



Annual Report of Activities

2022



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

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

Improving the social situation by promoting cooperation between governments, international organisations and the research community in social policy has always been the noble objective of the European Centre. In times of war, a global pandemic, a climate crisis, and hardships for an increasing number of citizens in the UNECE Region our activities are becoming ever more important, albeit ever more challenging. If governments are engaged in emergencies regarding general security, health, energy and the full range of related economic consequences, social policies are often falling short of attention. And yet social inequalities can often be identified as both the cause and the consequence of endogenic and exogenic distortions that would need to be addressed by appropriate mitigating measures. Social policies to reduce poverty, to ensure decent work and to increase life-chances of people in need would ideally function with a preventive approach, but we have seen that welfare states also serve to respond to disasters and emergency situations. Overall, however, we need to strive towards more sustainable policies and goals such as those formulated in the Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals).

The activities displayed in our Annual Report 2022 show that applied social research is certainly driven by the immediate needs of decision-makers under pressure. For instance, to address EU labour market challenges in the context of posted workers (e.g. Danaj & Kayran, 2022), with a view to platform work (e.g. Geyer &

Prinz, 2022) or undeclared work is a contribution to currently ‘hot topics’ within and beyond the European Commission, which remains our key client of commissioned research and expertise. In this context, also our participation in peer reviews and expert groups such as, for instance, the European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECoPP) or the provision of technical assistance, e.g. in the areas of long-term care and human rights, constitute a centrepiece of our work. We have also expanded our trainings and mutual learning activities to the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkan countries in a series of peer reviews and trainings with Ukraine, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Moldova with funding and support by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

However, with these activities and beyond we also aim at paving the way for novel approaches, for innovations with a potential to be scaled-up, and for ideas that need perseverance to move into the public policy discourse. The topic of population ageing is an excellent example as the various consequences of rising longevity have always been a transversal key issue in our research and policy advice (Sandu et al., 2022; Davare et al., 2022; Leichsenring, 2018). 40 years after the first World Conference on Ageing in Vienna, and 20 years after the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) we still see many shortcomings and negligence of these issues in national policies. Some progress could be reported at the ‘Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research’



that was co-organised by the European Centre and preceded the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Rome (June 2022) in which the European Centre supported the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing as a representative of the research community. The Conference also showed, however, that much needs to be done to implement the good intentions expressed in the Ministerial Declaration that was adopted by the UNECE Member States (Sidorenko, 2022). Another example of combining immediate action and the promotion of long-term strategies is the ongoing project InCARE that encourages more person-centred and integrated long-term care systems by implementing pilot projects in Spain, North Macedonia, and Austria. This project also produced a series of fact sheets based on a survey on citizens' expectations on long-term care (Ilinca & Simmons, 2022).

Moreover, we contributed relevant evidence and background information on quality assurance in long-term care to the European Commission (DG Employment) to underpin the preparation of the EU Care Strategy. Technical assistance was also provided to the WHO regarding the implementation and monitoring of the Decade of Healthy Ageing, and to other stakeholders in search of scientific evidence to underpin specific policy initiatives, e.g. to combat child poverty or to reduce the poverty risk for beneficiaries of unemployment benefits in Austria (Premrov et al., 2022). It is self-explanatory from this list of activities that our research is strongly driven by those Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which address social and health issues.

With some major projects ending, with new perspectives and salient opportunities for some of us, we unfortunately continued to suffer from highly skilled scholars leaving the European Centre towards other international organisations,

to universities and other institutions. We wish all colleagues who left during this year the best for their future careers and will use all opportunities to stay in contact through future collaboration. Having entered a new cycle of the organisation, we developed a new structure with agile teams focusing on 'Employment & Labour Mobility', 'Health & Care' and 'Social Protection & Inclusion'. This process of adaptation and restructuring is still ongoing, including hiring and onboarding processes, training, and the acquisition of new projects. We hired four fresh staff members, and we intend to prepare additional job openings in line with successful bids in ongoing tendering processes. In the context of high fluctuation, we are currently conferring about future ways of teleworking and online collaboration with the newly elected staff council.

Results of our research activities have been broadly published over the past year, resulting in 22 peer-reviewed articles, 24 policy briefs, 10 contributions to books, 15 reports as well as some blogs and articles in traditional media. Moreover, we provided 6 (online) trainings and gave more than 30 presentations at (online) conferences, workshops, and webinars. Last but not least, we compiled 24 newsletters, launched hundreds of tweets and extended our presence in social media.

The pandemic has taught us how to 'cherish' online meetings, we learned how to design online trainings and how to find alternatives to business travels. Over the past months we have slowly started to re-adapt to meetings in person and to travel across Europe. Opportunities for networking are growing again, but it seems clear today that there will not be a return to routines we were used to before the pandemic. COVID-19 has accelerated the awareness of ending resources and the necessity to reduce our carbon-footprint. What is more, we have witnessed a terrible



military invasion of Russian troops into Ukraine with unseen global consequences on (energy) prices, the supply of oil and gas as well as on expected food shortages and financial crises. We shall continue to deplore this breach of peaceful development in Europe and express our solidarity with all those who suffer from this war in Ukraine – to facilitate welfare in Europe, warfare must stop! Our bridge-building activities depend on a peaceful environment and the readiness for change. Still in December 2021, we had organised a successful training with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, and on 22 February 2022 (!), at our BBinar ‘Social care policy in the new reality’ experts from Russia, Ukraine and Georgia presented and discussed the ‘new reality’ of care still in the context of the pandemic – showing similar problems under similar framework conditions.

The European Centre has always been a place for international dialogue and cooperation, a place to think about progress and welfare for all, supported by research and the dissemination of knowledge in social policies. We shall continue to do so with all our strength and the support of all staff, affiliated researchers, partners, and supporters of the European Centre. Once more I would like to thank you all for your efforts and engagement that are nurturing our optimism for better employment, better care, better social inclusion, and better international cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring
Executive Director

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Employment & Labour Mobility

Highlights

The Employment & Labour Mobility (ELM) research team was created in March 2022 during the organisational restructuring of the former Work and Welfare Unit. Within the European Centre's Employment & Labour Mobility team we design, coordinate, and implement projects in the fields of employment and labour market policies; labour mobility and labour migration; labour standards and working conditions; and the relationship between workers, employers, and social partners. The team conducts comparative research that contributes to the UN Agenda 2030 and the European Union's Priorities, especially the European Pillar of Social Rights. We employ researchers and policy advisers experienced in various social scientific methods with the core research team expertise comprising:

Research: qualitative and quantitative research methods, especially comparative research, and case studies. We have specific expertise in labour market and employment trends, innovative active labour market policy measures, labour mobility policy and patterns, labour migration, non-standard forms of employment, precarious work, digitalization of work (platform work and other new forms of work), working conditions, labour and social rights, employers' attitudes, and workers' unionization.

Policy consultation: planning, monitoring and evaluation of employment and labour mobility programmes, policies, and enforcement. We have specific expertise in the exchange of best practices, mutual learning, networking of different stakeholders, social dialogue, and other consultation processes by using various formats such as focus groups, peer reviews, participatory designs of workshops and training methods.

The Employment & Labour Mobility team employs 5 researchers who have been involved in 11 projects, in bridge building, contracted trainings, as well as in other networking and dissemination activities.

The ELM team works towards policies that aim at improving working lives

Strategic aim

The strategic aim of the ELM team is to conduct high-quality research and contribute to improved labour market, labour mobility and migration policies through comparative analysis and policy consultancy. The team's

knowledge base is constantly updated and expanded based on project acquisition and implementation. We currently organise our work primarily within the following interconnected themes:

- *Employment and labour market policies*
- *Labour mobility and labour migration*
- *Labour standards and working conditions*
- *The relationship between workers, employers, and social partners*

Within these themes, the team implements various flagship, medium-sized and small-sized projects that aim at improving working lives:

- *Employment and labour market policies:* In the past year our team members have provided expertise in various aspects of the employment and labour market policies such as active labour market measures and undeclared work through projects focusing on cooperation, mutual learning, and capacity building. Our European Undeclared Work Platform - Peer Learning dialogue project focuses on the challenges and solutions in preventing, detecting, and proving undeclared work in new forms of work, whereas the European Community of Practice on Partnership project involves several DGs of the European Commission, managing authorities as well as other representatives of regional/local and other public authorities, economic, social and civil society partners, including NGOs and research institutes to share knowledge and build capacities on partnerships, and the CoP Employment, Education and Skills project focuses on sharing and disseminating best practices and building capacities in various sub-thematic areas such as youth employment and disadvantaged NEETs, long-term unemployed and employability of inactive persons, as well as transition to employment.

We analyse the nexus between employment, mobility and the related labour and social rights

- *Labour Mobility:* Our well-trained and highly experienced researchers study the nexus between various forms of employment and mobility and the related labour and social rights. In the last year we have focused on the posting of workers' trends, the regulation and participation of third country nationals and third country posted workers in the construction industry, as well as posting companies and third country companies in the EU market. Our five flagship projects implemented in labour mobility during the past 12 months are funded by the DG Employment, 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', 'Providing external expertise on third country



companies and workers in the EU construction sector’ for the project ‘FELM’ - Better functioning of the European construction labour market and the just recently started project titled ‘Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers.’

- *Labour standards and working conditions:* Labour standards and working conditions is a fundamental theme of our research team that has been the focus of different projects. In the past year, four projects have studied labour standards and working conditions for various sectors, such as food delivery and construction, or categories of workers, such as posted workers, third country nationals, and platform workers. The projects with a focus on labour standards and conditions include the ‘Ridersurvey’, ‘Secure mobility: Uncovering gaps in the social protection of posted workers’, ‘External expertise on third country companies and workers in the EU construction sector’ for the project ‘FELM’ - Better functioning of the European construction labour market; and the ‘Study report on the effectiveness of policies to tackle undeclared work for the Better Regulation Guidelines’ project.
- *The relationship between workers, employers, and social partners:* Another aspect of our research is studying the relationship between workers and their employers and workers and work organizations. In the last year, the Ridersurvey project has surveyed bicycle food delivery riders’ knowledge and perceptions of trade unions and their expectations regarding the work of trade unions and works councils and the project ‘Secure mobility: Uncovering gaps in the social protection of posted workers’ has investigated posted workers’ dependence on their posting employers and their engagement with host country unions. Whereas two other projects have focused on the posting employers’ rule enactment and channels of information, namely ‘Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers’ and ‘Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers.’

Our team in a nutshell

Our core areas of expertise encompass comparative and case study analyses of the employment and mobility policies and practices and their interplay with other policy areas such as migration and social welfare. We provide analytical and methodological support and offer policy advice based on evidence-based research.

The team and our clients

The five members of the Employment & Labour Mobility research team 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).

The team's projects are based on international cooperation and networks with EU and BB partners

The research team's projects are based on international cooperation and networks with partners from the EU and the Bridge Building countries. The team'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 REGIO, the European Labour Authority,
- International Organisations such as the International Labour Organization, and
- other territorial or sectoral donors, e.g. Chamber of Labour, Austria.

Research and applied science partners include entities in the EU and the BB countries, such as EU bodies (e.g. DG Employment, DG REGIO, ELA), national ministries and other public authorities, universities & research institutes (e.g. HIVA-KU Leuven, Belgium; University of Jyväskylä, Finland; University of Padua, Italy; Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Slovak Academy of Science; Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences; University of Primorska, Slovenia; Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland; University of Warsaw, Poland), the EU and national-level social partners (e.g. EFBWW, ETUI, FIEC, the Austrian Chamber of Labour, the Austrian Trade Union Federation, Riders Collective, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia), civil society organisations (e.g. Centre for Social Policy, Serbia; PUBLIC, North Macedonia), country experts and consultancy agencies (e.g. ICF International, Belgium & United Kingdom and PwC, Slovakia).

Reflection & brief outlook

The Employment & Labour Mobility team continues its work in the niche thematic areas of labour market policies, labour mobility and working conditions, while preparing to expand our project portfolio in different directions, particularly in terms of target groups (e.g. refugees, persons with disabilities, irregularly employed workers, youth, posting employers,



companies), sectors of activity (e.g. services), aspects of work transformation (e.g. digitalisation, greening), industrial relations, and workers' welfare. The team members work in more than one thematic area and design and implement projects where the abovementioned and other relevant thematic areas often overlap. Meanwhile, we continue our cross-team collaboration in thematic areas of mutual interest.

Since its formation, the ELM team members have been constantly pursuing opportunities in collaboration with new and existing partners. We inherited some of the projects and acquisitions conducted under the previous structure, namely the Work and Welfare Unit, prepared by the current team members. Out of the 11 projects implemented, 4 have been acquired during 2022, while several other proposals are under way. The team aims at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams within our core thematic areas and the expansion areas, which is reflected in the new acquisitions prepared and will be shaping all acquisitions for 2023.

Health & Care

Highlights

During the organisational restructuring of the European Centre, the former Health & Care Unit became the Health & Care team by March 2022. This transition phase was marked by major achievements, the end of a flagship project as well as major changes in structure and staffing. The ongoing work and output of research and policy consulting was not affected by the changes so that the number of peer-reviewed articles, a wide range of policy briefs, factsheets, blogs and presentations at conferences and workshops could be ensured and even increased as compared to previous years.

**Major objectives
were achieved by the
completion of the
flagship-project
FutureGEN**

Research: The project FutureGEN was officially terminated in May 2022, but continues to produce evidence of the gender gap in trajectories of caregiving and inequalities that need to be overcome to ensure a fairer distribution of care work across the life-course, and between women and men. Apart from the Data Navigator website (<https://futuregen.euro.centre.org/data-navigator>) a whole range of peer-reviewed articles have been and will be published within the consortium (see Publications). The project was of course affected by the pandemic. For instance, though all deliverables were produced in time, it was only at the final project meeting that it was eventually possible to meet all project partners and the members of the Sounding Board in person. Building on FutureGEN, the Health & Care team also contributed to a project improving the capacity of the European Institute for Gender Equality's Gender Equality Index to monitor gender equality in unpaid care and social activities across countries in the EU and across time, and to support the monitoring of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

The InCARE project carried on to foster evidence underpinning the creation of innovative pilot projects that started to operate in Austria, Spain and North Macedonia. The multinational InCARE survey produced interesting insights on the views of European citizens concerning long-term care, and the evaluation plans for the ongoing pilot projects will ensure to illustrate improvements to be extended to the national long-term systems, respectively.

This year also marked the kick-off of the Transnational Access Visits (TAV) as part of the COORDINATE project, where the Health & Care team welcomed researchers from across Europe who were keen to learn and use



SHARE data (Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe) in their research. These research stays will continue until the end of the project and will provide an abundance of opportunities for collaborating and networking with researchers in the fields of health and child well-being.

Policy consultancy: We provided important background information on long-term care quality assurance to the European Commission (DG Employment) with a range of policy options to strengthen the EU Care Strategy that was eventually launched in September 2022. Moreover, we contributed to capacity building and consulted a number of national and regional governments, NGOs and long-term care providers.

Strategic aim

The strategic aim of the Health & Care team is to contribute to a life-course approach of ageing well, in particular by the design of care systems and related policies that allow for better coordination and integration of health and social care delivery. Comparative research will therefore address systemic issues such as funding, quality assurance and improvement, the extension of community care, workforce, including informal carers and migrant care, needs assessment, case and care management, and general governance of integrating care. Moreover, specific cross-cutting issues such as the transition into care, dementia, technology utilisation, inequalities as well as preventive approaches are on the agenda. Based on a long-standing track record, and apart from international research projects, the team will continue to provide policy consultancy and training to disseminate the accumulated knowledge.

Current projects are focusing on innovation and integrated care, gender equality in care, live-in carers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, working conditions of professional carers, diversity-sensitive care, and possibilities to strengthen care in the community. The team supports the further development of the Growing Up in Digital Europe (GUIDE/ Eurocohort) survey network by facilitating access to existing survey data and networking activities. Further networking and dissemination activities entail the participation in the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, the EUROCARERS' research network and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Joint Programming Initiative 'More Years, Better Lives' as well as several publication projects.

**The renewed
Health & Care team
contributes to a
life-course approach
of ageing well**

With some successful project proposals and additional staff, the team is now starting into a new cycle with ample opportunities in the context of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, the Horizon Europe Research Framework Programme and the EU Care Strategy.

The team in a nutshell

The Health & Care team is starting into a new cycle of development

We would like to take the opportunity to deeply thank Ricardo Rodrigues for his steady and diligent building and guidance of what used to be the Health & Care Unit over the past decade. With his departure we have lost an important expert and colleague to the University of Lisbon. Unfortunately, also Stefania Ilinca left the team to join WHO Europe and we shall miss her expertise and zeal for research and development of long-term care policies, too.

The renewed Health & Care team now consists of four researchers with multi-disciplinary backgrounds covering both qualitative and quantitative research methods. With ample experience in designing projects and developing innovative approaches, the team will start a new cycle of comparative research and policy consultancy at the interface between health and social care, and between formal and informal care. This will include the transversal cooperation within the European Centre and collaboration across all research teams.

The team and our clients

The network of partners is resilient and continues to grow

The consequences of the ongoing pandemic have certainly impacted on possibilities for networking and expanding cooperation. However, the resilience in working together at a distance and by means of teleconferencing has to be seen as an indicator for the strength of existing networks. Indeed, the network of international clients and partners are one of our key assets. Our main clients are the European Commission, in particular DG Employment and DG Research. Partners in research are both academic research and third sector organisations as well as national ministries including the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at INRCA (Italy), Linnaeus University (Sweden), Hogeschool Gent (Belgium), Linköping University (Sweden), Lund University (Sweden), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), Queen's University (Canada), University of Manchester (UK), Vilans (The Netherlands), the Institute for Health and Welfare – THL (Finland), the University of Vienna (Austria), the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (Austria), the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the



Ministry of Health (Republic of North Macedonia), IMSERSO – Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales (Spain), the Fundacion Instituto Gerontologico Matia Ingema (Spain), Chance B Group (Austria), the Red Cross (Austria and North Macedonia), the London School of Economics & Political Science (United Kingdom), AGE Platform Europe (Brussels), the Social Cooperative 'Anziani e non solo' (Italy) and many others.

Reflection & brief outlook

After a most prosperous cycle of development, the team published this year 15 peer reviewed articles, three contributions to books as well as several policy briefs and gave a wide range of presentations at conferences and workshops.

The Health & Care team now enters into a new phase that can build on important achievements, a solid track record of successful projects, a stable network of international cooperation and most motivated staff. Social policy issues at the interface of health and social care systems will remain one of the key challenges in an era of mega-challenges including climate change, wars, the pandemic and ensuing social and economic crises. In this context, our contribution to improving policies in a specific area to foster social cohesion and fairness may be limited, but we are striving to get the most possible impact out of our activities, and we are confident that our clients and partners will continue to appreciate our endeavours.

Social Protection & Inclusion

Highlights

The Social Protection and Inclusion team (SPI) was established in March 2022 during the organisational restructuring of the European Centre by splitting the former Work and Welfare Unit into two research teams. Within the Social Protection and Inclusion team we design, coordinate, and implement projects in the fields of

- *social inclusion and social protection policies*
- *poverty, income inequality and non-monetary aspects of well-being*
- *social services and support measures for marginalized groups*
- *population ageing*

The team conducts comparative research that specifically contributes to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and European Union policy frameworks relevant for social protection and inclusion, such as the European Pillar of Social Rights. The team comprises of experienced researchers and policy advisers with the following expertise:

Research: Qualitative and quantitative research methods such as micro-simulation and modelling, comparative research, interviews and case-studies. We have specific expertise in minimum income schemes, income distribution, poverty and material deprivation, social inclusion of marginalized groups, development and financing of person-centred social support services, social innovation, and transition processes.

Policy consultation: Planning, monitoring and evaluation of social protection policies as well as support services and measures for marginalized groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, children, people experiencing poverty). We have specific expertise in analysing the take-up of social assistance and minimum income support schemes and performing impact and outcome ex-post and ex-ante evaluation of social support services. We regularly facilitate social policy dialogue, mutual learning among different stakeholders, provide tailor-made training modules and carry out other consultation processes by using various formats such as focus groups, and participatory methods.

The team works towards policies that aim at reducing poverty and fostering the social inclusion of vulnerable groups



The Social Protection and Inclusion team employs 5 researchers. In 2021/2022, the team implemented 10 projects and individual team members were involved in additional projects across teams (e.g. on posting of workers, gendered differences in care). SPI team members also actively participated in bridge building activities (e.g. implementing peer reviews in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions, organising BBinars), as well as in other networking and dissemination activities (e.g. conference presentations, media appearances).

Strategic aim

The strategic aim of the SPI team is to conduct high-quality comparative research and policy consultancy and contribute to improved social protection and inclusion policies in the UNECE region. The team utilizes a broad range of thematic expertise and skill sets when implementing applied research projects, and during the acquisition of new projects within the EU and beyond. Our ongoing projects fall largely under the following thematic clusters:

- *Social Security*
- *Social inclusion of marginalised groups*
- *Linking employment and social policies*

Within these clusters, the team implements various projects that aim at minimizing inequalities, as well as reducing poverty and social exclusion:

- *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. Based on EUROMOD, our team has also implemented SORESI, an online tax-benefit microsimulation calculator for Austria, for many years. In 2022, the Austrian-related activities of EUROMOD and SORESI were updated to 2022 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2020 with incomes for 2019). For example, both models will be used for an analysis of the effect of COVID-19 on poverty of children in Austria funded by the Jubiläumsfonds of the Austrian National Bank. 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.

We analyse the appropriateness of existing social welfare policies and propose necessary changes to improve social protection systems

- *Social inclusion of marginalised groups:* 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 (e.g. persons with disabilities, children). In one of our most recent projects, commissioned by the City of Vienna, we provided a holistic and comparable measurement of child poverty in selected cities of an informal European City Network. We regularly provide technical assistance to international organisations. Over the past year we focused on how EU funds can contribute to better social inclusion of persons with disabilities, children and other target groups in EU Member States (e.g. advising DG EMPL on the implementation of ESIF funded de-institutionalisation projects in Hungary, FRA on how national bodies with a human rights remit could engage better in monitoring rights compliance in the EU funding cycle). The SPI team also supports national governments in their efforts to improve social service provision for marginalised groups, for instance through tailor-made trainings to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy North Macedonia on financing social services, or to the Irish Department of Social Protection on impact evaluation approaches and methods. Moreover, we engage in key European research networks, for example as senior experts in the European Disability Expertise (EDE).
- *Linking employment and social policies:* Our team provides expertise to central governments on the design and implementation of the integrated policy approach especially at the interface between employment and social policy. We scrutinize national policy frames for integrated case management, advise civil servants in designing relevant policies and train respective stakeholders in implementing case management for social welfare beneficiaries at central and local levels. This includes improvements at the entire pathway towards integration of social assistance beneficiaries such as social benefits and services (monetary and non-monetary) as well as labour market activation measures for those most far away from the labour market (family beneficiaries at risk of poverty, long-term unemployed, etc.). Projects implemented in the past year include 'Improving coordination of social protection and employment service delivery in Armenia and Tajikistan' (on behalf of ILO Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia).



Our team in a nutshell

The SPI team has extensive expertise on comparative analysis of the risk of poverty, income distribution, social services and inclusion of vulnerable groups. We provide analytical and methodological support (e.g. conceptualisation and development of indicators), and offer policy advice based on evidence-based research to a wide range of international clients.

The team delivers high-quality research projects and policy consultancy to a wide range of international clients

The team and our clients

The five members of the SPI team complement each other regarding their academic background, research interest, policy expertise as well as their methodological skills (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method analysis, evaluation, and training). The team's projects are based on international co-operation and networks with partners particularly from the EU and beyond. Our clients include, among others:

- the European Commission (e.g. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Research, DG Regional and Urban Policy),
- EU agencies (e.g. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Eurostat),
- International organisations (e.g. UNICEF, UNDP, UNECE, UNFPA, ILO, World Bank, WHO),
- National ministries (e.g. the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs),
- Other territorial and sectoral donors (e.g. the Chamber of Labour Upper Austria, the Chamber of Labour Vienna, City of Vienna, Regional Cooperation Council of South East Europe/RCC), and
- NGOs (e.g. SOS Children's Villages Worldwide, Fundación ONCE).

Reflection & brief outlook

The Social Protection and Inclusion team will continue building on its members' strengths to acquire and implement projects in the areas of social security, poverty reduction, social assistance and support services for marginalised groups. In 2021/2022, both the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine put unprecedented strain on European welfare systems and our team should investigate further and evaluate the impact on groups that were already in a vulnerable situation before these events. Within the European Centre's Bridging Function, the SPI Research Team will continue collaboration with EU accession countries of the Western Balkans

and the Eastern Partnership and support ongoing social reforms with our comprehensive knowledge and policy expertise. This often means responding to short-term requests or invitations to participate in tenders, driven by region-specific demands.

Our existing core thematic areas (social security, tax-benefit microsimulation, transition from institutional to community-based social services, integrated policy approaches to link employment and social policies) will remain in focus for our future proposals but will be complemented with new thematic niche areas. These areas will be defined jointly with all team members after a reflection on our strategic aims and research goals for 2022/2023. We will strengthen our capacity to implement projects in the areas of family and child policies, as well as gender equality when we develop new project ideas. The team aims at acquiring projects under various national and EU funding streams within our thematic core areas. We collaborate with an extensive network of partners, but also constantly seeking new partnerships with academic institutions, think tanks, international and regional organisations, as well as umbrella NGOs and service providers. Our goal is to acquire some strategic longer-term projects (e.g. on setting up EUROMOD in the Western Balkans, or on the labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities), beside responding to shorter, but strategic policy consultancy opportunities with international organisations and key partners. At present, the team is working on 6 proposals while new projects will already be starting in Autumn 2022.



Bridging Function of the European Centre

Highlights

In 2021/2022 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. The war in Ukraine, however, also hit our work in 2022: the already developed and agreed peer review with the Ukraine as host country had to be cancelled and the peer review in Moldova was postponed to September 2022. During the past year, we nevertheless continued in investing in intensified collaboration with the following so-called Bridge Building (BB) 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 national governments of European countries, the European Union and other relevant stakeholders at the international, European and national levels. We cooperate with actors of different institutional background such as academics, research institutions, civil servants of respective ministries, civil society organisations and social partners.

During 2021/2022 we intensified cooperation with our National Liaison Officials (NLOs) which have been nominated as contact persons to facilitate a constant exchange with the European Centre, especially in Moldova (Memorandum of Understanding/MoU newly signed in December 2021), Kosovo, North Macedonia and Armenia. Moreover, we (co-)organised and attended meetings with our colleagues in the BB region on country-specific requests. As of August 2022, we have signed MoUs for a period of five years with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and the Ukraine. The process to establish MoUs is currently in progress with Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

We believe that fostering cooperation between partners in the Western Balkan region, the Eastern partnership countries and the EU countries is key for facilitating democracy and European Integration. Our activities focus on evidence-based policy making in social welfare. We ensure exchange at the same eye level and build on shared needs across the group of countries

Bridging knowledge and policy evidence in social policy between East and West is needed now more than ever before

such as, for instance, the joint need for social policy reforms with the aim to assist especially those left behind and hit most, for instance by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Fostering cooperation
between different
partners in Europe
– both public and
private – is key for
European integration**

During the past year we intensified the exchange of our and our partners' research findings via dissemination activities in the BB region. This was mainly achieved by the the Eastern European Policy Network (EESPN) and by BBinars (online webinars in the BB region). The latter have been initiated as a policy-learning tool between the countries. Finally, we started with the first trainings and peer reviews within the BB Mutual Learning project funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection in the BB countries (see below).

Projects in the Bridge Building region

During the past 12 months, the European Centre implemented five projects funded by third parties in or with countries of the BB region. Partners in the BB region have been involved in several project proposals to third parties, from which some have been successful. The projects that newly started or continue to be carried out with our respective partners in the region are ranging from long-term care (InCARE), posted workers (POW-BRIDGE) and issues of child protection (SitAn Moldova) to integrated policy approaches (ILO Armenia and Tajikistan) and the exchange of good practice in policymaking (BB Peer Reviews):

- 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 implement mutual learning activities in and with the BB countries to respond to the regional health and social challenges in the context of COVID-19.
- Improving coordination of social protection and employment service delivery in Armenia and Tajikistan (ILO-ARM & TJK) started in January 2022 (ending in May 2022) and included policy assessment, training and guidance. The ILO-funded project focused on supporting the line ministries in the two countries to design and implement new employment services, extend social protection coverage with selected programmes, strengthen employment and social protection services, and promote social dialogue.



- Supporting INclusive development of community-based long-term CARE services through multi-stakeholder participatory approach (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 runs until autumn 2023.
- The Situation Analysis of children and adolescents in Moldova was commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund Moldova and provided 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.
- Finally, POW-Bridge (Bridging the gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers) concluded at the end of 2021 with the final conference in November 2021. North Macedonia participated in the two-years running EaSI-Project about posted workers (funded by the European Commission).

Eastern European Social Policy Network & BBinars

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 are constantly expanding 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. In this context, we also established a cooperation with the Central European University (CEU) by offering mentorship to three CEU students in preparing policy briefs that were published as special issues in our series. The European Centre's website of the EESPN (see <https://eespn.eurocentre.org/about/>), which was set up in 2017, was further strengthened in 2021/22 to foster exchange between its members and to engage in peer learning in the EESPN region.

We harness the potential of the EESPN for our internal BB projects and for raising awareness of our BBinars. BBinars are online webinars, dedicated to specific areas of social welfare progress in the BB region. The aim of this series of webinars is to offer members of the EESPN members and a wider audience, those especially interested in social welfare in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region, a possibility to exchange and learn among peers. We have implemented our first BBinar in November

In 2021, the European Centre has launched BBinars, a series of webinars, on social policies in Eastern Europe

2021 and since then have brought together researchers, policy makers and NGOs in the region to discuss three key issues:

- Social spending in times of Covid-19 (30/11/2021): Participants of the first BBinar discussed the performance of countries in the Western Balkan region on issues covered under the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Social care policy in the new reality (22/02/2022): At the second BBinar, experts discussed the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic on social care provision for older people, persons with disabilities and other groups with support needs in the Eastern Partnership region, and beyond.
- Family type childcare in Western Balkans (02/06/2022): Participants of the third BBinar discussed models, progress, challenges, and ways forward for the development of the family type cares services for children in Western Balkans with country examples from Croatia, North Macedonia, and Albania.

Future developments and prospects

With these various activities the European Centre brings together researchers and policymakers throughout the UN-European region to better understand and advance 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, for instance, conducting two more peer reviews in the BB countries, restructuring the EESPN and implementing ongoing BBinars for and together with our partners.

Projects

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

Duration	01/2020 – 12/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Anette Scoppetta, Eszter Zólyomi, Rahel Kahlert, 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, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

POW-BRIDGE studied the gap between procedures (legal basis) and practices (experiences) in posting rule enactment. The project identified challenges and then developed and shared effective ways of addressing these challenges for posting companies and implementation agencies. It particularly investigated how the Posting of Workers 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 included Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, and North Macedonia.

The research component of the project focused 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 was based on vignettes which were 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 served as activities that aimed at both enhancing cooperation and assisting in sharing information among participating stakeholders and the wider interested audience.

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

Duration	01/2021 – 12/2021
Status	Completed
Project Team	Kai Leichsenring, Selma Kadi
External 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 and informal carers) were well-known before the COVID-crisis, which has exacerbated these issues. The European institutions often remind 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 was to help design the EU care strategy. The study, therefore, aimed at filling the knowledge and analytical gaps in the area of LTC to identify policy relevant issues, and at developing policy options on access to and quality of LTC, including the assessment of their impact.

The final report includes an estimation of the job creation potential in the LTC sector; an analysis of the different levels and approaches to ensure the quality of LTC services in the Member States, the identification of strategies to increase the cost-effectiveness of LTC and an overview of the state of play of national rules on pension credits for informal carers in statutory public pension systems. For instance, projections show that most Member States will have to increase the number of LTC workers by more than 15% until 2030. Respective scenarios identify a need to add 140,000-150,000 long-term care workers to the current EU-27 LTC workforce each year for the next 30 years. Member States will have to increase workforce not only quantitatively but also qualitatively by improving skills, qualifications and working conditions, and by enhancing support for informal carers. Among the 14 policy options proposed, there is also a focus on implementing common quality principles in LTC and on improving quality assurance mechanisms. The impact of these policy options has been assessed for a range of social and economic outcomes relative to a baseline scenario, as well as with respect to fundamental rights. The scale of the problem demands focused and coherent efforts to address the challenges in a comprehensive manner through multi-policy approaches. In that way, further action at EU level provides the possibility of building on existing good practices developed in several Member States, as well as supporting upwards convergence to advance together towards better outcomes, benefiting the EU as a whole.

Youth Gangs

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

The aim of this project was 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 was on good practice examples and effective social policies to reduce juvenile delinquency particularly in the form of gang crime.

The analysis was based on desk research with a special focus on scientific publications mainly taken from three large-scale research programmes:

- The ISRD Study (International Self-Report Delinquency Study) is a comprehensive self-report youth survey on crime and delinquency world-wide;
- The EURO GANG 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
- 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.

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

Duration	06/2021 – 02/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Veronica Sandu, Magdi BIRTHA, Rahel Kahlert 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. Despite some progress in implementing children's rights, several areas need further attention. The Situation Analysis addresses the situation of children and adolescents and related policies in Moldova, identifies barriers and bottlenecks and provides public and non-governmental partners with a comprehensive analysis on children and adolescents for evidence-based decision-making. It feeds into the (re)formulation of key national strategies for the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged children and adolescents.

The Situation Analysis drew on an extensive desk review, including examination of a wide range of national and regional legislations and regulations, policies, plans, grey literature and statistics. In addition, the Situation Analysis consulted a diverse range of actors through key informant interviews. The interviewees contributed with their first-hand knowledge and thus complemented the information collected through desk research and secondary data analysis.

Community of Practice ‘Employment, Education and Skills’ – Expert Contributions to the ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform

Duration	09/2020 – 05/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta
External 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 Communities of Practice (CoP) helped ensuring learning and exchange within the ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform, one of which was the CoP Employment, Education and Skills. This CoP addressed three sub-themes, which built 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 was Lead Thematic Expert of the CoP Employment, Education and Skills.

Ridersurvey

Duration	06/2021 – 05/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Leonard Geyer, Nicolas Prinz, Anette Scoppetta, Tamara Premrov
Project Partners	Austrian Trade Union Federation – ÖGB (Austria), European Trade Union Institute – ETUI (Belgium), Riders Collective (Austria), Works council representatives at large delivery companies
Funded by	Digitalisierungsfonds 4.0 of the Austrian Chamber of Labour

This project collected 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 remained 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.

303 responses from food delivery riders were collected via an online survey. Our results show that most food delivery riders enjoy their work and a majority of riders tends to be satisfied with their working conditions. At the same time, a significant share of riders, especially women, are exposed to dangerous working situations, insults and harassment.

We found that most riders hold generally positive views of trade unions. The most frequent reasons given for not having joined a union were a lack of information and/or never having been asked to become a union member. Furthermore, we found that employed riders are significantly more likely to become trade union members.

The results have been published in a final report. A research note on riders' working conditions and an academic article with an in-depth analysis of the determinants of trade union membership among food delivery riders are forthcoming.

Indicators for Measuring Child Poverty and its Combating in European Cities

Duration	06/2020 – 06/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Tamara Premrov
Funded by	City of Vienna – MA 40

Cities represent an important stakeholder in combating child poverty and providing equal opportunities for children. To do so, they employ comprehensive strategies and measures. Cities usually allocate own budgets and resources for the poverty prevention and poverty reduction measures and complement available policies on the state or regional level. They often combine a universal approach of family support with means-tested measures to comply with the multiple demands of vulnerable families.

The study is based on a literature analysis, a questionnaire for city-representatives and the analysis of EU-SILC data. 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: unmanageable debts and arrears; financial capacity; health; education and care; social interaction and personal relationships; housing and local environment quality.

The results were presented at the roundtable of the European City Network on 20 and 21 June in Brussels. Results for the City of Vienna show that, as in many other cities, child poverty is higher than the national average, and children are more exposed to poverty than the total population. The highest risk is faced by children from families with low work intensity. Still, it can be assumed that social transfers represent a significant poverty relief for families in Vienna. AROP-rates for both children and families highly drop due to monetary benefits. Looking at child poverty from a multidimensional perspective, we found deprivations are mostly pronounced in the housing and local environment quality as well as in the financial capacity domains. At the same time, it is important to note that the intensity of these risks is rather low in Vienna. Material deprivation and monetary poverty are moderately correlated.

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

Duration	01/2021 – 07/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Rahel Kahlert, Elif Naz Kayran Meier, Veronica Sandu, Nicolas Prinz, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf, Amalia Solymosi
External Coordinator	Nathan Lillie, 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, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

SMUG sought 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 aimed 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 (a) documented the specific forms of precarity experienced by posted workers in the European Union, resulting from their movement between national systems; (b) mapped the structure of the posted worker labour market, by pinning down the factors segmenting it into more and less precarious segments; (c) identified specific rules that might be changed, or practices enacted to better protect posted workers and reduce labour market segmentation; and (d) disseminated 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 included six policy briefs and a final report, one transnational workshop in Vienna and a final conference in Brussels with experts and stakeholders. Forthcoming are also five journal articles and an edited book or journal special edition to be published after project completion.

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

Duration	02/2021 – 07/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Leonard Geyer, Tamara Premrov, Michael Fuchs, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber
External Coordinator	Frederic De Wispelaere, HIVA, KU Leuven (Belgium)
Project Partners	HIVA - Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium), 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, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

This project brought 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 covered 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 was to compile more accurate data on the scale, characteristics and impact of intra-EU posting. A second objective was to gain better insight into the scale and profile of fraudulent posting. Finally, the project zoomed in on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and made 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 were 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 outputs were included in 10 country reports, a synthesis report, infographics, and articles in academic journals.

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

Duration	03/2019 – 05/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, 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 aimed 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 used 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 studied disability and caregiving trajectories in old age in Europe. We showed that disability trajectories have remained mostly stable among older women and men in Europe, except for Eastern Europe where we found less disabilities among later-born cohorts of women. As for caregiving, we found 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 also analyzed the effect of bereavement and widowhood in old-age on access to care across Europe. We found 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.

Impact Evaluation Training for the Irish Department of Social Protection

Duration	04/2022 – 06/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Rahel Kahlert, Elif Naz Kayran Meier
Project Partners	Department of Social Protection, Government of Ireland

The Irish Department of Social Protection is charged with evaluating the effectiveness of its current programmes in terms of Working Age Supports. This also means that the Department needs to provide the evidence base to support its decision making at the strategic level. In the 21st century, there has been a growing interest at the European level in impact evaluations due to a rise of accountability concerns of public spending as well as a heightened call for evidence. Therefore, policy stakeholders benefit from a user-oriented understanding of impact evaluation approaches and methods. The training targeted stakeholders from senior management with extensive experience in social policy development.

The training team at the European Centre provided a one-day training programme on impact evaluation on May 25, 2022. The outcomes for the trainees were to learn and apply the principles and theories related to impact evaluations in their own professional field.

Providing technical assistance to national bodies with a human rights remit involved in assessing EU Charter & CRPD compliance of EU funds (FRA_EUfunds)

Duration	02/2022 – 09/2022
Status	Completed
Project Team	Magdi BIRTHA, Veronica Sandu
External Coordinator	Jos Kösters, Human European Consultancy
Project Partners	Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights (Austria)
Funded by	EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

European Union funds contribute significant resources to issues such as cohesion, social inclusion, and regional development. The Common Provisions Regulation for the EU budget 2021-2027 requires Member States to ensure the EU Charter for Fundamental Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) are respected throughout the programming period. These provisions allow for the opportunity for national bodies with a human rights remit (national human rights institutions, equality bodies, ombuds institutions) to be involved at all stages of the EU funding cycle. The European Centre provides consultancy services to FRA to gather and identify existing approaches, practices and to provide guidance on how these bodies can play a role in the monitoring of EU funds.

The outcomes of this project (desk research report, interview summary report) and the recommendations assist national bodies with a human rights remit in understanding their potential role in the successful implementation of Charter and CRPD conditionality in the 2021-2027 EU funding period.

European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECoPP)

Duration	10/2021 – 12/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scopetta
Project Partner	Leda Stott, Spain
Funded by	European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO)

The EU funds, encompassed under the Common Provisions Regulation 2021/1060 ('the CPR funds') and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) are implemented under shared management. Shared management is perceived as best tailored to achieve policy objectives in different national and regional institutional environments.

The Partnership Principle is one of the main principles of programming and implementation of cohesion policy, recognised in the legislative framework. The provisions on partnership were strengthened with establishment of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership that was adopted as Delegated Commission Regulation no 240/2014. Article 18 of this Regulation foresaw the creation of community of practice on partnership to exchange good practices.

Building on a positive experience of 2014-2020 precedent forum, the European Commission establishes a group of experts as the European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECoPP) for the 2021-2027 programming period. The Community involves managing authorities as well as other representatives of regional/local and other public authorities, economic, social and civil society partners, including NGOs and research institutes.

Survey of gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities (EIGE_Index_Unpaid_Work)

Duration	12/2021 – 12/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Ricardo Rodrigues, Eszter Zólyomi, Cassandra Simmons
External Coordinator	Eurocarers
Project Partners	Eurocarers (Belgium), INRCA - National Institute for the Care of the Elderly (Italy), IPSOS
Funded by	European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

The European Institute for Gender Equality has set up the Gender Equality Index to monitor gender equality across countries in the EU and across time. The index has a number of domains, including time, which focuses on unpaid work, social and individual activities. It is based on regularly collected secondary data sources and covers the whole of the European Union.

The aims of the project are (1) to improve the capacity of the Gender Equality Index to capture changes in the domain of time in a more conceptually sound, coherent and regular way (2) to support the monitoring of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, in particular in its priority area on closing the gender care gap.

European Undeclared Work Platform – Peer Learning Dialogue

Duration	07/2022 – 12/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Nicolas Prinz
External Coordinator	ICF (Belgium)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The Peer Learning Dialogues (PLD) aim to allow representatives from the European Undeclared Work Platform to explore issues in greater depth with a small group of peers and to test new approaches for tackling undeclared work (see <https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/undeclared-work>).

This PLD focusses on challenges and solutions in detecting undeclared work in new forms of work such as platform work. It scrutinizes the nature of undeclared work in the collaborative economy and discusses approaches and tools applied by enforcement authorities in tackling undeclared work including across borders. The aims of this PLD are to 1) To explore challenges and solutions in preventing, detecting and proving undeclared work in new forms of work and especially platform work; 2) To exchange and learn from peers; and 3) To test new approaches for tackling undeclared work. It consists of three one-day meetings for up to six platform representatives. Anette Scoppetta acts as thematic expert and facilitates the process.

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

Duration	06/2021 – 03/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Anette Scoppetta, Magdi BIRTHA, Veronica Sandu, Rahel Kahlert, Kai Leichsenring, Leonard Geyer, Monika Hunjadi, Amalia Solymosi
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	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

As part of its Bridge Building (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 were fine-tuned with the ministries and actors in the partner countries. Consequently, the following actions are implemented:

- *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.
- *Trainings:* Two trainings were carried out which should enable participatory learning on a specific topic in a partner country.
- *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.

Social Reform Microsimulation Austria

Duration	09/2012 – 01/2022
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Leonard Geyer, Tamara Premrov
Funded by	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

SORESI is a web application for Austria, based on the microsimulation model EUROMOD. The aim is to provide a web-based tool for policy makers and the broader public to simulate policy reforms and to analyse their social impact, namely the effects on the national poverty rate, income inequality indicators and different income groups. SORESI offers the opportunity to play around with reform ideas related to social insurance contributions, income tax and monetary benefits and to study their fiscal and distributive effects.

Technical Support for the Development and Update of EUROMOD

Duration	02/2021 – 02/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Michael Fuchs, Leonard Geyer, Tamara Premrov, Felix Wohlgemuth
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 public budgets, household incomes and work incentives for the population of each of the EU Member States. 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 2022, the Austrian part of EUROMOD was updated to 2022 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2020 with incomes for 2019).

External Expertise for Better Functioning of the European Construction Labour Market (FELM)

Duration	09/2021 – 05/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Anette Scopetta, Eszter Zólyomi, Leonard Geyer, Elif Naz Kayran Meier
External Coordinator	Jonathan Cornah, EFBWW
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

In the recent years, an increase in the presence of non-EU companies and non-EU workers has been observed in the European construction sector. The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), the European social partners of the construction industry in their European Social Dialogue Committee have prepared a multiannual work programme, in which they have strongly emphasised the European labour market challenges linked to the increased number of third country national companies and workers. To understand these new developments and collect the evidence basis for joint social partner recommendations, EFBWW and FIEC are implementing the project Better Functioning of the European Construction Labour Market (FELM) with the financial support of the European Commission (Grant agreement VS/2021/0011). The European Centre has been contracted to conduct the research for the FELM project.

The objectives of the European Centre's external expertise for the FELM project are to provide a comprehensive picture on how non-EU companies and non-EU workers access the European labour market as well as the terms and conditions of their work in the European construction sector; through a legal, quantitative and qualitative analysis; to produce a final report with the study results; and to assist in the drafting of the joint social partner recommendations.

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

Duration	11/2020 – 10/2023
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Selma Kadi, Kai Leichsenring, Cassandra Simmons, Klara Lorenz-Dant, Rahel Kahlert, Stefania Ilinca, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
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, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

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.

Assessment of the Channels of Information and their Use in the Posting of Workers (INFO-POW)

Duration	09/2022 – 02/2024
Status	Ongoing
Project Team	Sonila Danaj, Elif Naz Kayran Meier, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
Project Partners	HIVA - Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium), UNIVE – Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), CSPV SAV – Slovak Academy of Sciences (Slovakia), ZRC SAZU - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences (Slovenia)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Social Fund+ (ESF+), Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

Info-POW is a joint research project of five research institutions and associated partners from Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and EU social partners to promote the existing evidence base through the collection and evaluation of original data in the posting of workers. The aim is to identify and assess new as well as existing challenges and needs of undertakings in the construction sector in the five countries in accessing and using relevant information for the process of posting workers. The objectives are reached by

- mapping the online and offline information channels provided by state and non-state actors;
- piloting a web survey to understand how transnational posting undertakings find and use information in their interaction with national institutions, identify information gaps, and how these affect their overall performance in terms of the correct application of the posting rules and the protection of labour and social standards;
- collecting insights and recommendations from public authorities and social partners on improving access and use of available information on posting;
- identifying best practices and producing recommendations for the improvement of information availability and quality;
- promoting findings in scientific, specialised, and general audience publications to enhance awareness on the importance of improved access to information on posting; and
- promoting the upscaling of the web survey methodology and the results beyond the construction industry and across the EU to support the improvement of access to information in posting, the correct application of rules, and the prevention of abuse.

Project deliverables include 5 case studies in e-book format, an online stakeholder consultation workshop, a comparative report on the web survey results, a survey manual, 5 submitted academic articles, 5 policy briefs, 5 blog articles, and a transnational upscaling event.

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, Kai Leichsenring
External Project Coordinators	Gary Pollock, Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom) and Jennifer Symonds, 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 (United Kingdom), Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper (Slovenia), ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Portugal), Helsingin Yliopisto, University of Helsinki (Finland), Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna (Italy), Stichting CentERdata (The Netherlands), University College London, Centre for Longitudinal Studies - CLS and Cohort and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resources – CLOSER (United Kingdom), Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie Van Wetenschappen – KNAW (The Netherlands), GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany), Ipsos GmbH (Germany), TNS UK Ltd (Kantar Public) (United Kingdom), cApStAn SA (Belgium)
Funded by	European Commission, DG Research, Horizon 2020

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

COORDINATE aims to fill the gaps in the availability of robust and suitable data for the monitoring and evaluation of child well-being in Europe by (1) facilitating improved access to existing longitudinal data, particularly on child well-being; (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	Leonard Geyer, Michael Fuchs
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.

This project provides technical support to JRC-Seville to extend the functionality of the web interface by adding new data and the possibility for simulating a wider range of policy reforms. In addition, technical support is provided for the annual updating of the web interface for all 27 EU-countries.

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Premrov, T. & Woltran, I. (2022). *Erhöhung des Arbeitslosengeldes bringt weniger Ungleichheit, mehr Einkommen, steigert Beschäftigung und verringert Armut!* [Raising the unemployment benefit results in less inequality, increases employment and reduces poverty], available at <https://awblog.at/erhoe-hung-des-arbeitslosengeldes/>, 1 April 2022.

Mosimann, N. & **Kayran, E.** (2022). *Dynamics of trade union power resources and socio-economic rights of foreign workers in advanced democracies*. Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress (online), 2-3 February 2022.

Leichsenring, K. (2022). *Forschung und Entwicklung für Prävention und integrierte Versorgung in der Langzeitpflege und -betreuung*. Workshop Europäische Gesundheits- und Pflegeregionen als Motor des Wandels unserer Gesundheits- und Pflegesysteme. Netzwerk Deutsche Gesundheitsregionen, 26 January 2022 (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Live-in migrant carers – Back to normal in the Austrian LTC system?* ILPN International workshop on COVID-19 and long-term care systems, 6 December 2021 (online).

Kadi, S. (2021). *Alter, Armut und soziale Ungleichheiten* [Age, poverty and social inequalities]. Vortragsreihe der Abteilung für Integration und Diversität der Stadt Wien (MA17) [Talks by the Department for Integration and Diversity of the City of Vienna (MA17)], 25 November 2021 (online).

Kadi, S., Augustsson, E., Rodrigues, R., Jull, J. (2021). *Gutes Altern, Gesundheit und Behinderung: Perspektiven aus Österreich, Kanada und Schweden* [Ageing well, health and disability: perspectives from Austria, Canada and Sweden], *Geschlechtsspezifische Erfahrungen im Alter: Soziale Beziehungen und Rollen, informelle Pflege und gutes Altern. Neue Forschungsergebnisse aus den Projekten FutureGEN und GenPath* [Gender-specific experiences in later life: social relations and roles, informal care and ageing well. New research results from the projects FutureGEN and GenPath], European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and University of Vienna, 23 November 2021 (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *A life-course perspective to combat the boundaries of chronological age*, Slovene EU Presidency Conference 'Human rights for all ages: Promoting a life course perspective and intergenerational cooperation to combat ageism', 18 November 2021 (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2021). *Towards a common understanding of quality social services in Europe*. ESN Roundtable 'Promoting quality social services & care in Europe', Brussels, 16 November 2021.

Scoppetta, A. (2021). *Career and Age Management*. Demographie Tagung, Vienna, 3-4 November 2021 (online).

Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C., Premrov, T., Böhler, C. & Leichsenring, K. (2021). *From each according to means, to each according to needs? Distributional effects of abolishing asset-based payments for residential care in Austria*. International Workshop on the Socio-Economics of Ageing, Lisbon, 29-30 October 2021.

Rodrigues, R. (2021). *How policy and demographic ageing are shaping care patterns across time?* CPop seminar at the University of Odense, 15 October 2021 (hybrid).

Rodrigues, R., Rehnberg, J., Simmons, C., Ilinca, S., Zólyomi, E., Vafaei, A., Phillips, S., Fors, S. (2021). *Gendered cohort trajectories for informal caregiving in Europe between 2004 and 2015*. 4. Forschungskonferenz Sozialpolitik ESPAnet Austria (4th research conference social policy ESPAnet Austria), Graz, 28 September 2021.

Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C., Schmidt, A. E. und Steiber, N. (2021). *Care in times of COVID-19: The impact of the pandemic on informal caregiving in Austria*. 4. Forschungskonferenz Sozialpolitik ESPAnet Austria (4th research conference social policy ESPAnet Austria), Graz, 28 September 2021.

Kadi, S., Rodrigues, R., Kahlert, R. (2021). *Ideals of care in familialism: the perspectives of care-mix dyads in Austria*. 4. Forschungskonferenz Sozialpolitik ESPAnet Austria (4th research conference social policy ESPAnet Austria), Graz, 27 September 2021.

Fuchs, M., Gasior, K., Premrov, T. (2021). *Analyse der Nicht-Inanspruchnahme von Mindestsicherungsleistungen in Österreich 2009/2015*. 4. Forschungskonferenz Sozialpolitik ESPAnet Austria (4th research conference social policy ESPAnet Austria), Graz, 27 September 2021.

Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C., Schmidt, A.E. & Steiber, N. (2021). *Care in times of COVID-19: the impact of the pandemic on informal caregiving in Austria*. 6th ATHEA Conference, 23-24 September 2021 (online).

Schmidt, A.E., **Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C.** & Steiber, N. (2021). *A crisis like no other? Subjective unmet needs in health care during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis in Austria*. 6th ATHEA Conference, 23-24 September 2021 (online).

Kadi, S., Augustsson, E., **Rodrigues, R.** & Jull, J. (2021). *What contributes to ageing well? Perspectives of older adults in Austria, Canada and Sweden*. Sociological Knowledges for Alternative Futures, Conference of the European Sociological Association, 1 September 2021 (online).

Trainings

Sandu, V., Simmons, C. & Leichsenring, K. (2022). *Financing social services*. Training for the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy North Macedonia (in the framework of the Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Training Project), 7-8 June 2022 (online).

Kahlert, R. & Kayran, E. (2022). *Impact Evaluation Training for the Irish Department of Social Protection*, 25 May 2022.

Scoppetta, A. & Sandu, V. (2022). *Integrated Case Management: Integrated policy measures and services for the Armenian authorities*. Commissioned by the ILO, March-April 2022 (4 online sessions).

Scoppetta, A. & Sandu, V. (2022). *Integrated Case Management: Integrated policy measures and services for the Tajikistani authorities*. Commissioned by the ILO, March-April 2022 (4 online sessions).

Danaj, S. (2022). The gap between legislation and practice in the posting of workers: Practices and challenges from the perspective of enforcement agencies. *European Labour Authority - Learning and training activities for labour inspectors*, Virtual event organized by PwC, 17 March.

Leichsenring, K., BIRTHA, M. & Sandu, V. (2021). *Ageing and long-term care*. Training for the Ministry of Social Policy Ukraine (in the framework of the Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Training Project), 15-16 December 2021 (online).

Media presence and coverage

Leichsenring, K. (2022). Invited expert in “Eing’schenkt” (Okto TV), a dialogue with Martin Schenk on long-term care, lack of public support and opportunities for change, available at: <https://www.okto.tv/de/oktothek/episode/628e421b179ac>, 1 June 2022.

Leichsenring, K. (2022). *Die Pandemie verstärkt die Brüche im österreichischen System der Langzeitpflege und -betreuung* [The pandemic increases disruption in the Austrian system of long-term care], Press conference “Care-Systeme unter Druck – in Österreich und Europa. Arbeitsbedingungen, Migration, Pandemie” [Care systems under pressure – in Austria and Europe. Working conditions, migration and the pandemic], organised by “Diskurs. Das Wissenschaftsnetz”, 25 January 2022 (online).

Leichsenring, K. (2022). Invited expert in “Punkt Eins” (Austrian Broadcasting Ö1) on ‘Ein Pflegesystem macht schlapp – Wie kann die Zukunft der Langzeitpflege aussehen?’ [A care system on the verge of collapse – How can we shape the future of long-term care?], 24 January 2022.

Stummvoll, G. (2021). Invited expert in “Punkt Eins” (Austrian Broadcasting Ö1) on ‘Nicht nur law and order – Bürgernahe Polizeiarbeit mit sozialarbeiterischen Kompetenzen’ [Not only law and order – Citizen-friendly police work with a social work approach], 29 September 2021.

Der Standard (2022). *Zukunft der Pflege – Welche Modelle die 24-Stunden-Betreuung ersetzen könnten* [The future of long-term care – which models could replace live-in migrant care?], based on an interview with K. Leichsenring, 8 March 2022.



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