) of mobile workers, and the transposition, implementa-

We analyse the nexus
between employment,
migration and social
welfare



tion, and enforcement of EU law in the EU Member States as well as the EU candidate countries. Our four flagship projects implemented in labour mobility during the past 12 months are funded by the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), namely Secure Mobility: Uncovering Gaps in the Social Protection of Posted Workers, Enhancing the collection and analysis of national data on intra-EU posting, Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers, and posting of third country nationals.

- *Active Labour Market Policy (ALMP)*: Researchers at our Unit have ample expertise in ALMP and focus on precarious work. We study and assess measures for different target groups implemented at various levels of governance. Specifically, we identify promising practices and develop recommendations for innovative 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 union representation, gender policy, vocational education and training, and disability policy. Our work in this cluster includes, for instance, contributions to the European Social Fund/ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform's Community of Practice Employment, Education and Skills. We are studying how bicycle food delivery riders work (Ridersurvey) and facilitating Peer Reviews implemented under the Mutual Learning Program of the European Commission on issues such as 'platform work' and 'employer service delivery'.
- *Social Support Services*: 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 on the life chances and well-being of different groups in society. This may concern policies for specific target groups such as the homeless and children. Projects implemented include 'Mapping trends and policies to tackle homelessness in Europe', the 'Situation Analysis of children and adolescents' in Moldova as well as in Croatia, 'Indicators for measuring child poverty and its combating in European cities' and a feasibility study for the programme 'Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children's rights'. Other target groups scrutinized by our researchers include youth (e.g., within the project Youth Gangs), older persons (e.g., within the Alpine Space project on transnational governance of active and healthy ageing/ASTAHG) and people with disabilities. Moreover, we develop and support strategic partnerships between stakeholders, for instance between social work organisations and the police.

We analyse benefits and services for vulnerable groups of our society

Our Unit in a nutshell

Our core areas of expertise encompass comparative analysis of the risk of poverty, income distribution, cross-border labour mobility including posting, ALMPs and their interplay with other policy areas such as passive labour market policy and social policy. We provide analytical and methodological support (e.g., conceptualisation and development of indicators), and offer policy advice based on evidence-based research.

The Unit's team and our clients

The ten members of the 'Work & Welfare' Unit complement each other regarding their academic background, their research areas as well as their methodological skills (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method analysis as well as policy consultancy, evaluation, and training). Furthermore, over the past year we hosted two interns and two seconded research fellows.

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

The Unit's projects are based on international cooperation and networks with partners particularly from the EU and beyond. The Unit's main calls addressed over the past year encompass those of

- EU bodies, in particular the European Commission, e.g. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EaSI and ESF+), DG Justice/REC, and EUROSTAT,
- individual EU Member States (e.g., Ministries such as the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection as well as public funding agencies),
- joint EU programmes (e.g., Interreg, EEA and Norway Grant, JPI, etc.),
- International Organisations such as UNICEF, and
- other territorial or sectoral donors (e.g., Regional Cooperation Council/RCC, Chamber of Labour/AT, City of Vienna, Autonomous Province of Trento, Foundations, EU Network/umbrella organisations).

Research and applied science partners include the respective Ministries in the EU and the BB countries, universities & research institutes (e.g., KU



Leuven/Belgium, University of Essex/United Kingdom, LISER – Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, FGB – Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini/Italy, LSE – London School of Economics/United Kingdom), the social partners (e.g., ETUI, Austrian Trade Union Federation), civil society organisations (e.g., public/North Macedonia), country experts and consultancy agencies such as ICF International (Belgium & United Kingdom).

Reflection & Brief Outlook

The Unit constantly reflects its approach in acquisition and expands its skills and knowledge base towards new thematic areas and target groups. Generally, individual members of the Unit work in more than one thematic area and frequently projects with a cross-thematic nature are acquired. In the past year, our Unit members especially acknowledged the practised teamwork, the feedback from colleagues (peering), the existing quality control mechanisms and the well-established business relationships to other research institutions.

The Unit aims at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams within our thematic core areas. During 2020/2021 the Unit developed project ideas and submitted several proposals that will shape future activities. By September 2021, the Unit counted 12 acquisitions including project submissions and agreements to partners in partnering for upcoming open calls. We target at a diversification of our key accounts in 2021/2022 via response to calls not yet addressed such as the EU Horizon programme and other DGs (e.g., DG Regional and Urban Policy), Foundations, and the World Bank.

However, we are also driven by demand, often at short notice, i.e. by incoming requests, short-term calls for proposals or invitations to participate in tenders. Consequently, the Unit's challenge is to ensure high quality project work while looking to acquire new projects to deepen the Units' thematic niches. The team successfully addressed this and related challenges also during this year and thus generated a sound basis for pursuing its aims and activities in 2022.

We acquire projects under various national and EU funding streams within our thematic core areas

Health and Care

Highlights

Contributing to research on COVID-19 and its social and health impact

The year that has passed continued to be marked by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The Health & Care unit of the European Centre therefore remained involved in research and policy advice to help tackle the social and health consequences of the pandemic. The susceptibility of older people with comorbidities to die of the SARS-CoV-2 highlighted the gaps in access to affordable and adequate care by this group of the population. As lockdown measures limited contact among families and neighbours, access to informal care was potentially limited during the pandemic. Researchers from the Health & Care unit have teamed-up with colleagues from the University of Vienna and the Austrian Public Health Institute to publish research on how the pandemic impacted the provision of informal care among the Austrian adult population (18-64) based on data purposely collected for this (the AK-COVID survey). As the pandemic progressed into its second year, the AK-COVID survey has followed up and it is now a panel data that we are using to further investigate the consequences of the pandemic on informal caregiving and access to healthcare. We expect to publish these findings soon so as possible to inform policy. The Health & Care unit also continues to be part of the International Long-Term Care Policy Network with its website (www.ltccovid.org) gathering resources to support community and institutional long-term care responses to COVID-19. In this respect, the European Centre is contributing with updates and analyses regarding developments in Austria (Leichsenring et al., 2021).

A knowledge centre for inequalities in health and care

The pandemic highlighted the relevance of social determinants of health in a year that saw the launch of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, the goals of which have been rendered even more salient by the pandemic. It has become clear that not only is the probability to contract and die of the disease unequally distributed, but the social consequences of the pandemic have also affected some groups more than others. This is highlighted in an article published in the European Journal of Ageing (Rodrigues et al., 2021), which shows how these social consequences varied among carers and non-carers and across sex/gender lines. Further research on the impact of postponement of healthcare and closure of surgeries on unmet needs for healthcare will be published soon.



These pervasive inequalities in health and care form a fundamental area of our research and have pre-dated the onset of COVID-19. Coming into its second year, the project FutureGEN has begun to produce evidence of the evolving gender gap in health trajectories in old-age – see Working Paper by Fors et al., 2021, submitted to the European Journal of Ageing – and the gender gap in informal caregiving (see FutureGEN Working Paper by Rodrigues et al., 2021). The latter shows limited gains in closing this gender care gap across different generations of Europeans, signaling the need for further policy action in this respect. The interactive graphs for health indicators on the Data Navigator website (<https://futuregen.euro.centre.org/data-navigator/>) illustrate these developments in a comparative perspective over the past two decades. In this project we take an intersecting approach to inequalities, meaning that inequalities are not the product of simply adding up or subtracting (dis)advantages across different groups. Research findings currently under review at the European Journal of Ageing (Ilinca et al., 2021) show, for example, that transitions into widowhood in old-age may render widowers more vulnerable to unmet need.

The past year has seen the completion of the joint project with the University of Ljubljana on inequalities in the determinants of care use in Austria and Slovenia (DET_CAREMIX). Among the research findings of this project, we would like to highlight the role played by expectations around “good care” and who should provide care in explaining the choices of older users of care. A Working Paper by Kadi et al. (2021) is currently under review for the Journal of Social Policy, but in the meantime you may want to consult the summary of project findings in a Policy Brief by Kadi et al. (2021).

The pandemic also highlighted the need for better coordination of care across settings and systems in order to improve not only access to care but also quality of care. The Health & Care unit has been actively involved in strengthening the case for such improvements through a number of projects. For example, InCARE is a multi-year project currently under way that seeks to create and pilot solutions for integrated care. This project brings together partners from Austria, Spain and the Bridge Building country North Macedonia and has received praise for its innovative approach combining research and capacity building elements in its design and implementation. A Policy Brief (Ilinca et al., 2021) focusing on social innovation and its role in transforming long-term care has been published this year, and a multi-national survey on the views of European citizens concerning long-term care will be rolled-out still in 2021. We are also involved in a study commissioned by the European Commission that investigates European policy options for long-term care, in which we are making significant contributions in the area of improving quality of care. Our expertise in the area of quality assurance

Making the case for better integration of health and social care

Achieving a fair balance in financing long-term care

mechanisms was also used in a recently published report by the European Social Network – the European Centre contributed to “Putting Quality First” with a review of relevant literature, the identification of good practice and the analysis of a survey among ESN members. Specifically, this analysis followed up on earlier work and showed ways how to combine contracting and quality assurance in a context of market-oriented governance of long-term care services.

Another salient issue in long-term care is the already mentioned affordability in accessing care. Unlike health care, long-term care for older people has been characterised by substantial out-of-pocket payments required from users or their families. The distributional effects of these payments are not yet very well understood and have always been one of the focal points of our work. Supported by a grant from the Austrian National Bank, we have investigated the effect of abolishing asset-based out-of-pocket payments for residential care in Austria (Pflegereregress). Findings suggest that such payments may be quite regressive in view of the concentration of residential care use among the least affluent. The findings are currently under review, a Working Paper by Rodrigues et al. (2021) has been submitted to the European Journal of Equity in Health. In the meantime, we are partnering up with WHO Europe to follow-up on this subject with a Fact Sheet on the distributional effects of out-of-pocket payments in long-term care.

To round up the list of projects and achievements, we would like to mention the start of our first Horizon 2020-funded project titled ‘COhort cOMmunity Research and Development Infrastructure Network for Access Throughout Europe (COORDINATE)’. This is a project that seeks to improve access to data on child wellbeing. The ambitious objective is to develop and pilot a cohort study of children under 6 years of age in Europe, a period in the life-course that is key to the understanding of many inequalities observed later in life. We are very much looking forward to be involved in this ambition over the coming years and will report on intermediary results in due time.

By revisiting the research and acquisition strategy for the Health & Care unit we concluded that, besides our focus on inequalities in health and long-term care, we shall further develop our potentials with a view to dementia care and the care workforce, in particular by strengthening participatory research methods. For example, we already have findings from the NORDCARE survey on the Austrian care workforce (see Simmons et al., 2021), which will soon be published in Health and Social Care in the Community – and this is something we aim to build on. Another goal in this strategy is to continue to apply for competitive multi-year research grants, similar to those that are currently funding FutureGEN and InCARE.



This would allow for enhanced management of human resources and time within the Unit

We would like to finish with a word of special thanks to our Board Member countries and also NLOs for their continued support. The AK-COVID survey and its analysis, for example, was only possible through the mobilisation of own resources funded directly by Board Members. Other Board Members have also been actively involved as members of Sounding Boards in our projects (e.g. FutureGEN) or by providing inputs to research findings. This involvement of Board Member countries is nowhere more visible than in the InCARE project, in which both Board Members from Austria and Spain are actively involved and benefiting from this joint work. This direct involvement of Board Members is to be strengthened in the years to come.

**Strengthening the
involvement of Board
Members**

Bridging Function of the European Centre

Highlights

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

In 2020/2021 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 with a focus on the following countries: 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 cooperate with actors in the Bridge Building (BB) countries (in particular in the Western Balkan region and with members of the Eastern Partnership) with different institutional background such as academics, research institutions, civil servants of respective ministries, civil society organisations and social partners.

During 2020/2021 we accomplished and/or renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between the European Centre and Ministries responsible for social affairs. As of August 2021, we have signed MoUs for a period of five years with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and the Ukraine. In these countries, National Liaison Officials (NLOs) have been nominated as contact persons to facilitate a constant exchange with the European Centre. The process to establish MoUs is currently in progress with Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova and Montenegro. Moreover, we (co-)organised and attended meetings with our colleagues in the BB region on country-specific requests, in particular with the NLOs of the European Centre.

When developing cooperation between partners in the Western Balkan region, the Eastern partnership countries and the EU countries we ensure exchange at the same eye level and build on shared needs across the group of countries such as, for instance, the joint need for social policy reforms with the aim to adjust to current challenges such as the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic, and more particularly the policies that have been implemented



to mitigate risks it poses to public health and healthcare systems, put Europe and the world under unprecedented public health, economic and social stress. Our activities implemented during the past year within BB aimed at minimizing the impacts it had on our societies especially for vulnerable groups such as informal carers, posted workers, women and girls as well as children. Together with our partners in the BB region and Europe, we co-created innovative approaches, jointly implemented solutions in response to the needs, monitored countries' progress and developed policy recommendations.

Bridge building projects address urgent issues in social welfare and labour market policies

Projects in the Bridge Building Region

During the past 12 months, the European Centre implemented seven projects funded by third parties in or with countries of the BB region. Partners in the BB region have been involved in a number of project proposals to third parties. Many proposals, in particular those funded by the European Commission, were successful and projects have been or continue to be carried out with our respective partners in the region. These projects are ranging from the area of long-term care (InCARE) and issues of posted workers (POW-BRIDGE, Con3Post) to child protection (SitAn Moldova, SOSCV_Feasibility Study) and the exchange of good practice policy systems (BB Peer Reviews, WB-EPSR):

- Supporting INclusive development of community-based long-term CARE services through multi-stakeholder participatory approaches (InCARE) is an on-going project involving, among other countries, partners from North Macedonia. The project is funded by the EaSI Programme (European Commission, DG Employment) and will go on until autumn 2023.
- Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers (POW-BRIDGE) is also funded by the EaSI Programme (European Commission, DG Employment). It brings together partners from Serbia and North Macedonia with partners from Austria and other EU Member States to promote and enhance the effective application of EU rules on posting.
- Another 2-year project in the area of labour migration was completed at the end of 2020. It had mapped the trends focusing on the construction sector involving several (associated) partners from the BB region. Posting of third country nationals/Mapping the trend in the construction sector (Con3Post) had also been funded by the EaSI Programme (European Commission, DG Employment.)

- The Feasibility Study for the programme ‘Reforming child protection systems: strengthening children’s rights’ by SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide provided a comprehensive analysis of the current child protection policies in Albania, Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Ukraine. The study, funded by SOS Children’s Villages Worldwide, was completed in December 2020.
- The Situation Analysis of children and adolescents in Moldova was commissioned by the United Nations Children’s Fund Moldova and will provide national government partners with comprehensive equity-sensitive and evidence-based analysis on children and adolescents for result-based decision-making by the end of 2021.
- With the Updated review of the performance of Western Balkan economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (WB-EPSR) we provided quality assurance of national reports and produced a cross-country overview report, analysing each Pillar principle across the six economies compared with the EU-27. The review had been commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council and delivered by August 2021.
- Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings (BB Peer Reviews) is our current flagship project as it combines the essence of our strengths and the aims of our Bridge Building function. Funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection we shall implement mutual learning activities over the coming year in and with the BB countries to respond to the regional health and social challenges in the context of COVID-19.

Eastern European Social Policy Network & BB Summer School on Evaluation in Social Policies

The Eastern European Network on Social Policies is a flagship initiative of the European Centre

Alongside with implementing these externally funded projects, we invested in a range of meetings, regular dissemination activities and capacity building events to strengthen our network and visibility in the BB region. We particularly spent resources to expand the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN), a unique network of researchers, policy advisers and representatives of public authorities working in the field of social welfare policy. The European Centre’s Website of the EESPN (see <https://eespn.eurocentre.org/about/>), which was set up in 2017, was further strengthened in



2021 to foster exchange between its members via blogs and the monthly newsletter and to engage in peer learning in the EESPN region.

We harness the potential of the EESPN for our internal BB projects. Recruitment of participants of the BB Summer School on Evaluation in Social Policies, for instance, had been channelled via the network. The European Centre received such a large number of qualified applications that we eventually decided to host two virtual summer schools. These events on 'Evaluation in Social Policies' were carried out from 25 to 27 August and from 22 to 24 September 2021. Feedback from participants was most positive during and after the training sessions, including the appreciation of further networking.

Future Developments and Prospects

With these various activities the European Centre brings together researchers and policymakers throughout the UN-European region, better understands and advances social welfare policies in the countries of the Eastern Partnership and EU (potential) candidate countries of the Western Balkan. In the upcoming year, we will continue our work in the BB region by building on results of our BB & EESPN evaluation that was conducted in 2021. Moreover, European Centre staff has already submitted several new project proposals to intensify collaboration with our partners in the region.

Projects

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

Duration	01/2019 – 11/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Monika Hunjadi
External Project Coordinator	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK)
Funded by	BMSGPK

Engagement with stakeholders in the form of a structured and coherent nationwide mechanism that considers the provinces, municipalities and the civil society was recommended by the Austrian Court of Auditors after carrying out an audit of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The BMSGPK together with the European Centre organised five multi-stakeholder workshops on specific topics relevant for achieving the SDGs. Project aims comprised raising awareness about the UN-Agenda 2030 and its 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: (1) ‘People with disabilities’ (27 March 2019, Linz; (2) ‘Decent work for young people’ (17 June 2019, Graz); (3) ‘Older people’ (6 November 2019, Vienna); and (4) ‘Reducing poverty and inequalities’ (27 January 2020, Salzburg).

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

Duration	06/2017 – 11/2020
Status:	Completed
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Selma Kadi, Stefania Ilinca, Gudrun Bauer
External Project Coordinator	University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
Project Partners	University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Institute for Economic Research (Slovenia)
Funded by	FWF – Austrian Science Fund, ARRS – Slovenian Research Agency

Austria and Slovenia both 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 family is the carer “by default”. This study aimed to gain a better understanding of how older people make their choices regarding care, namely, who provides care and what type of tasks; and whether they are different between groups of LTC users (e.g. socio-economic condition). To this end it used a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods on secondary (e.g. international surveys and national data) and primary data (semi-structured interviews).

The project uncovered emerging patterns of female informal caregiving across time in Austria, differentiated across socio-economic lines: while higher educated women increasingly provide lower intensity care that can be conciliated with employment, among lower educated women care is of high intensity and less amenable to overlap with employment. In a qualitative study of dyads (carers and cared-for persons) in Austria and Slovenia, we have also proposed a new framework for understanding care decisions based on life-course theories. Specifically, transitions in employment or family life (e.g. divorces) play an important role in transitions into care later in life. Finally, we have analyzed meanings of care ideals in Austria and how they underpin decisions to take up family care. In particular, we found strong preferences for ageing in place and for involving the care receiver in decision-making which often co-exist with an ideal of family care.

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

Duration	01/2019 – 11/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Monika Hunjadi
External Project Coordinator	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK)
Funded by	BMSGPK

Engagement with stakeholders in the form of a structured and coherent nationwide mechanism that considers the provinces, municipalities and the civil society was recommended by the Austrian Court of Auditors after carrying out an audit of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The BMSGPK together with the European Centre organised five multi-stakeholder workshops on specific topics relevant for achieving the SDGs. Project aims comprised raising awareness about the UN-Agenda 2030 and its 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: (1) ‘People with disabilities’ (27 March 2019, Linz); (2) ‘Decent work for young people’ (17 June 2019, Graz); (3) ‘Older people’ (6 November 2019, Vienna); and (4) ‘Reducing poverty and inequalities’ (27 January 2020, Salzburg).

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

Duration	04/2020 – 11/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Veronica Sandu, Magdi BIRTHA, Rahel Kahlert
Funded by	United Nations Children's Fund Croatia

The Situation Analysis of children's rights and wellbeing was a flagship product designed to inform policy dialogue, partnerships and interventions to improve the lives of children. An assessment and analysis of the country situation was provided with respect to children's rights and critical issues affecting their realisation. The Situation Analysis is a crucial part of the child rights monitoring (CRM) framework and represents a key UNICEF programmatic output that helps focus on knowledge gaps related to inequities and child deprivations. The Situation Analysis informs on policy dialogue and child-focused policy advocacy to make an important contribution to accelerating the achievement of child-related goals with equity.

The Situation Analysis provides a deeper understanding of the situation of children and adolescents by analysing relevant policies and strategies, and the social and economic trends affecting them. It also identified and analysed the barriers and bottlenecks that prevent disadvantaged children and families from benefiting from social services across sectors. Moreover, it provides the national government partners with a comprehensive, equity-sensitive and evidence-based analysis on children and adolescents for evidence-based decision-making. Also non-governmental partners were provided information to be used in their planning and interventions to address the most urgent issues affecting children and adolescents in Croatia. The Situation Analysis thus contributed to the (re)formulation of key national strategies so that the priorities for the most disadvantaged children and adolescents are integrated into the socio-economic development agenda. Finally, critical data gaps were identified. These should be addressed to generate more evidence and to improve the monitoring of rights of children and adolescents, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

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

Duration	01/2019 – 12/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer
External Project Coordinator	ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia)
Project Partners	UNIVE – Ca’Foscari University of Venice (Italy), JYU – University of Jyväskylä (Finland), UW – University of Warsaw (Poland)
Funded by	European Commission, EaSI Programme, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Con3Post explored 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 joined some of the leading scholars in the field of posting and EU labour market dynamics who closely collaborated 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 collected relevant data to inform key stakeholders and policymakers about the current and future trends and provide guidelines for strategic decision-making and planning on the sectoral, national/regional and EU level.

Feasibility Study for the Programme 'Reforming Child Protection Systems: Strengthening Children's Rights'

Duration	06/2020 – 12/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Veronica Sandu, Rahel Kahlert, Magdi Birtha
External Project Coordinator	SOS Children's Villages Worldwide, Hermann Gmeiner Fund Germany
Funded by	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' provided a comprehensive analysis of the child protection policies in 5 countries from Western Balkans and Eastern Europe: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Ukraine and ex-ante evaluated the extent the proposed programme will contribute to the fulfilment of human rights of children in the region.

The Feasibility Study focused on children living in formal care (residential and family-type care), children temporarily separated from their parents, as well as children at risk of being separated from their parents. The Feasibility Study identified the existing needs of the target groups, looked at how national systems react to these needs, and identified the childcare policy gaps in each country. The study also evaluated the SOS Children's Villages Worldwide programme based on its relevance in supporting the target group, its effectiveness, efficiency, significance, and sustainability.

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

Duration	12/2016 – 12/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Magdi BIRTHA, Sonila Danaj, Michael Fuchs, Leonard Geyer, Kai Leichsenring, Ricardo Rodrigues, Veronica Sandu, Eszter Zólyomi
External Project Coordinator	Mattias Wihlborg, ICF (United Kingdom)
Project Partners	ICF International (Belgium & United Kingdom), Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale (Italy), RadarEurope (The Netherlands)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission

EU policymaking 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:

- Five Peer Reviews: ‘Platform work’ (online, 12-14 October 2020), ‘Employer service delivery’ (online, 26-28 October 2020), ‘Work-life balance and gender equality’ (online, 3-4 December 2020), ‘Control and prevention of undeclared work in complex chains of economic activity’ (online, 4-5 May 2021), ‘Furthering quality and accessibility of Foster Care Service in Croatia’ (online, 20-21 May 2021)
- EaSI 2021 Annual Conference: ‘Supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and synergies with other EU programmes and initiatives’ (online, 23-24 March 2021)

Study on Intergenerational Fairness

Duration	01/2020 – 12/2020
Status	Completed
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Leonard Geyer, Michael Fuchs
External Project Coordinators	Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
Project Partners	FGB – Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy), LSE – London School of Economics (United Kingdom)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The purpose of this study was to pursue an assessment of various possible policy choices while providing a methodology for assessing intergenerational fairness. For the analysis we used 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 had to be disentangled.

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

Framework Contract for the Provision of Services Related to the Implementation of Better Regulation Guidelines (BRG)

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

The European Centre was partnering 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 were 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 the added value; and (3) monitoring their implementation. The activities running comprised 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).

Social Reform Microsimulation Austria

Duration	09/2012 – 01/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs
Project Partners	BRZ (Austria)
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK)

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. Users can try SORESI immediately and run their own simulations for free.

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

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

The asset contribution to residential care in Austria (Pflegeregress) was abolished in January 2018, increasing the scope for higher demand for residential care for older people. The project aims to answer the following research questions: (1) How was the Pflegeregress distributed across different income, wealth (including home ownership) in Austria, prior to its abolishment? (2) What is the distributional impact of waiving the Pflegeregress? (3) Considering budgetary neutral alternatives to Pflegeregress, what would be the distributional impact of each alternative scenarios?

To this end, we constructed a micro-simulation model using a matched administrative dataset on residential care users receiving the Austrian care allowance (Pflegegeldinformation, PFIF, HVB, and Pflegedienstleistungsstatistik, Statistik Austria) and survey data (SHARE, wave 6). We find that lower income individuals and homeowners disproportionately contributed to asset-based OPPs for residential care prior to 2018 due in large part to their higher use of residential care and the low asset-exemption thresholds, and were therefore the largest beneficiaries of its abolishment. The alternative financing scenarios tested would result in a distribution of payments concentrated on more affluent individuals.

Mapping Trends and Policies to Tackle Homelessness in Europe

Duration	12/2019 – 02/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Eszter Zólyomi, Magdi Birta, Michael Fuchs, Ricardo Rodrigues, Cassandra Simmons, Leonard Geyer, Veronica Sandu, Anette Scoppetta
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The project aimed to provide a comparative assessment of national policies within corresponding social and health systems that are crucial for preventing and addressing homelessness. Focusing on a limited group of European countries and building on a rights-based approach to tackling homelessness, the research looked 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 was paid to policies and services targeting older people, persons with mental health problems and persons with addiction problems. Activities included a review of academic and grey literature as well as a 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. The study, including a comparative analysis, was published as a European Centre report.

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

Duration	11/2018 – 02/2021
Status	Completed
Project Coordinator	Günter Stummvoll
Project Team	Cornelius (Cees) Goos, Kai Leichsenring, Willem Stamatiou
Project Partners	University College Gent (Belgium), University of Applied Science Graz: FH Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH (Austria), The Lisbon Municipal Police: Camara Municipal de Lisboa (Portugal), University of Porto: Universidade de Porto (Portugal)
Funded by	ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training, European Commission

The overall objective of this project was to develop and support strategic partnerships between social work organisations and the police. Researchers and practitioners in partner countries (Austria, Belgium and Portugal) developed a five-day joint training course that can be integrated in existing training schedules in academic institutions in social work and in police academies. SWaPOL pilot trainings were carried out in all partner countries and related training material was compiled.

The SWaPOL training is designed as a series of workshops with expert inputs, exercises for discussion and field trips. The SWaPOL training is organised in three modules scheduled for one-and-a-half days each. Module 1 supports the exchange between participants of the two professions in regard to their organisational structures, work methods and work ethics. Module 2 is on substance use in public space. It facilitates a dialogue to tackle the different approaches of social workers, who apply methods of harm reduction, and the police with a focus on law enforcement. Module 3 is dedicated to the problem of homelessness, which is at first clearly located in the realm of social work. However, incivilities become a problem for police when people complain about drunkenness, begging, racketeering, noisiness and homelessness as signs of social disorder in public space.

The core output of this project is a training package including a handbook for trainers, which can be downloaded from the project webpage in four languages (<http://www.swapol.eu/>).

WHO LTC Fact Sheet 2021 – Financing Long-Term Care

Duration	01/2021 – 02/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Cassandra Simmons
Funded by	WHO Europe

Making the investment case for sustainable long-term care (LTC) systems is a key concern of the Europe Roadmap for the Decade of Healthy Ageing, 2021-2030. At the same time, existing models of financing of LTC raise different issues in terms of equity and fiscal sustainability, with mounting evidence that many of the current LTC systems offer insufficient protection against catastrophic expenses arising from care needs. This project will aim to co-produce a fact sheet on “Financing of LTC” to inform in a concise but non-technical way about the conceptual underpinnings of “universal coverage for long-term care”. The fact sheet will be illustrated with evidence/facts on a number of European countries from different parts of the WHO European Region. To this end a number of indicators of financial protection and equity in long-term care will be developed and included in the document.

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

Duration	02/2020 – 02/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Kai Leichsenring, Selma Kadi
External Project Coordinator	European Social Network (Brussels)
Funded by	European Social Network – ESN

This project was built on the exploratory study “Contracting for Quality” (2010) that the European Centre and the European Social Network (ESN) carried out to analyse the relationships between financiers, regulators, planners, case-managers, providers and users of long-term care in Europe. Both political and legal frameworks have evolved rapidly since, e.g. with the Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement and the European Pillar of Social Rights guaranteeing “the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality”. It was therefore analysed how sustainable provision and good quality of long-term care services can be ensured by public authorities. ESN members were involved to assess current policy and practice in procuring, commissioning and contracting long-term care services with a view to quality assurance and the choice of providers based on the best price-quality ratio. The project included desk research, an online survey and a policy seminar.

Our inputs were published by ESN in the final report ‘Putting Quality First’ that helps to disentangle terminological issues of quality, procurement, commissioning and contracting. Moreover, it highlights different models of good practice and institutional frameworks in ensuring quality by contractual relationships in long-term care services of selected EU Member States.

Estimation of Non-Take-Up of Housing Allowance in Upper Austria

Duration	01/2021 – 03/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs
Funded by	Chamber of Labour Upper Austria

The aim of this study was to estimate the non-take-up rates of housing allowance in Upper Austria – both in terms of households and expenditure. Additionally, socio-economic and demographic characteristics associated with non-take-up were analysed. For this purpose, we used EU-SILC 2019 data. We found that 30% of households that were entitled to housing allowances in 2018 (12,000 out of 40,000) had actually not claimed the benefit. The non-take-up rate on the expenditure level amounts to 21%, which corresponds to € 15 million. Non-take-up is particularly high among single-person households and households with a main earner that migrated from a third country.

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

Duration	04/2018 – 04/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Christian Boehler, Rahel Kahlert, Leonard Geyer, Veronica Sandu
External project coordinator	Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
Project Partners	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)
Funded by	Interreg – Alpine Space Programme (co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund)

Governments in the Alpine Space recognise the need to promote policies for active and healthy ageing (AHA). Ideally, efforts should be coordinated between authorities of different sectors, private operators, local governments, and researchers. In reality, however, the topic is often managed entirely by healthcare and welfare authorities, which limits the perspective of active ageing to the health and independent living domain and neglects cultural, economic, social aspects which also actively involve older people.

ASTAHG identified and tackled common challenges for promoting AHA within and across regions. It should 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 established 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 were proposed to Alpine Space territories so to coordinate AHA initiatives and policies across different sectors, at different territorial levels and involving all relevant actors.

Simulating a Job Guarantee

Duration	03/2021 – 05/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Leonard Geyer, Nicolas Prinz
Funded by	Chamber of Labour Vienna

The aim of the project was to estimate public net costs and distributional effects of a job guarantee for long-term unemployed in Austria in 2021 using the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD.

The results of this study suggest that the costs of a job guarantee for the long-term unemployed in Austria are very low. At a salary of € 1,500 per month, the net cost is only € 568 per person. Even at higher salaries a considerable part of the gross expenses flows back to the state in terms of tax revenue or social security contributions. The self-financing ratio in our standard model is 69.6%.

A job guarantee would significantly reduce the at-risk-of-poverty rate in Austria. It primarily benefits the two lowest income quintiles and thus reduces inequality. In general, more men than women benefit from a job guarantee, as men are more often affected by long-term unemployment. Looking at participants' potential income gains, we find that they are highest for women, families and multi-person households without children, youth, and individuals with university degrees, as these groups receive less state support while unemployed.

Updated Review of the Performance of Western Balkan Economies regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (2021)

Duration	06/2021 – 08/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Anette Scoppetta, Sonila Danaj, Veronica Sandu
Project Partners	Country experts
Funded by	European Union and implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council

The aim of the 2021 reports is to update the existing reviews on issues relevant to the European Pillar of Social Rights in the six Western Balkan economies: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, & Serbia. In addition to programmatic and data updates, the reports will take stock of all relevant policy developments in relation to the European Pillar of Social Rights, including an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on related policies.

The deliverables consist in six country reports, a cross-country overview report, an updated Social Scoreboard of each country compared to the EU-27 average, and in presentation materials for the final event to share and discuss findings with the European Commission and country-level stakeholders in autumn 2021.

Indicators for Measuring Child Poverty and its Combating in European Cities

Duration	06/2020 – 10/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Tamara Premrov
Funded by	City of Vienna – MA 40

The study commissioned by the City of Vienna provides a holistic and comparable coverage and measurement of child poverty in selected cities of the informal European city network. It will shed light on the prevalence of child poverty, related life circumstances and characteristics of children concerned as well as on the relevance in the context of health, social inclusion, education, labour market integration and the housing situation. Moreover, measures to combat child poverty will be recommended, including an assessment of their (potential) outcomes.

The study is substantially based on EU-SILC data, as other data sources do not allow to investigate correlations with socio-economic characteristics and drivers of poverty on the micro-level. As relative income poverty is only one aspect, we broadened our analysis by compiling an index of material deprivation and social exclusion which includes five dimensions: (a) unmanageable debts and arrears; (b) financial capacity; (c) health; (d) social interaction and personal relationships; (e) housing and local environment quality. The study serves as an input for the discussions at the City roundtable in Vienna scheduled for autumn 2021.

European Policy Options for Long-Term Care – Supporting a Possible EU Initiative on Long-Term Care

Duration	01/2021 – 10/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Kai Leichsenring, Selma Kadi
External Project Coordinator	EFTHEIA (Belgium)
Project Partners	Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS (Belgium), KU Leuven (Belgium)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Challenges related to access, quality of long-term care (LTC) and the LTC workforce (formal or informal care) have increased in importance over the past decade. The pandemic and its dramatic consequences have only exacerbated these issues. The European institutions often remind the Member States of the need to increase the cost-effectiveness of LTC systems but have recently also underlined the social rights of citizens regarding access to quality LTC.

The overarching purpose of this study has therefore been to help design a potential future proposal on an initiative of LTC. To attain that goal, the study contributes to fill knowledge and analytical gaps in the area of LTC, to support the identification of policy relevant problems, and to design a future initiative on access and quality of LTC. An important focus has also been put on the question how to better support informal carers. A range of policy options and scenarios will be developed, modelled and assessed. The European Centre is contributing to all issues regarding quality assurance and related policy options.

Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Moldova (SitAn UNICEF Moldova)

Duration	06/2021 – 11/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Veronica Sandu, Magdi BIRTHA and Tamara Premrov
Funded by	UNICEF Moldova

Moldova faces great demographic, economic and social challenges including a shrinking population due to high emigration rate, rapid ageing, and low fertility rates. The slow economic growth is further halted by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and social inequalities are on the rise. These factors directly affect children, adolescents, and their families. In spite of some progress in implementing children's rights, a number of areas need further attention. The Situation Analysis will therefore address the situation of children and adolescents and related policies, identify barriers and bottlenecks and provide public and non-governmental partners with a comprehensive analysis on children and adolescents for evidence-based decision-making. It will thus feed into the (re)formulation of key national strategies for the social integration of most disadvantaged children and adolescents.

The Situation Analysis will draw on an extensive desk review, including examination of a wide range of national and regional legislations and regulations, plans, studies, reports and statistics. In addition, the Situation Analysis will consult a diverse range of actors through key informant interviews. The interviewees will contribute with their first-hand knowledge and thus complement the information collected through desk research and secondary data analysis.

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

Duration	01/2020 – 12/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Sonila Danaj
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Eszter Zólyomi, Rahel Kahlert, Leonard Geyer, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
Project Partners	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)
Funded by	European Commission, EaSI Programme, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

POW-BRIDGE studies the gap between procedures (legal basis) and practices (experiences) in posting rule enactment. The project identifies challenges to then develop and share 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, hence on 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 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 at both enhancing cooperation and assisting in sharing information among participating stakeholders and the wider interested audience.

Youth Gangs

Duration	01/2021 – 12/2021
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Günter Stummvoll, Anette Scoppetta
Funded by	Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The aim of this project is to develop a multi-agency model for the prevention of gang violence based on an in-depth analysis of risk factors, prevention policies and social control mechanisms in recent research projects on youth gangs. Youth gangs often include young people with a variety of social problems associated with poor schooling, migration background, low socio-economic status and living in deprived neighbourhoods. The focus of our analysis is on good practice examples and effective social policies to reduce juvenile delinquency particularly in the form of gang crime.

The analysis will be based on desk research with a special focus on scientific publications mainly taken from three large-scale research programmes: (1) The ISRD Study (International Self-Report Delinquency Study) is a comprehensive self-report youth survey on crime and delinquency worldwide; (2) The EUROGANG programme is an international network of American and European researchers who aim to “inform the development of effective local, national, and international responses to emerging youth crime and violence issues”; and (3) The TRANSGANG project is a solution focused research project that highlights mediation processes in the work with youth groups as an alternative solution to gang crime.

Ridersurvey

Duration	06/2021 – 03/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Leonard Geyer, Tamara Premrov
Project Partners	Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB), European Trade Union Institute – ETUI (Belgium), Riderscollective (Austria), Works council representatives at large delivery companies
Funded by	Digitalisierungsfonds 4.0 of the Austrian Chamber of Labour

This project aims to collect novel data on the working conditions of food delivery drivers in Austria and their perceptions of trade unions to address two important issues. First, there are concerns about the working conditions of platform workers, but data on this topic remains limited. Second, trade union membership in Austria has been declining over the last decades as it has in most European countries. This is concerning because strong trade unions have been associated with well paid jobs and good working conditions. Workers in the platform economy could hence benefit from joining trade unions. Austrian trade unions, in turn, could benefit from new members, especially since platform workers tend to be relatively young.

Data is collected via an online survey that was developed in cooperation with trade union representatives. Works council representatives at two large delivery companies will support the distribution of the survey. The results will be published in a final report. In addition, we will write a comparative study in cooperation with colleagues from the ETUI to contrast our findings with the results of a similar study conducted in Belgium in 2017.

CoP Employment, Education and Skills – Expert Contributions to the ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform

Duration	06/2020 – 06/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta
External Project Coordinator	ICF (Belgium)
Project Partners	ICF International (Belgium & United Kingdom)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Transnational cooperation on the implementation of the European Social Fund (ESF) has a long-standing and successful history. As the current programming period (2014-2020) is coming to end, the new ESF+ aims to make EU funding more flexible, simple and effective by combining the ESF, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD), the Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI) and the EU Health Programme.

Four CoPs (Communities of Practice) help ensuring learning and exchange within the ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform, one of which is the CoP Employment, Education and Skills. This CoP addresses three sub-themes, which build on some of the previous Thematic Networks related to employment, youth and learning and skills: (1) Integration into employment of young disadvantaged NEETs, including through youth mobility actions; (2) Long-term unemployment (LTU) and employability of inactive persons; and (3) Education and training, including transitions towards employment and synergies between funding instruments. Anette Scoppetta is Lead Thematic Expert of the CoP Employment, Education and Skills.

Secure Mobility: Uncovering Gaps in the Social Protection of Posted Workers (SMUG)

Duration	01/2021 – 06/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Judith Schreiber, Anette Scoppetta, Sandra Scharf, Rahel Kahlert, Veronica Sandu
External Project Coordinator	JYU – University of Jyväskylä (Finland)
Project Partners	UNIPD – University of Padua (Italy), FAOS – University of Copenhagen (Denmark), ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences (Slovenia), UMCS – Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin (Poland)
Funded by	European Commission, EaSI Programme, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

SMUG seeks to map the pan-EU labour market from the perspective of posted workers, showing how country of origin and other worker characteristics shape their opportunities and personal mobility decisions. The project aims to reveal specific causes of inequality, and propose practical policies to remedy them.

Through biographical interviews with posted workers and focus groups with national stakeholders in Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Poland and Slovenia, the research is (a) documenting the specific forms of precarity experienced by posted workers in the European Union, resulting from their movement between national systems; (b) mapping the structure of the posted worker labour market, by pinning down the factors segmenting it into more and less precarious segments; (c) identifying specific rules that might be changed, or practices enacted to better protect posted workers and reduce labour market segmentation; and (d) disseminating these findings and proposed solutions, through direct interactions with social actors, via a transnational workshop, conference, consortium team meetings and published policy documents. Project deliverables include six ETUI policy briefs and a final report, one transnational workshop in Vienna and a final conference in Brussels with experts and stakeholders; five journal articles, and an edited book or journal special edition after project completion.

Enhancing the Collection and Analysis of National Data on Intra-EU Posting (Posting.Stat)

Duration	02/2021 – 07/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Leonard Geyer, Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber
External Project Coordinator	HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium)
Project Partners	PSE – Paris School of Economics (France), LISER – Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg), SEO – SEO Amsterdam Economics (Netherlands), ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia), ifo Institut – Leibniz Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung an der Universität München (Germany), CUE – Cracow University of Economics (Poland), UMIL – University of Milan (Italy), UCLM – University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain), COMILLAS – Comillas Pontifical University (Spain), UNISTRA – University of Strasbourg (France), LMIA – Labour Mobility Initiative Association (Poland)
Funded by	European Commission, EaSI Programme, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

This project brings together a consortium of universities and research centres from ten EU Member States, supported by several European social partner organisations. The geographical scope of the project covers the six main ‘sending’ Member States (Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Luxembourg) and the six main ‘receiving’ Member States (Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) of posted workers.

The aim of the project is to compile more accurate data on the scale, characteristics and impact of intra-EU posting. In addition, we pay special attention to some ‘forgotten sectors’ in the posting debate (e.g., the live performance sector, the health and social care sector, the research and technology sector) as well as to the subsectors of some labour-intensive sectors of activity (e.g., construction, the machine building industry, processing and preserving of meat). A second objective is to gain better insight into the scale and profile of fraudulent posting. Finally, the project will zoom in on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with a first assessment of the implementation and correct application of Directive (EU) 2018/957 amending Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the transnational provision of services. The objectives will be achieved through the collection and analysis of national administrative micro-data extracted from the competent public authorities complemented by desk research and national expert interviews. The quantitative and qualitative output will be included in 10 country reports, a synthesis report, infographics, and articles in academic journals.

Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings – Mutual Learning Activities in BB Countries

Duration	06/2021 – 11/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Veronica Sandu, Rahel Kahlert, Magdi Birtha, Monika Hunjadi
Project Partners	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia, National Observatory on Labour Market and Social Protection Issues / Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of North Macedonia, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of Serbia, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and other partners in those countries and in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Moldova.
Funded by	Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria

As part of its Bridging (BB) function, the European Centre established collaboration with stakeholders in eleven EU accession countries, potential EU accession countries and Eastern Partnership countries (BB countries). Due to the regular exchange between the European Centre and respective ministries in those countries needs for research-based and policy-relevant knowledge exchange on social policy are constantly updated. By implementing mutual learning activities in the BB countries, the European Centre responds to countries' needs to improve coping strategies towards the health and social consequences of COVID-19 and the fight against poverty, especially for vulnerable groups.

Through a tailored needs assessment at the beginning of the project, the specific topics of the mutual learning activities are fine-tuned with the ministries and actors in the partner countries. Consequently, the following actions will be implemented: (1) Peer Reviews: Four peer reviews are carried out that promote mutual exchange of experience and knowledge transfer about the situation on the selected topic in the host country and in the respective peer countries; (2) Trainings: Two trainings are carried out which should enable participatory learning on a specific topic in a partner country; and (3) Hands-on pilot: One applied pilot project is developed that builds on the results of the peer reviews and training sessions – the selected partners will be supported with detailed recommendations for action as part of a strategy implementation plan or action plan. The project will be closely monitored and evaluated.

Evolving Gender Differences in Health and Care Across Cohorts (FUTUREGEN)

Duration	03/2019 – 12/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Ricardo Rodrigues
Project Team	Stefania Ilinca, Eszter Zólyomi, Selma Kadi and Cassandra Simmons
Project Partners	Susan Phillips, Queen's University (Canada), Stefan Fors, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
Funded by	Gender-ERA-Net, FWF - Austrian Science Fund, Swedish Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Women live, on average, longer than men, but live a greater portion of their lives in poor health. In old age (60+) and in relation to older men, women are more likely to use care services 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. To this end we will use novel quantitative and qualitative research methods to uncover evolving inequalities in health and care.

Using cohort analysis techniques on a representative sample of older Europeans (SHARE), we have studied disability and caregiving trajectories in old-age in Europe. We show that disability trajectories have remained mostly stable among older women and men in Europe, except for Eastern Europe where we find less disabilities among later-born cohorts of women. As for caregiving, we find an increasing gender gap in caregiving, particularly as a result of a lower probability of men to provide care among later-born cohorts, while for women this probability has remained stable. There is, however, significant gender variation according to the type of care (inside and outside the household) and geographic location. We have also analyzed the effect of bereavement and widowhood in old-age on access to care across Europe. We find that the cumulative effect of widowhood and living alone places older men at an increased risk of unmet need. In contrast, bereavement is associated with an increase in care use, but only for women, likely due to sex/gender differences in social networks, among other potential factors.

Technical Support for the Development and Update of EUROMOD

Duration	02/2021 – 02/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs
Funded by	European Commission JRC-Seville

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 dataset (EU-SILC national data) for the model, as well as validation. In 2021, the Austrian part of EUROMOD was updated to 2021 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2019 with incomes for 2018). A detailed description of the policy parameters, the micro-database as well as on validation results is provided in the EUROMOD country reports.

Supporting Inclusive Development of Community-Based Long-Term Care Services through Multi-Stakeholder Participatory Approaches (InCARE)

Duration	11/2020 – 10/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Coordinator	Stefania Ilinca
Project Team	Selma Kadi, Kai Leichsenring, Cassandra Simmons, Rahel Kahlert
Project Partners	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), Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, Stichting Vilans (Netherlands), Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics (United Kingdom), Eurocarers (Belgium); Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Austria, Associated Partner), Ministry of Health (North Macedonia, Associated Partner)
Funded by	European Commission, EaSI Programme, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

As 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.

InCARE emphasizes multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary collaboration. Technical partners provide support with research, outreach, implementation and evaluation activities, while national policy and implementation partners are empowered to develop a coherent local approach to LTC policy and service design.

Activities include formative research in support of policy processes (Theory of Change, data collection, evidence synthesis and generation of policy-relevant toolkits), national pilot implementation activities in Austria, Spain and North Macedonia, and their evaluation.

Cohort Community Research and Development Infrastructure Network for Access Throughout Europe (COORDINATE)

Duration	04/2021 – 03/2025
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Cassandra Simmons
External Project Coordinators	Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom) and University College Dublin, The Geary Institute (Ireland)
Project Partners	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, European Research Infrastructure Consortium (Norway), Institut Drustvenih Znanosti Ivo Pilar (Croatia), Universidad Pompeu Fabra (Spain), Institut national d'études démographiques (France), University of Essex (Great Britain), Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper (Slovenia), ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Portugal), Helsingin Yliopisto (Finland), Università di Bologna (Italy), Stichting CentERdata (The Netherlands), University College London (Great Britain), Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie Van Wetenschappen – KNAW (The Netherlands), GESIS – Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften (Germany), Ipsos GmbH (Germany), TNS UK Ltd (Kantar Public) (United Kingdom), cApStAn SA (Belgium)
Funded by	European Commission, Horizon 2020

The availability of longitudinal data to analyse the wellbeing of children as they grow up and to develop policies to improve their wellbeing is currently uneven across Europe. COORDINATE is therefore the next phase of the 'Growing Up in Digital Europe' (GUIDE) project funded by the Horizon 2020 programme in recognition that policymakers across Europe are currently unable to draw upon consistent, comparable and high-quality data on child wellbeing to inform policy.

COORDINATE aims to fill the gaps in the availability of robust and suitable data for the monitoring and evaluation of child wellbeing in Europe by (1) facilitating improved access to existing longitudinal survey data, particularly on child wellbeing; (2) extending the GUIDE/Eurocohort survey network; and (3) initiating the GUIDE survey with a large-scale cohort pilot survey using a harmonised instrument and research design in key European countries. Over the four years of the project, the European Centre will contribute to facilitating access to the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) by hosting international researchers and providing training on data extraction, processing, analysis and data visualization, as well as contributing to network development to help build the expertise and operational capacity required for implementing the GUIDE survey in Europe.

EUROMOD-JRC Web Interface Update

Duration	07/2021 – 06/2025
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Tamara Premrov, Leonard Geyer
Funded by	European Commission JRC-Seville

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union (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 Member State and for the EU as a whole. The EUROMOD-JRC web interface is an online tool that provides a simplified access to the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD. It allows users to implement simple tax reforms and analyse their fiscal and distributional effects.

The project aim is to populate and update the parameters of the EUROMOD-JRC interface for 27 EU-countries. Additionally, the model will be adjusted in such a way that users will be able to add additional tax-brackets and adjust relevant tax credits and tax allowances.

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Conference Papers, Presentations and Blogs

Stummvoll, G. (2021). A Sociology of Professions: Social Work, Policing and Urban Security. Key-note presentation at the CANVAS International Conference 2021 ‘Prevent and Resist – Engaging Multidisciplinary Viewpoints on Planning, Crime Prevention and Urban Cultures’, 16 September (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Zur Entwicklung der Langzeitpflege unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Pflege- und Sozialberufe*. Lecture at the Public Health Seminar of the University of Graz, Institute for Public Health, 13 September.

Stummvoll, G. (2021). Social Work and Policing – A Joint Vocational Training. Paper presented at the EUROCRIM Conference of the European Society of Criminology, 9 September (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Integrierte Versorgung und die Komplexität des Gesundheitssystems – Herausforderungen für die multidisziplinäre Zusammenarbeit von Gesundheits- und Sozialberufen*. Key-note at the Austrian ‘Tag der Gesundheitsberufe’, 2 September (online).

Rodrigues, R. (2021). *A fair share of the pie – Distributional effects of abolishing asset-based payments for residential care in Austria*. Presentation at the Congress of the International Health Economics Association, 15 July (online).

Rodrigues, R. (2021). *Equity implications of different financing schemes for long-term care*. Presentation at the launch of the Report on Long-term Care by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 12-13 July (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Quality assurance in emerging long-term care systems in Europe – Towards a new paradigm?* Presentation at the SIIS Conference at Arroyo de la Encomienda (Spain), 6 July (online).

Danaj, S. (2021). *A comparative analysis of union responses to posted work in four European countries*. Paper presented at the 27th International Conference of Europeanists: Europe's Past, Present, and Future: Utopias and Dystopias, 21-25 June (online).

Danaj, S. (2021). *Setting the scene: An overview of immigrant labour and the role of intermediaries in the EU construction sector*. Presentation at the EFBWW & BWI event: Is the European Union becoming the New Gulf Region?, 2 June (online).

Danaj, S. (2021). *The posting of third country nationals via EU Member States*. European Labour Authority/European Commission: Training module 3 – EU labour mobility regulatory framework, 28 January (online).

Davern, E., **Scoppetta, A.** & Nunn, A. (2021). *The power of PES partnerships*. Paper presented at the PES Network Stakeholder Conference, 20-22 April (online).

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Scoppetta, A. (2021). *SDG 1 – Armutsbekämpfung and “Leaving no one behind” in Zeiten der Corona-Krise*. Moderation at the first ‘Virtual SDG Breakfast Dialogue’ organised by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, 29 June (online).

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Rodrigues, R., Phillips, S. & Fors, S. (2021). *Symposium on ‘Intersectional perspectives on care and care needs in older adults’*, Transforming Care Conference, 24-26 June (online).

Stummvoll, G. (2021). *A curriculum for vocational training*. Presentation at the European Conference on Social Work Education ‘Cooperation in Social Work and Policing’, 16 June (online).

Fuchs, M., **Premrov, T.** & Raab R. (2021). *Hürden statt Hilfe? Nichtinanspruchnahme der Wohnbeihilfe in Oberösterreich*, 11 June (<https://awblog.at>).

Stummvoll, G. (2021). *Social work, policing and social policy – The police as a social service provider?* Presentation at the European Centre's Social Policy Jour Fixe, 8 June (online).

Rodrigues, R. (2021). *Gender differences in health and care in old age*. FutureGEN PhD workshop at the Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), 7-8 June (online).

Scoppetta, A. (2021). *Job carving & crafting*. Input at the Hogar Si & Plena Inclusion workshop 'Personalised employment: an effective alternative for access to employment for especially vulnerable profiles', 20 May (online).

Rodrigues, R. (2021). *From each according to means, to each according to needs? Distributional effects of abolishing asset-based payments for residential care in Austria*. Presentation at the European Health Economics Association Seminar Series, 20 May (online).

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Kadi, S., Rodrigues, R. & Kahlert, R. (2021). *Gender in the care-mix: ideals of care of older parent – adult child care dyads in Austria*. Presentation at the conference 'Care: Challenges and Solutions for a Sustainable Future' hosted by the Economic and Social Research Council and the University of Sheffield, 21 April (online).

Scoppetta, A. (2021). *Innovation in social services*. Input at the Companies Doing Good Forum 'Social enterprise community models – development of social services in accordance with the needs of local communities', 15-16 April (online).

Boehler, C. (2021). *Evaluation of eHealth – Methods, challenges, and recommendations*. Seminar of the Vienna Evaluation Network (VEN), 22 February (online).

Kahlert, R. & Boehler, C. (2021). *Evaluating quality of life of older persons in the INTERREG project 'Age-friendly Region' in the Austro-Hungarian border region*. Presentation at the Conference of the European Evaluation Society, 11-12 February (online).

Stummvoll, G. (2021). *Social work and policing*. Presentation at the final conference of the SWaPOL project, 11 February (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Integrierte Langzeitpflege und -betreuung – Herausforderungen, politische Strategien und Praxisbeispiele aus Europa*. Lecture at the Public Health Seminar of the University of Graz, Institute for Public Health, 13 January (online).

Stummvoll, G. (2020). *Social work, policing and public sociology*. Presentation at European Centre's Social Policy Jour Fixe, 17 December (online).

Danaj, S. (2020). *From Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria via Slovenia: the experience of third country nationals posted in the EU*. Paper presented at the Con3Post Final Transnational Conference, 10 December (online).

Scoppetta, A. (2020). *Panel input at the STEP Conference Clinic/Navigate challenges to embrace partnering diversity*. Partnership Brokers Association, 9 December (online).

Danaj, S. (2020). *Presence of third country national workers and companies in the EU construction industry: Challenges, threats and possible ways forward from a workers' perspective*. Paper presented at the E-Workshop of the European social partners in the construction industry EFBWW and FIEC, 3 December (online).

Boehler, C. (2020). *Tackling ageism during a global health crisis. Presentation at the ASTAHG International Conference*, 2 December (online).

Boehler, C. (2020). *Multidimensional governance for active and healthy ageing – a model to facilitate shared decision making*. Paper presented at the ASTAHG International Conference, 2 December (online).

Boehler, C. (2020). *Multicriteria decision analysis to support cross sectorial decision making in AHA. Paper presented at the ASTAHG International Conference*, 2 December (online).

Scoppetta, A. (2020). *Fostering labour market integration of persons with disabilities by partnerships – Results of current research activities*. Input at the CELSI Webinar Labour market integration of people with disabilities and chronic diseases: a multi-level governance perspective, 20 November (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2020). *European trends in quality assurance in the area of long-term care*. Presentation at the ESN Seminar 'Quality in ageing and care', 13 November (online).

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Stummvoll, G. (2020). *Social work and policing*. Presentation at the SWaPOL Multiplier Event in Austria, 5 November (online).

Premrov, T. & Schnetzer, M. (2020). *Neighbourhood income inequality and social housing*. Presentation at the Momentum Kongress, 16-17 October (online).

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