

# Annual Report of Activities

# 2024






50 *years*



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH



# Table of Contents

	<b>From the Executive Director</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Highlights and Outcomes</b>	<b>9</b>
	Employment & Labour Mobility	9
	Health & Care	15
	Social Protection & Inclusion	19
	Bridging Function	25
	<b>Projects</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Publications</b>	<b>54</b>
	Books and Chapters in Books	54
	Journal Articles	55
	Policy Briefs	56
	Reports and Working Papers	57
	Conference Papers, Presentations and Blogs	59
	Training	62
	Media Presence and Coverage	62
	International seminars (online)	63
	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>65</b>
	Management and Staff	65
	Board of Directors	67
	NLOs (National Liaison Officials)	69

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

Fifty years ago, the Austrian government and the United Nations agreed to establish the European Centre for Social Welfare Training and Research (European Centre) in Vienna. This foundation had been preceded by five years of intergovernmental negotiations, notably during a conference of European ministers responsible for social affairs in The Hague in 1972. Ministers had “acknowledged that the development of research and advanced training in social welfare is one of the most urgent priorities of European co-operation.” The Secretary-General supported this undertaking by facilitating the participation and support of other European member states of the United Nations. The key purpose of the Centre was “to promote co-operation in Europe in the field of social welfare”.

The formal language used in this agreement – still written on a traditional typewriter – sounds somehow outdated and yet perfectly up to date in the globalised world in which we are living today. In 1974, the world was divided by the Cold War, by long walls and high-security fences across Europe. Many countries were affected by the first oil crisis and the Club of Rome had just published *The Limits to Growth*. In short: in the capitalist world, “*les trente glorieuses*”, the *Wirtschaftswunder*, *il miracolo economico* had come to an end after 30 years of permanent growth, and social cleavages became evident in the context of industrial restructuring. In the communist part of the world, 5-year plans became more and more obsolete, while dissidents were able to make the fractures of the political system visible.

Against this backdrop, the European Centre started to build bridges from its very beginning, bringing together researchers from the East and the West, focusing on social work and social welfare for children and people with disabilities. During that period (1974 – 1989), the Centre was directed by Helga Nowotny, who then became Professor at the ETH Zürich and later President of the European Research Council. Her successor, Bernd Marin, took up the then renamed “European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research” with the aim to expand its scope and size.

Indeed, 1989 marked the beginning of yet another turbulent period that reshaped the political landscape of Europe – with wars close to our borders, but also ample hopes and expectations for peaceful cooperation across all borders and efforts to promote social inclusion. In the area of social policy, this was marked by the organisation of the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs in Bratislava (1993) – to which the European Centre contributed its comprehensive report *Welfare in a Civil Society* (European Centre, 1993) – and the ensuing World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The convened ministers responsible for social affairs adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development representing a unique consensus on three key objectives of social development: eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and fostering social inclusion (United Nations, 1996). The related Programme of Action specified in the context of neoliberal optimism that economic growth is needed as a basis for sustainable social development and that broad holistic strategies for social policies should be implemented globally to



create a “society for all”. The European Centre was also involved in another Ministerial Conference in 2002 that adopted the ‘Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing’ (MIPAA), resulting in a range of activities in the UNECE region, including the Regional Implementation Plan, the establishment of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and ensuing ministerial conferences with the European Centre in a central role: representing the research community, providing expertise and organising research fora. In the meantime – thanks also to the accession of Austria to the European Union in 1995 – the Centre had grown into a research centre with several units covering family and childhood issues, social security and pensions, migration, ageing, health and social services as well as theories of social welfare policies. In 2005, these were merged into the two units Health & Care and Work, Wealth & Welfare.

With the financial crisis of 2007/2008 and its aftermath, the European Centre’s growth too came to some halt, not least because its member states had to implement far-reaching austerity programmes. Nevertheless, the Centre was able to partly offset the reduction in member states’ contributions by acquiring projects on the research market.

At the level of international cooperation, the United Nations started to develop and negotiate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was eventually adopted in 2015, pledging that “no one will be left behind”. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets were ambitious regarding, among other things, the eradication of poverty, combating inequalities, achieving equitable education and gender equality, as well as sustainable growth and measures to combat climate change. Again, the principle of partnership was enshrined in the SDGs as a method to reach the goals. Needless to say, the

European Centre fully supports and subscribes to the SDGs.

The current management team came on board in 2016. With a permanent staff of 18 to 20 members, the European Centre is now organised into three teams: Employment & Labour Mobility, Health & Care and Social Protection & Inclusion. The European Centre’s transversal function of ‘building bridges’ is still and again a key aspect of our work, with new partners and networks successfully established in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries (the ‘bridge-building countries’ as we refer to them). The challenging aim remains to support dialogue and capacity-building on social policies as a key area to prepare these countries for EU membership.

Over the past year, too, progress has been made in establishing networks to support and contribute to EU programmes and policies (Peer Reviews and Mutual Learning, Better Regulation Guidelines, European Disability Expertise, Horizon Europe etc.) as well as in partnering with countries potentially acceding to the EU. In addition, the European Centre’s expertise has been expanded, and today it includes, amongst others, ageing, long-term care, online platform work, industrial relations, active labour market policy, family and child policies, labour mobility and social services as well as micro-simulation, survey analysis and mixed methods. Our activities have resulted in a wide range of reports, publications, training and policy consultancy that are exhibited in some detail in this Annual Report.

Being now in its 50th year, the European Centre has shown resilience and the ability to adapt to the global context by promoting and supporting international cooperation in the field of social welfare, initiating innovative research programmes and disseminating knowledge that

bridges the worlds of research and policymaking. Here are some examples of capacity building, creation of knowledge, policy advice and dissemination just from the past year:

- The European Centre offered Peer Reviews and Training dedicated to issues at stake in social welfare that had been identified in collaboration with respective National Liaison Officials (NLO) of the European Centre. Topics ranged from social assistance, gender issues and long-term care to methods of evaluation and monitoring of programmes (Scoppetta et al., 2024). Moreover, the Social Protection & Inclusion Team assessed data on disability across the EU to support EU policymaking (Birtha et al., 2024), and the Employment & Labour Mobility Team continued to enhance the collection and analysis of data on the posting of workers (see, for instance, Danaj, Kayran & Geyer, 2023), resulting in a range of follow-up activities and projects regarding labour mobility and platform work in Europe.
- Policy consultancy has been provided for the European Community of Practice on Partnership and to the Government of Uzbekistan (Scoppetta, A. & Zólyomi, 2024) as well as by preparing policy recommendations for future developments in long-term care at the end of InCARE pilot projects (Kayran & Kadi, 2023).
- Finally, an important publication project on a 'Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy' was finalised this year (Leichsenring & Sidorenko, 2024). I had the great pleasure of editing this book together with Alexandre Sidorenko and organising a series of International Seminars to launch the book and offer the possibility to all authors to present their chapters. The framework of a more integrated life-course perspective on ageing and

social policies has gained some influence already and further research will underpin related reforms in the future.

Results of our research have been broadly published over the past year, resulting in two edited books, seven peer-reviewed articles, 10 policy briefs, 15 contributions to books, 20 reports as well as several blogs and articles in traditional media. Moreover, we provided several online training courses, organised seven International Seminars (online) and gave more than 30 presentations at conferences (partly online), workshops, and webinars. Last but not least, we compiled 24 newsletters, posted hundreds of tweets and extended our presence in social media.

Accomplishing these and many more activities over a single year requires highly motivated and dedicated staff. Fortunately, the European Centre could always count on such scholars. Over the past 50 years, there have been more than 130 researchers and administrative staff working at the European Centre. Some have already reached their pension age, but all can look back at successful careers, also at international organisations, universities, NGOs, and national ministries. We can therefore only recommend the European Centre as a good place to work: Please spread the news and our job announcements!

The international context of the European Centre's work, however, has not become less demanding over the past decade. With rising geopolitical instability, advancing global warming, wars in the UNECE region, growing numbers of refugees, the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, ensuing global economic crises and austerity programmes that entail cuts in social welfare programmes, many targets of the SDGs, despite some advances, have got out of reach. Moreover, their partly conflicting goals, underlying values and



'blind spots' will need to be reassessed. As Büttner et al. (2023, 1571) put it: "*With fundamental recognition of the normative agenda of the SDGs, research needs to move away much more than before from a presumed 'objectivity' (...) and focus on normative and, above all, solution-oriented approaches to make a constructive contribution to the overarching sustainability goal.*" The European Centre with its applied research and interdisciplinary knowledge-production can play a role in this new approach to "*fostering the production of more applied, targeted and inevitably policy-driven knowledge for achieving a sustainable society*" (Büttner et al., 2023, *ibid.*). This, however, must be underpinned by more sustained international collaboration, new partnerships across boundaries and the willingness to work towards sustainability, including social welfare policies that 'leave no one behind'.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the European Centre's success over the past 50 years, particularly during the current period of poly-crises. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vienna to celebrate and discuss how to improve international cooperation in social policymaking and enhance social policy and research in the UNECE region in the next 50 years.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Leichsenring  
Executive Director

## References

Birtha, M., Zólyomi, E., Groß-Wohlgemuth, F. & Gjylsheni, S. (2024). European Disability Expertise II, available at <https://www.euro.centre.org/projects/detail/4919> (last accessed 5 August 2024)

Büttner, L., Darbi, M., Haase, A. et al. (2023). Science under pressure: how research is being challenged by the 2030 Agenda. *Sustainability Science* 18, 1569-1574.

Danaj, S., Kayran, E.N. & Geyer, L. (2023). The motility of posted workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: policies, trends and worker experiences in Austria. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 43(3/4), 323-338.

De Smedt, L., Zólyomi, E., Kayran, E.N., De Wispelaere, F. & Danaj, S. (2023). *Comparative report of the survey on posting and receiving companies in the construction sector. INFO-POW project*. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

European Centre (1993). *Welfare in a Civil Society. Report for the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs – United Nations European Region, Bratislava, June 28 – July 2, 1993*. Vienna: European Centre.

Kayran, E.N. & Kadi, S. (2023). Piloting Social Innovation in Long-Term Care: Application of Theory of Change and Lessons Learnt. *InCARE Policy Brief, no. 10*. Vienna: European Centre.

Leichsenring, K. & Sidorenko, A. (2024). *A Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.



United Nations (1996). Report of the World Summit for Social Development Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995, available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/198966?ln=en&v=pdf> (last accessed 1 August 2024)

Scoppetta, A., BIRTHA, M. & GJYLSHENI, S. (2024). *Mutual learning in social welfare in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region*, Policy Brief 2024/5. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A. & ZÓLYOMI, E. (2024). *Analysis of the state system in Uzbekistan to promote an integrated approach in employment and welfare services delivery for persons with disabilities*. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A. (2024). European Community of Practice on Partnership, <https://www.eurocentre.org/projects/detail/4190> (last accessed 1 August 2024)





# Employment & Labour Mobility

## Highlights

The Employment & Labour Mobility (ELM) research team, with its specific expertise in employment and labour market policies, labour mobility and migration, labour standards and working conditions, and the relationship between workers, employers, and social partners, is dedicated to contributing to the UN Agenda 2030 and the European Union's priorities, especially the European Pillar of Social Rights. The team consists of experienced researchers who excel in research and policy consultation, all working towards the strategic aim of improving the labour market, labour mobility and migration policies through comparative analysis and policy consultancy. The team's work comprises the following aspects:

**The ELM team works to help create policies that aim to improve working conditions**

*Research:* qualitative and quantitative research methods, especially comparative research and case studies. We have specific expertise in 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 practices, and workers' unionization.

*Policy consultation:* planning, monitoring, and evaluating employment and labour mobility programmes, policies, and enforcement. We have unique expertise in sharing favourable practices, mutual learning, networking of different stakeholders, social dialogue, and other consultation processes using various formats such as focus groups, peer reviews, participatory workshops, and training methods.

The Employment & Labour Mobility team employs five researchers involved in 10 projects, including Bridge Building, contracted expert inputs, and other networking and dissemination activities.

## 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, team members have provided expertise in various aspects of employment and labour market policies, such as active labour market measures and integrated employment in social policy measures, particularly through projects focusing on cooperation, mutual learning, and capacity building. The ongoing “European Community of Practice on Partnership” project involves various stakeholders such as 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.

The project “Integrated Approach in Employment and Welfare Services Delivery Towards Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan” was commissioned by UNDP. The team researched, analysed and mapped integrated approaches applied by employment and welfare services in Uzbekistan. Results will support UNDP’s joint initiative with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan on addressing socio-economic inequalities. In a time of global and regional instabilities, it is necessary to improve the capacities of public institutions and private entities, design and implement innovative policies aiming at inclusive and gender-balanced growth, and support job creation and employment opportunities, especially for persons with disabilities. Moreover, the ELM team continues to coordinate the framework contract “Peer reviews and mutual learning activities in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion” for the European Commission, which is implemented by the whole European Centre’s staff.

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

- *Labour mobility:* The second key theme of the ELM team is to study the nexus between various forms of employment and mobility and the re-



lated labour and social rights. In the last year, we have focused on the posting of workers and temporary labour migration. We continued our research on our niche topic of posting with the project “Assessment of information channels and their use in the posting of workers” (INFO-POW), where we mapped information channels, conducted qualitative interviews with information providers, and conducted a survey with posting companies on their access to information related to their rights and obligations in the posting of workers. We carried out three case studies on the posting of third-country nationals for the project “Contracting chains and recruitment patterns of posted third-country nationals within the European Union” (TCN Study), commissioned by the European Labour Authority, and started the second round of the project “Enhancing the collection and analysis of national data on intra-EU posting 2.0” (Posting.STAT 2.0) which serves to update the statistics on the posting of workers, including data on inspections and violations. Furthermore, under a framework contract, we provide analytical and methodological support to the European Labour Authority through qualitative analysis, mapping, and mixed methods. In addition, we analysed the increased presence of temporary migrant workers from other EU countries and candidate countries through the project “Sustainable and socially just transnational sectoral labour markets: Industrial relations and labour market adjustment to the rise in temporary labour migration” (JUSTMIG).

- *Labour standards and working conditions:* As a core theme of our research, labour standards and working conditions have been addressed in six different projects, covering sectors like the app-mediated ride-hailing and food delivery sectors, international transport, construction, food production, and care, focusing on various categories of workers, such as posted workers, temporary migrant workers, temporary agency workers, third-country nationals, and platform workers. The projects with a focus on labour standards and conditions include the “Driver survey,” INFO-POW, JUSTMIG, PostingStat 2.0, TCN Study and “Recovering workers’ data to negotiate and monitor collective agreements in the platform economy” (GDPowerR).
- *The relationship between workers, employers, and social partners:* Another aspect of our research transformed into our fourth key theme is studying the relationship between workers and their employers and workers and work organisations. In the last year, the Driver survey focused on ride-hailing drivers’ working conditions and knowledge and perceptions of trade unions and their expectations regarding the work

of social partners. Employers' perspectives have been studied in the INFO-POW project through a pilot survey on their access to information on posting. Whereas in the JUSTMIG project, we have conducted research on how industrial relations structures are adjusting to the increased presence of temporary migrant workers from other EU countries and candidate countries through the project, and in the GDPower project, we have looked at the strategies of platform workers, activists, trade unionists and employer groups for negotiating workers' pay and working conditions, including the collection and use of personal data, and for monitoring and enforcing collective bargaining agreements.

Our experts are also involved in Policy Advisory bodies and/or Scientific Committees to contribute to improved policy delivery in our core competence areas (e.g., the International Advisory Committee for the reform of the State Employment Service Ukraine, Policy Advisory Committee for the research programme "Exclusion and Inequality in Late Working Life: Evidence for Policy Innovation Towards Inclusive Extended Work and Sustainable Working Conditions in Sweden and Europe – EIWO").

Finally, the ELM team has recently won two new Horizon projects "E-GRUIEN: Encouraging a Digital and Green Transition through Revitalised and Inclusive Union-Employer Negotiations" and "Navigating the Next Normal: Innovative Approaches to Enhancing Youth's Education-Employment Transitions in Post-COVID-19 Europe (NEXT-UP)." These projects will involve three core themes of the research team, namely employment and labour market policies, labour standards and working conditions, and the relationship between workers, employers, and social partners.

## Our team in a nutshell

Our core areas of expertise encompass comparative and case study analyses of employment and mobility policies and practices and their interplay with other policy areas such as migration, social welfare, and industrial relations. 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, research



areas, and methodological skills (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method analysis as well as policy consultancy, evaluation, and training). 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, particularly the European Commission, e.g. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EaSI and ESF+), DG REGIO, the European Labour Authority,
- International organisations, e.g. UNDP, and
- other territorial or sectoral donors, e.g. Chamber of Labour, Austria.

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

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), international organisations (e.g. UNDP Uzbekistan), tripartite organisations (e.g. Eurofound), national ministries and other public authorities, universities & research institutes (e.g. Central European Labour Studies Institute, Slovakia; The Scientific Bureau for the Dutch Trade Union Movement, Foundation de Burcht; the Netherlands; HIVA-KU Leuven, Belgium; ThEMA-University of Cergy-Pontoise, France; Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy; Slovak Academy of Science; Peace Institute - Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Slovenia; Institute for Structural Research, Poland; Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences; University of Belgrade, Serbia; University of Castilla-la Mancha, Spain), the EU and national-level social partners (e.g. EFBWW, FIEC, EBC, ACV-Innovatief, the Austrian Chamber of Labour, the Austrian Trade Union Federation, Riders Collective, the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, Fundación 1 de Mayo in Spain), civil society organisations (e.g. Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Bosnia and Herzegovina), country experts and consultancy agencies (e.g. ICF International, Belgium & United Kingdom and Milieu, Belgium).

## Reflection & brief outlook

The Employment & Labour Mobility team has successfully continued its work in the niche thematic areas of labour market policies, labour mobility and working conditions. Also, the aim to expand our project portfolio in different directions has been achieved, particularly in terms of target groups (e.g. youth, temporary EU and third-country migrant workers), sectors of activity (e.g. manufacturing, care), aspects of work transformation (e.g.

digitalisation, greening), industrial relations, and workers' welfare. We also achieved the objective of consolidating our industrial relations expertise and intertwining it with our other areas of long-standing expertise, such as employment policy, labour mobility and working conditions and labour standards. Particularly, the two new projects "E-GRUiEN: Encouraging a Digital and Green Transition through Revitalised and Inclusive Union-Employer Negotiations" and "Navigating the Next Normal: Innovative Approaches to Enhancing Youth's Education-Employment Transitions in Post-COVID-19 Europe (NEXT-UP)" constitute a significant growth in terms of further integrating digitalisation and including greening as important transformative variables in our research focus. As Horizon projects, they also signify an increase in the size and profile of our transnational collaborative work.

Each team member works in more than one thematic area, and together, we design and implement projects where the abovementioned and other relevant thematic areas often overlap. This past year, we also continued and expanded our successful 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. Of the 10 projects implemented last year, three started in the previous period, and seven were new. We have already received funding confirmation for two new large projects, while other proposals are being processed. Our goal is to continue to research various target groups (e.g. non-standard workers, youth, posted workers, and migrant workers), expand into other sectors (e.g. care, manufacturing, energy production), examine specific aspects of work transformation (digitalisation, greening), as well as social dialogue and collective bargaining. The team aims to acquire projects under various national and EU funding streams within our core thematic and expansion areas, as reflected in the new acquisitions we have been preparing and will continue to pursue in 2025.



# Health & Care

## Highlights

The Health & Care team works to improve long-term care systems by addressing the various issues at stake. Over the past year, we focused on social innovation, alternative payment models in long-term care, and access to care. Following the Young Carers study published in 2023, further research was carried out on informal carers who must combine employment and care for an older family member in need of LTC. The results of these and earlier projects were published in reports, policy briefs, peer-reviewed articles and conference presentations. The team's expertise also contributed to training and capacity building.

*Research:* The InCARE project engaged with a range of stakeholders (providers, policymakers on different levels, people in need of care, and informal carers) in implementing social innovation in community-based long-term care. The project successfully implemented three pilot projects in Austria, Spain and North Macedonia, which are expected to drive improvements in the respective national LTC systems beyond the project's completion in autumn 2023.

**InCARE successfully implemented pilot projects in Austria, North Macedonia and Spain**

A special focus during this year has been on informal carers of working age. Depending on definitions, up to 21% of the working population faces challenges in combining paid professional work with unpaid care within the family. Coping strategies used by these workers have been analysed to develop policy recommendations.

Another hot topic in LTC is about sustainable funding. In this area, we contributed to a larger WHO project by analysing literature on a key aspect: new trends in innovative purchasing arrangements aimed at improving the quality-of-service delivery for people living with chronic diseases.

Facilitating equal access to services for vulnerable groups is crucial for improving health and LTC systems. The EU project "Diversity-Sensitive Care of Older People with Migration Background," involving partners from Belgium, Finland, Italy, and Sweden, focuses on supporting diversity-sensitive care. It aims to raise awareness through the development of teaching materials and online educational resources and training for students and professionals in health and social care.



The team is also preparing an update to the publication “Facts & Figures on Ageing and Long-term Care,” which is supported by the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. This update will highlight developments and challenges related to demographic ageing and long-term care across the EU over the past decade and beyond.

Finally, the Health & Care team contributes to the COORDINATE project, which aims to mobilise researchers and stakeholders towards the coordinated development of Europe’s first comparative birth cohort survey, “Growing Up in a Digital Europe” (GUIDE). Our involvement has included mentoring PhD students from around the world through Transnational Access Visits (TAV), helping them use longitudinal panel surveys like the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in their research. Moreover, we were able to raise interest among Austrian policymakers and researchers in joining the GUIDE research infrastructure.

*Policy consultancy:* The team contributed to mutual learning events both in the EU context, such as the Mutual Learning Programme (DG Employment), and through the Bridge Building peer reviews and training funded by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

## Strategic aim

**The Health & Care team is addressing key research issues in coping with long-term care challenges**

The strategic aim of the Health & Care team is to promote a life-course approach to healthy ageing by designing care systems and policies that allow for better coordination and integration of health and social care delivery. Our comparative research, therefore, addresses systemic issues such as funding, quality assurance and improvement, workforce challenges, including informal carers and live-in migrant care, needs assessment, diversity-sensitive care, case and care management, and overall governance of integrated care. Additionally, specific cross-cutting issues such as ageing, the transition into care, dementia, technology (digital transformation and LTC), inequalities and preventive and participatory approaches are at the centre of our activities.

The Health & Care team has extensive expertise and a long-standing track record in LTC research, public health and population ageing. Our networking efforts include active participation in the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing, the Scientific Advisory Board of the Joint Programming Initiative “More Years, Better Lives,” and the EUROCARERS research network.





## The team in a nutshell

The Health & Care team would like to thank Cassandra Simmons for her invaluable contributions and significant development over the past five years. Her example highlights how working with the European Centre prepares scholars for careers in both international organisations and academia. The team welcomed Niki Kalavrezou, who brings her expertise from Greek and Swiss universities, the IMF and the Greek research foundation IOBE.

The Health & Care team seeks additional staff to support a new development cycle and tackle critical public health and long-term care challenges.

## The team and our clients

In anticipation of the European Centre's 50th anniversary, the Health & Care team has engaged with a wide range of partners and clients with whom we are connected and in regular exchange. While our main clients remain the European Commission, in particular, DG Employment and DG Research, and WHO, our partners in research span academic research, third sector organisations and national ministries. These include Linnaeus University (Sweden), Hogeschool Gent (Belgium), JADE (Finland), Linköping University (Sweden), the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at INRCA (Italy), the University of Manchester (UK), Vilans (The Netherlands), the Institute for Health and Welfare – THL (Finland), the University of Vienna (Austria), the Federal Ministry of 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 Chamber of Labour (Upper Austria), Eurocarers (Belgium), the London School of Economics & Political Science (United Kingdom), AGE Platform Europe (Brussels), the Social Cooperative 'Anziani e non solo' (Italy), the European Social Network (ESN), and many others.

## Reflection & brief outlook

The team can be proud of its project completion and publication achievements. This year, the team published three peer-reviewed articles, several policy briefs and book contributions, and delivered a wide range of presenta-

tions at conferences and workshops. Additionally, a major report on informal carers and employment was prepared in German, and an edited volume, *A Research Agenda on Ageing and Social Policy*, was published with Alexandre Sidorenko and numerous colleagues who contributed from around the world. Last but not least, the team jointly compiled the discussion paper *Caring Societies: The Future of Long-term Care* as a contribution to the Invitational Conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the European Centre.

Looking ahead, it is crucial to maintain momentum by leveraging the 50th anniversary conference and related events to further develop cooperation with countries expanding their LTC systems and to engage with both new and existing partners in implementing new projects.



# Social Protection & Inclusion

## Highlights

The Social Protection and Inclusion team (SPI) designs, coordinates, and implements 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 marginalised 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 marginalised 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 groups that are often discriminated and marginalised (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 processes of social policy dialogue and mutual learning among different stakeholders, provide tailor-made training modules and carry out other consultation services by using various formats such as focus groups, and participatory methods.

The Social Protection and Inclusion team employs 5 researchers. In 2023/2024, the team implemented 10 projects. Individual team members were also involved in additional projects across teams (e.g. on integrated

**The team works towards policies that aim at improving social protection systems and fostering the full participation of marginalised groups in European societies**

approaches applied in employment and welfare services, diversity sensitive care for older migrants). SPI team members also actively participated in Bridge Building activities (e.g. implementing peer and policy reviews in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership region, organising BBinars), as well as in other networking and dissemination activities (e.g. conference presentations, media appearances).

## Strategic aim

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

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 utilises a broad range of thematic expertise and skill sets when implementing scientific and 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 and poverty reduction*
- *Social support services for different groups*

Within these clusters, the team implements various projects that aim at reducing poverty and social exclusion, as well as assessing the impact of recent trends and crises on the welfare system:

- *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 and HBS micro data. The basic scope of the model includes social (insurance) contributions, income taxes and monetary benefits. From 2025, the new tool on indirect taxes (simulation of value added tax, excise taxes) will be available. Based on EUROMOD, the team has also updated SORESI, an online tax-benefit microsimulation calculator for Austria, which has already been in use for many years. In 2023/2024, the Austrian-related activities of EUROMOD and SORESI were updated to 2024 policy rules using the latest input data (SILC 2022 with incomes for 2021, HBS 2019/20). In February 2024, we provided thematic expertise at the 8th Mutual Learning Event on Distributional Impact Assessment and contributed to the summary report by the European Commission with several EUROMOD-related evidence. We also contributed, together with the ELM team, to the mutual learning



event and its summary report on Member States' policies and practices in increasing transparency and simplifying access to social protection, and how digital tools and technologies can play an instrumental role in this (ICF & European Centre, 2023).

- *Social inclusion and poverty reduction:* The team has 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 well-being and social inclusion of different groups in society (e.g. persons with disabilities, children). We facilitated a policy review on measures to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on groups in a vulnerable situation in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions with the participation of 35 representatives from ministries and public bodies from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, and Ukraine. We continued our work on assessing the impact EU funds may have on social inclusion and fundamental rights, with our new project, ECHO Funds, financed by DG Justice of the European Commission. The aim of the project is to enhance the human rights conditionality of EU funds by ways of raising awareness about Charter rights and their implications in Austria, Poland and Greece and contributing to a common understanding of the roles of different stakeholders in EU funding in all stages of the funding period. Currently, different deprivation indices applied on EU-SILC data as well as the model EUROMOD (see above) are 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. Among other research questions, we investigate how the prevalence of monetary poverty and material deprivation of children developed during the time of crisis, and how effective COVID-induced policies and automatic stabilisers were in counteracting an increase in child poverty.
- *Social support services for different groups:* The team provides expertise to central governments, social partners and international organisations on the development, implementation and monitoring of social services for persons with disabilities, children, pensioners, beneficiaries of social assistance and older people. The recent synthesis report, "Disability relevance of quality assurance systems in social services", requested by DG EMPL of the European Commission, gathers evidence on the existence of frameworks, definitions and assessment procedures used to measure the quality of social services used by persons with disabilities in all EU Member States. The report was written on behalf of the European Disability Expertise (EDE) and is directly feeding into the de-

velopment of a new EU Framework for Social Services of Excellence for Persons with Disabilities, a flagship initiative under the EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030. We provided a tailor-made training on ‘Innovation in long-term care and quality assurance in delivering social services’ to civil servants of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Moldova, to support their efforts to reform and strengthen social support services.

The SPI team also contributes to high-level academic and policy conferences (e.g. the 9th International Microsimulation Association World Congress, the ESPAnet Austria conference 2024, the European Parliament’s Annual Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Committee on Petitions) and disseminates research results to the wider public (e.g. expert talk with the Austrian Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and high media coverage on the basic security for children) to address key social challenges and offer effective solutions in the form of policy recommendations at EU and national levels.

## Our team in a nutshell

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

The SPI team has extensive expertise on comparative analysis of the risk of poverty, income distribution, social services and inclusion of marginalised 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 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, participatory methods and training). The team’s projects are based on international cooperation 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 Justice and Consumers),
- the European Parliament,
- EU agencies (e.g. the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Eurostat),
- International organisations (e.g. UNDP),



- 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 Austrian National Bank), and
- NGOs (e.g. Volkshilfe Austria, Caritas Austria, Diakonie Austria).

## 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. Well-established cooperations, networks and tools such as the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD and the connected European research network will be maintained and further expanded (e.g. inclusion of the household budget survey data and the simulation of indirect tax policies) to provide better research results addressing current societal challenges. In 2023/2024, along with responding to global mega trends, like population ageing, digitalisation, increased use of AI, and climate change, European welfare states were trying to mitigate the impact of the increased costs of living and rising inflation. While the unemployment rate in the EU hit record low, the situation of traditionally excluded groups, like persons with disabilities, single parents, families with three and more children, has not improved significantly as they still face disproportionately higher rates of poverty and social exclusion. This shows the necessity to continue understanding the underlying reasons behind these inequalities and to come up with viable policy solutions.

While the social sector is underfinanced and struggles with the chronic shortage of workforce in many countries, ensuring that social services are provided in line with human rights standards, tailored to the needs of users and foster social inclusion should remain a priority. EU funding plays a key role in this area, and we follow closely the future of cohesion policy to “leave no one behind”. As part of the European Disability Expertise, we assumed the coordination of the European Semester task to provide the European Commission with input from a disability perspective into the Semester process each year, through 27 country fiches and a synthesis report on trends and policies in employment, education and social policies.

Furthermore, we are responsible for the production of statistical reports linked to key thematic areas at the request of DG EMPL. Within the European Centre's Bridging Function, the SPI research team will continue collaborat-

ing with countries in 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.

In line with our strategic goals, defined in previous years, in 2023/2024, the team successfully acquired new, medium-sized multiple years projects (e.g. EDE II, ECHO Funds). We will continue pursuing our research interest through national and EU funding streams and our existing core thematic areas (social security, tax-benefit microsimulation, tackling child poverty, transition from institutional to community-based social services, quality assurance of social services) will remain in focus for our future proposals.

The SPI team also identified new thematic niches where team members share interest and expertise in pursuing new projects. These include but are not limited to gender equality among parents with young children such as the distribution of parental leave and thus unpaid care work among parents analysed with register data, gender inequalities in intra-household distribution of resources, comparison of minimum income systems in Europe, practices to promote the autonomy and full participation of persons with disabilities over the life-course. We also intend to keep on with shorter, but strategic policy consultancy opportunities with international organisations and key partners, for instance by offering tailor-made training to share good practices with civil servants of relevant ministries. Beyond the existing ample network of partners we constantly seek new partnerships with academic institutions, think tanks, international and regional organisations, as well as NGOs and service providers.





# Bridging Function of the European Centre

## Highlights

In 2023/2024, 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. We continued our intensive collaboration with the so-called Bridge Building (BB) countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine) and initiated cooperation with Uzbekistan as a “BB-light” country, thereby following the example of Tajikistan in 2022 and thus building capacities in Central Asia.

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 from different institutional backgrounds, such as academics, research institutions, civil servants of respective ministries, civil society organisations and social partners. Our key contacts, however, are our National Liaison Officials (NLOs) with whom we work based on MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding). These NLOs have been nominated as points of contact to facilitate a constant exchange with the European Centre. As of August 2024, we have signed MoUs with respective ministries in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine. Establishing MoUs is currently underway in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Uzbekistan.

We believe that fostering cooperation between partners in the West and the East is key for facilitating democracy and European integration. Our activities focus on evidence-based policymaking in social welfare. We ensure exchange on equal terms and build on shared needs across the group of countries. One of these shared needs is the joint need for social policy reforms, especially to assist those left behind and hit most by crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis due to high inflation.

During the past year, we further strengthened collaboration with the BB partners mainly via research activities, training and peer reviews, for instance, within the BB Mutual Learning project funded by the Austrian

**We intensified collaboration in the eleven ‘Bridge Building’ countries of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership and even raised capacities in Central Asia**

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (see below). Our work in the BB region also saw an increase in the dissemination of findings from our research projects, which took place primarily through the Eastern European Policy Network (EESPN) and by BBinars (online webinars in the BB region) (see below).

## Projects in/about the Bridge Building region

During the past 12 months, the European Centre implemented five projects funded by third parties in or about countries of the BB region. The projects are:

- **Sustainable and socially just transnational sectoral labour markets (11/2023 – 10/2025):** The JUSTMIG project combines innovative research and data collection on labour market dynamics in both service and manufacturing sub-sectors across six EU Member States where fixed-term contracting of migrant workers occurs, and three candidate countries (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Ukraine) as source countries for workers. Starting from the development and application of innovative participatory methodology, the project addresses and involves social partners and labour market institutions throughout the project. Activities are evenly designed to exert both short/medium-term and long-term impacts on experts and social partners, as well as migrant and local workers themselves. The project's impacts range from strengthening social partner capacities to supporting policies for just and sustainable labour market outcomes.
- **Contracting chains and recruitment patterns of posted third-country nationals within the European Union (01/2024 – 12/2024):** The European Labour Authority has commissioned a study on the participation of third-country workers in providing services through posting within the European Union. This study is a collaborative effort to be conducted by the European Centre in partnership with Milieu Consulting SRL in 2024. The study concerns the collection of background material and drafting of a report on contracting chains and recruitment patterns of posted third-country nationals for three case studies, namely Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia, with particular attention paid to Ukrainian, Brazilian, and Bosnian nationals, respectively as these nationals represent some of the highest shares of TCN workers.



- **Integrated approach in employment and welfare services delivery towards inclusive growth and poverty reduction in Uzbekistan (12/2023 – 06/2024):** The project carried out research, analysis and mapping of integrated approaches applied in employment and welfare services in Uzbekistan. An integrated approach in employment and welfare services delivery can help the Government of Uzbekistan not only address citizens' unmet expectations for accessing decent work opportunities, but also to enable them to benefit from targeted social assistance schemes. It was commissioned by UNDP Uzbekistan to address socio-economic inequalities in a time of global and regional instabilities.

Integrated Case Management was kicked-off in Uzbekistan in April 2024 with transformative workshops on enhancing welfare and employment for people with disabilities

- **Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Training (06/2021 – 03/2024):** During the past year, the European Centre implemented the following mutual learning activities in the BB countries with the BB Peer Reviews and Training, a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria:

- *BB Policy Review in Social Welfare:* Policy measures to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable groups (7-8 November 2023; online), including the report "Policy measures to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable groups in Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries"
- *Training* for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Moldova (15-16 November 2023; online): Innovation in long-term care and quality assurance in delivering social services
- *Hands-on pilot:* The pilot scrutinized how the partnership principle was implemented in the Bridge Building (BB) countries of the European Centre, including the report "Implementation of the partnership principle in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries"
- *Project evaluation*, including infographic on evaluation findings
- *Policy Brief* "Mutual learning in social welfare in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region"

According to the project evaluation, the BB mutual learning events offered unique learning opportunities for about 535 civil servants and generated remarkable outcomes. Over 85% of respondents acknowledged a positive impact on the BB countries' policymaking processes, and many expressed strong support for continuing mutual learning activities. Due to the project's success, the European Centre decided to continue implementing up to

Over 85% of respondents acknowledged a positive impact on the policy-making processes in the BB countries

two BB peer/policy reviews annually as BB investment from the European Centre. The Republic of Kosovo will host the upcoming BB Peer review and will focus on actions taken by governments to address undeclared/informal work (November 2024).

- **Supporting INclusive development of community-based long-term CARE services through multi-stakeholder participatory approaches** (11/2020 – 10/2023): Three main types of activities were implemented within the project: 1) Formative research activities in support of policy processes; 2) National pilot implementation activities, one of them in North Macedonia; and 3) Technical and support activities. InCARE was able to engage with a range of stakeholders (providers, policymakers on different levels, people in need of care, and informal carers) in the process of implementing social innovation in community-based long-term care. It demonstrated the usefulness of the Theory of Change approaches in designing pilot projects to develop LTC systems further.

## Eastern European Social Policy Network

Alongside 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. The European Centre's EESPN website (<https://eespn.euro.centre.org/>) continued to expand, and EESPN newsletters were issued. We also continued our well-functioning cooperation with the Central European University (CEU) within our BB activities. Students from the Policy Lab prepared country profiles for Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia for the EESPN website in 2024 and issued a policy brief.

## BBinars (online webinars)

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. This series of webinars aims to offer members of the EESPN and a wider audience, specifically those with a keen interest in social welfare in the Western



Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region, a possibility to exchange ideas and learn about topics of interest to partners. In 2023/2024, we have brought together researchers, policymakers and NGOs in the region to discuss three key issues:

- **Digital labour platforms in BB countries: Navigating the path towards fair future of work standards** (02/11/2023): The 6th BBinar of a series of BBinars launched in 2021 focussed on the progress and challenges of digital labour platforms in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries and discussed fair standards of new forms of work. Key issues debated concern the working conditions of the workers in platform-based employment, the potential challenges for both workers and platform operators due to AI, and fair working conditions for individuals engaging in new forms of work within digital labour platforms.
- **Challenges of long-term care in the Western Balkans** (20/02/2024): Participants of the 7th BBinar discussed the challenges of long-term care systems in the Western Balkans based on findings of research recently conducted by the Red Cross of Serbia. The study “Long-term care of persons with disabilities and older persons in the Western Balkans” focuses on the current state of long-term care and the expectations of persons in need of care and their informal carers. Participants discussed potential improvements regarding the accessibility and quality of services and the development of policies needed in the region.
- **Demographic changes in BB countries: challenges, opportunities and responses** (02/07/2024): The 8th BBinar focused on the demographic changes in BB countries, the challenges they pose, the opportunities that arise and the possible policy responses that could be initiated. Demographic changes go hand in hand with profound political, economic, and social transformations. The BBinar looked at some specificities and patterns of particular importance for social policy, individual well-being and intergenerational relations (e.g. the combination of natural population declines and net out-migration, disordered cohort flows, etc.).

The topics of last year's BBinars were the regional BB specifics of digital work platforms, care systems and demographic change

## 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 membership hopefuls of the Western Balkans. In the upcoming year, we will continue our work in the BB region by implementing BBinars, conducting research and policy advisory activities within our BB projects and disseminating the activities via EESPN. Again, we aim to include BB partners in upcoming calls for proposals to continue the well-established cooperation with our partners, with funding being provided by third parties.

# Projects

## Targeted Measures for Persons with Disabilities to Cope with the Cost-of-Living Crisis (EP Cost of Living for PWD)

<b>Duration</b>	06/2023 – 09/2023
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi Birta, Eszter Zólyomi, Sabina Gjylsheni, Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth
<b>Funded by</b>	European Parliament

There are currently 100 million persons with disabilities in the European Union, representing 15% of the total population. In 2021, 29.7% of the EU population aged 16 or more with a disability (activity limitation) was at risk of poverty or social exclusion compared with 18.8% of those with no disability. Approximately 24% are at risk of energy poverty. The most recent crises (e.g. the Covid-19 pandemic, rising inflation, energy crisis) had a disproportionate effect on the lives of persons with disabilities.

The study gives an overview of the existing applicable international legislation and of the legislation, policies and measures at the EU level seeking to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities. Among other aspects, it examines the availability of disaggregated data concerning the impact of the rising cost of living and energy crisis on persons with disabilities and assesses the additional costs that can arise from having a disability or from living in a household with a person with disabilities. Practices of national legislation, policies, and schemes that are made available to meet the extra needs of persons with disabilities are presented from a few selected EU Member States.

The study is based on concrete quantitative and qualitative evidence from available data, studies and analysis from various sources.

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

<b>Duration</b>	11/2020 – 10/2023
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Selma Kadi, Kai Leichsenring, Cassandra Simmons, Elif Naz Kayran, Klara Lorenz-Dant, Rahel Kahlert, Stefania Ilinca, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>Project Partners</b>	Chance B Gruppe (Austria); Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales – IMSERSO (Spain), Fundacion Instituto Gerontologica Matia – INGEMA (Spain), Ministry of Labour 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)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EaSI Programme

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 aimed to contribute to a coherent and coordinated approach to the development of local and regional LTC policy and care services. Social innovation in LTC should reflect the aspirations and needs of older people with functional or cognitive impairment and their caregivers while emphasizing the role of local communities and service providers in shaping care service delivery, facilitated by national policy-level support for adapting, adopting and enhancing these initiatives.

InCARE included formative research activities in support of policy processes, including the creation of a shared knowledge base for all project partners, detailed situational analyses of the LTC landscape in each country, multi-stakeholder workshops creating a Theory of Change map, a policy toolkit and national roadmaps. National pilots were implemented focusing on caregiver support for informal carers of people living with dementia (Spain), integrated care services (Austria), and an emergency button service (North Macedonia). These were accompanied by technical support, evaluation and dissemination activities.

InCARE was able to engage with relevant stakeholders (providers, policy-makers on different levels, people in need of care, and informal carers) in the process of implementing social innovation in community-based LTC. It demonstrated the usefulness of the Theory of Change approaches in designing sustainable pilot projects.



## European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2023 (EDPD2023)

<b>Duration</b>	11/2023 – 01/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi BIRTHA
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The European Commission organises this annual conference in partnership with the European Disability Forum to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This 2-day event took place on 29 November - 1 December 2023 in Brussels and brought together more than 400 policymakers, high-level experts and disability advocates. The wide participation of persons with disabilities allowed for hearing their concerns and aspirations and to establish a dialogue with public authorities and other stakeholders. Magdi BIRTHA from the European Centre acted as Rapporteur.

Among other key topics, the 2023 conference discussed the right of persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections, in preparation for the European elections in 2024. As 2023 is the European Year of Skills, the conference also looked at the prospects for persons with disabilities to improve their skills and have better access to the labour market.

After almost 3 years since the adoption of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, it was timely to assess what the main achievements have been so far and their impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. The conference was closed by the Access City Award ceremony, where the winner of the 2024 Access City Award was announced.

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

<b>Duration</b>	09/2022 – 02/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj, Elif Naz Kayran, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Leonard Geyer, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>Project Partners</b>	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)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Social Fund+ (ESF+), Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

The overarching aim of this research project was to identify and assess the challenges and needs of undertakings, namely in the construction sector, in accessing and using relevant information regarding the process of posting workers and the undertakings’ obligations as a result thereof. Previous studies have found that despite the existence of information provided through different channels, whether by state or non-state actors, information is insufficient and/or difficult to access by the stakeholders it should be provided for. It also remained unclear to what degree existing channels of information are used by posting undertakings and in what way(s). As the first of its kind, a pilot survey opened a window into the posting information access practices, challenges, needs, and recommendations of posting and receiving companies in the construction sector as the main sector where posting occurs, and where both larger companies and SMEs as well as self-employed are active.

The aggregated results from the five countries were based on a sample of 121 companies recently active in the posting of workers, of which 82 posting companies and 39 receiving companies. Comparative analysis has shown that the type of company and its size must be considered when investigating the experiences, needs, preferences, and barriers of the companies involved in the posting of workers. Therefore, policy measures addressing the provision of information in the posting of workers should be aware and considerate of them to provide information more effectively.

## Informal Care and Employment in Upper Austria (ICE)

<b>Duration</b>	08/2023 – 03/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Selma Kadi, Mirjam Pot, Cassandra Simmons, Kai Leichsenring
<b>Funded by</b>	Chamber of Labour Upper Austria (Arbeiterkammer Oberösterreich)

Informal caregiving is an important part of the long-term care system not only in Upper Austria. Unequal availability of services, staff shortages, co-payments for professional care and societal expectations can lead to informal carers providing care despite negative effects on their well-being.

This study identified the challenges that informal carers face in combining care and employment to underpin the further development of appropriate support measures for this specific group of carers.

Apart from a literature review and the quantitative estimation of the number of workers and employees who (have to) combine employment and care responsibilities, the study was based on 19 interviews with informal carers who are faced with the challenge of combining informal care and employment. They often have to reduce their working hours, they deal nevertheless with additional stress at work and in the caring relationship, and they are confronted with additional financial and psychological burdens. In addition, expert interviews were carried out with professionals supporting informal carers. Their insights into ways of cooperation in formal-informal care arrangements helped gather information on existing support measures and missing links in access and infrastructure.

The results of these interviews and good practice examples from Germany, Ireland and the UK served to propose several recommendations for policy and practice to enable informal carers to combine informal caregiving with employment according to their needs and preferences. Relevant steps range from an enhanced acknowledgement of carers and the adaptation of working times to a more rights-based approach to support, including the extension of professional services and initiatives to facilitate the return to employment after a period of care work.

Results will be used by the Chamber of Labour for Upper Austria to develop future strategies and support mechanisms for informal carers in employment.

## Social Reform Microsimulation Austria (SORESI)

<b>Duration</b>	09/2012 – 03/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth, Michael Fuchs, Leonard Geyer
<b>Project Partners</b>	BRZ (Austria)
<b>Funded by</b>	Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

SORESI is a web application for Austria, based on the microsimulation model EUROMOD. A web-based tool for policymakers and the broader public was developed to simulate policy reforms and analyse their social impact, namely the effects on the national poverty rate, income inequality indicators and different income groups.

SORESI offers the virtual opportunity to users to simulate the consequences of far-reaching decisions, e.g. as a Minister of Finance or Social Affairs.

- What would be the impact of implementing a flat-tax model on income distribution across different income deciles?
- How would an increase in family benefits affect different types of families, e.g. regarding poverty rates?
- What would be the effects of reducing employers' social insurance contributions regarding income inequality indicators for different income groups?

SORESI is being updated yearly to current policy rules (incl. adaptation for bracket creep, indexation of benefits, etc.) using the latest input data from the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Ministries can also apply the tool to estimate the costs as well as the financial and distributional consequences of individual legal regulations. The European Centre also uses the tool for applied national studies on potential measures for poverty reduction, basic income and non-take-up of social benefits.

## Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Training Mutual Learning Activities in BB Countries

<b>Duration</b>	06/2021 – 03/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta, Magdi BIRTHA, Sabina Gjylsheni, Kai Leichsenring, Amalia Solymosi, Monika Hunjadi, Eszter Zólyomi, Selma Kadi, Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth, Elif Naz Kayran, Cassandra Simmons, Leonard Geyer, Veronica Sandu, Rahel Kahlert
<b>Project Partners</b>	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.
<b>Funded by</b>	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 11 EU accession countries, potential EU accession countries and Eastern Partnership countries (BB countries). The regular exchange between the European Centre and the ministries highlighted the need for research-based and policy-relevant knowledge on social policy. By implementing mutual learning activities in the BB countries, the European Centre provided an answer to the countries' needs related to better coping with the health and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for vulnerable groups, and to combat poverty. The project corresponded to the principles, objectives and priorities of the three-year programme of Austrian development policy from 2019 to 2021.

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 were implemented:

- **Peer Reviews:** Three peer reviews and three policy reviews were carried out online. They promoted a mutual exchange of experience and knowledge transfer.
- **Training:** Four online trainings were organised with the ministries responsible for social affairs in Ukraine, Armenia, North Macedonia and Moldova. These enabled participatory learning on topics such as ageing and long-term care, financing and quality assurance of social services.
- **Hands-on pilot:** One applied pilot project was developed that built on the results of the peer reviews and training sessions. It was a unique attempt to gather insights on corresponding practices applied by BB partners.

## Integrated Approach in Employment and Welfare Services Delivery – Towards Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan (UNDP UZB)

<b>Duration</b>	12/2023 – 06/2024
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta, Kai Leichsenring, Eszter Zólyomi
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Nargiza Khamidova, UNDP Uzbekistan
<b>Project Partners</b>	UNDP Uzbekistan
<b>Funded by</b>	UNDP

‘Addressing socio-economic inequalities in a time of global and regional instabilities’ is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UNDP. It aims to contribute to inclusive, resilient economic growth and reduce regional inequalities by improving the capacities of public institutions and private entities to design and implement innovative policies. A specific focus is on the care economy to promote inclusive and gender-balanced growth and to support job creation and employment opportunities through the prism of the Future of Work systems approach. To reach these goals, an integrated approach in employment and welfare services delivery can help the government not only to address unmet expectations of citizens regarding their access to decent work opportunities but also to benefit from targeted social assistance schemes.

The European Centre was commissioned by the UNDP to carry out research, analysis and mapping of integrated approaches applied in employment and welfare services in Uzbekistan. Desk research was carried out to identify international best practices using an integrated approach to increase labour-market participation. Moreover, the current situation in Uzbekistan regarding existing mid-term and longer-term state programs in social protection and labour systems was assessed and evaluated, together with an analysis of the current system of employment services for people with disabilities and low-income families. These reports were discussed on-site with relevant stakeholders, including the design of a pilot project of an integrated service delivery model and related training and capacity-building.

Looking at the change in household disposable income, the increase would particularly benefit households or individuals in the lowest three income deciles.

## Working Conditions and Collective Action in Platform-Mediated, Ride-Hailing Sector and Beyond (Driver Survey)

<b>Duration</b>	02/2023 – 10/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Leonard Geyer, Elif Naz Kayran, Sonila Danaj, Nicolas Prinz, Nikko Bilitza
<b>Project Partners</b>	Vida – Austrian transport and service sector trade union (Austria), Association for Passenger Car Transport within the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (Austria), ETUI – European Trade Union Institute (Belgium)
<b>Funded by</b>	Chamber of Labour Vienna (Arbeiterkammer Wien, Digitalisierungsfonds 4.0)

The growth of platform work threatens workers' rights and social dialogue. Recent studies in Austria have covered several sectors including food delivery and cleaning. However, despite criticism of low pay and bad working conditions, the conditions of drivers in the app-mediated, ride-hailing sector have not been researched. Furthermore, research in other countries shows significant cross-sectoral differences in working conditions, pay and attitudes towards collective action which have not been explored in Austria.

Against the described background, the Driver Survey project has three interrelated aims:

- To collect novel data on the working conditions and attitudes of drivers in the platform-mediated, ride-hailing sector.
- To compare the findings with research on platform workers in other industries in Austria.
- To use the results of the survey and the comparative analysis to develop recommendations for social partners and policymakers.

In addition, the project aims to strengthen networking and the exchange of knowledge between researchers, activists, social partners and policymakers in the field of platform work.

## Effect of COVID-19 on Poverty and Material Deprivation of Children in Austria (COVCHILD)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2023 – 10/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta, Michael Fuchs, Leonard Geyer, Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth, Eszter Zólyomi
<b>Funded by</b>	Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)

This project raises empirical evidence on poverty and material deprivation of children in Austria by analysing the respective consequences of the COVID-19 crisis during 2020 and 2021. The study takes a comprehensive approach and analyses different aspects related to child poverty by addressing salient concepts and indicators, the socio-economic characteristics of children concerned as well as the impact of policy measures (COVID-19-induced measures, automatic stabilisers, and hypothetical policies) in its entirety and at the level of individual policy interventions.

The objective is to answer the following four main research questions:

- How did the prevalence of at-risk-of-poverty (AROP) and material deprivation of children in Austria develop during the COVID-19 crisis
- To what extent did the socio-economic background of children concerned change due to the crisis?
- How effective were COVID-19-induced policies and automatic stabilisers in counteracting an increase in child poverty and to what extent?
- How would alternative policies to counter child poverty have performed during the COVID-19 crisis?

The prevalence of poverty and material deprivation during the crisis is measured by traditional indicators related to monetary poverty as well as by an innovative index on material deprivation and social exclusion (employing the six dimensions of debts and arrears, financial capacity, health, social interaction and personal relationships, housing and local environment quality, and education and care), which was compiled by the European Centre in an earlier research project for the City of Vienna.

Research relies on EUROMOD/SORESI based on respective EU-SILC input data. To investigate the impact of both already existing automatic stabilisers and COVID-19-induced policy measures (general and targeted) on counteracting child poverty and losses of disposable income for families with children, a decomposition analysis is being carried out, based on two scenarios: (1) a COVID-19-world as in reality, and (2) a counterfactual scenario without the COVID-19 employment and income shock.



## European Community of Practice on Partnership (ECoPP)

<b>Duration</b>	10/2021 – 12/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta
<b>Project Partners</b>	Leda Stott, Spain
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO)

The EU funds, encompassed under the Common Provisions Regulation 2021/1060 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 the establishment of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, which was adopted as Delegated Commission Regulation No. 240/2014. Article 18 of this Regulation foresaw the creation of a community of practice on partnership to exchange good practices.

Building on the positive experience of the 2014-2020 period, the European Commission established 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.

## Technical Support for Development and Update of EUROMOD (EUROMOD Update 2021-2024)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2021 – 12/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth, Michael Fuchs, Niki Kalavrezou, Leonard Geyer
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, JRC-Seville

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union (EU) that enables researchers and policy analysts to calculate and compare the effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes and work incentives for the population of each of the 27 Member States and the EU as a whole. EUROMOD is free for academic and not-for-profit use.

The EUROMOD consortium consists of the core developer group at JRC Seville and the national expert groups of each Member State. Our task as the Austrian expert team has been to provide an annual update of policy parameters, the Austrian input data (EU-SILC national data) for the model, as well as validation.

Over the past year, the Austrian part of EUROMOD was updated to 2024 policy rules (incl. adjustments for bracket creep, indexation of benefits, etc.) using the latest input data (SILC 2022 with incomes for 2021).

The European Centre yearly provides a detailed description of the policy parameters, the micro-database as well as on validation results in the Austrian EUROMOD country report.

## Contracting Chains and Recruitment Patterns of Posted Third-Country Nationals within the European Union (TCN Study)

<b>Duration</b>	01/2024 – 12/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj, Elif Naz Kayran, Eszter Zólyomi
<b>External Project Co-ordinator</b>	Claire Dupont
<b>Project Partners</b>	Milieu Consulting SRL
<b>Funded by</b>	European Labour Authority (ELA)

The posting of third country-nationals (TCNs) in the European Union (EU) has increased substantially over the past 10 years. Posting practices involving TCNs sit at the intersection of labour mobility and immigration regimes. Among the main reasons for the increase in posting in general, including TCN posting, is to counter a shortage of workers and a dearth in skill sets in many sectors, such as construction, healthcare, tourism and agriculture. While findings relating to the general characteristics of posted TCN workers are available, they do not cover specifically issues relevant to the European Labour Authority's (ELA) mandate and operational activities.

Addressing this gap is important on several accounts: first, evidence suggests that the posted-TCN-worker- population experiences greater vulnerability in the labour market than the non-posted-TCN-worker population. Second, the use of posted TCNs is often accompanied by violations of legislation that fall within ELA's competence. Third, labour market intermediaries, such as temporary work agencies, can be used to circumvent the legislation in ELA's competence.

This study, therefore, focuses on such actors as their usage by end-users creates a complex environment that is prone to violation and circumvention of legislation that falls under ELA's mandate. It is therefore key to investigate the employment contracts, terms, and other arrangements that apply to posted TCN workers.

Poland, Portugal, and Slovenia are among the top TCN-sending countries either in absolute numbers or relative to their overall labour force. Therefore, these countries and the associated contracting chains are selected to serve as case studies with particular attention paid to Ukrainian, Brazilian, and Bosnian nationals as they represent some of the highest shares of TCN workers.

## Facts & Figures on Long-Term Care – Update

<b>Duration</b>	01/2024 – 12/2024
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Niki Kalavrezou, Kai Leichsenring, Cassandra Simmons
<b>Funded by</b>	Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden

Fifteen years ago, the European Centre pioneered research into long-term care (LTC) by publishing the first report with LTC facts and figures, followed by a second edition in 2012 in collaboration with the WHO Europe and INRCA (Italy). These reports provided a broad picture of the state of play of care needs of the population and care systems. They served as a basis for informing the development of ageing and care policies in an international comparative perspective at the time, and they were used intensively by scholars and policymakers.

This project aims to:

- update the findings of earlier versions of ‘Facts & Figures on long-term care’ in the context of new developments in the EU (and beyond, where possible)
- show trends in supply and demand of LTC over time
- identify (new) issues and data as well as research and policy priorities

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

<b>Duration</b>	04/2021 – 03/2025
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Kai Leichsenring, Niki Kalavrezou, Cassandra Simmons
<b>External Project Coordinators</b>	Gary Pollock, Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom) and Jennifer Symonds, University College Dublin, The Geary Institute (Ireland)
<b>Project Partners</b>	Manchester Metropolitan University (United Kingdom); University College Dublin, The Geary Institute (Ireland); Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, European Research Infrastructure Consortium (Norway); Institut Drustvenih Znanosti Ivo Pilar (Croatia); Pompeu Fabra University (Spain); Institut national d'études démographiques (France); University of Essex, The Institute for Social and Economic Research (United Kingdom); Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper (Slovenia), ISCTE/Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (Portugal); 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 (Generations and Gender Programme – GGP) (The Netherlands); GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany); Ipsos GmbH (Germany); TNS UK Ltd (Kantar Public) (Great Britain); cApStAn SA (Belgium)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, 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 preparing Europe's first comparative birth cohort study of children's and young people's well-being – the 'Growing Up in Digital Europe' (GUIDE) survey. The project is 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. COORDINATE aims to fill in the gaps in the availability of robust and suitable data by facilitating improved access to existing survey data on child well-being, extending the GUIDE survey network, and initiating a large-scale cohort pilot survey using a harmonised instrument and research design in key European countries.

The European Centre's role in this project is to host and mentor PhD students from around the world through Transnational Access Visits (TAV), helping them use longitudinal panel surveys like the Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in their research.

## Recovering Workers' Data to Negotiate and Monitor Collective Agreements in the Platform Economy (GDPowerR)

<b>Duration</b>	10/2023 – 09/2025
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj, Leonard Geyer, Elif Naz Kayran, Nikko Bilitza, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>Project Partners</b>	HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium); ACV-Innovatief (Belgium); ThEMA (Théorie Economique, Modélisation et Applications) – CY Cergy Paris (France); UCLM – Universidad de Castilla-la Mancha (Spain); Fundación 1 de Mayo (Spain)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Social Fund+ (ESF+), Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

GDPowerR is a collaborative research project on industrial relations in the platform economy involving seven research and social partner organisations from five EU countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Poland, Spain). It centres on two sectors, ride-hailing and food delivery, and explores three areas:

- The collection and use of worker data by digital labour platforms and its impact on worker well-being and their inclination to engage in collective actions.
- Strategies employed by social partners to negotiate and implement collective and company-level agreements in the platform economy. These agreements cover aspects like pay, working conditions, and the collection and use of worker data.
- The implementation, monitoring and enforcement of negotiated agreements.

The overarching project goal is to support the development of industrial relations in the platform economy. To this end, GDPowerR aims to:

- Analyse the strategies of platform workers, activists, trade unionists and employer groups for negotiating workers' pay and working conditions, including the collection and use of personal data, and for monitoring and enforcing negotiated agreements;
- Advance and apply a novel method of data collection using data access and portability rights based on a citizen-science approach to audit the personal data collection and digital monitoring practices of platforms;
- Assess the implementation of and/or challenges to collective bargaining agreements in the location-based platform economy;
- Strengthen industrial relations and social partnership in Europe's platform economy by raising awareness about companies' data collection practices;
- Inform policymakers by providing research on industrial relations in the platform economy.

## Diversity-Sensitive Care of Older People with Migration Background (DISCOPMB)

<b>Duration</b>	10/2022 – 09/2025
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Selma Kadi, Magdi BIRTHA, Kai Leichsenring, Sabina Gjylsheni
<b>External Coordinators</b>	Emina Hadziabdic, Linnaeus University, Sweden
<b>Project Partners</b>	Linnaeus University (Sweden), Anziani e non solo (Italy), Hogeschool Gent (Belgium), Jade (Finland)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme

High-quality health and social care services should be available to all individuals and their families irrespective of age, ethnic and cultural origin. The increasing diversity in European societies creates the need for training for students and professionals to enable them to provide person-centred and diversity-sensitive health and social care to all individuals. The project addresses this need through the development of training for health and care students, open educational resources for students and professionals as well as policy recommendations. People with migration backgrounds and stakeholders participate in the design of training and open educational resources.

The expected outcome of this project is an improvement in person-centred and diversity-sensitive care for older migrants. By involving students and professionals in diverse health and social care disciplines as well as patients with migration backgrounds it is assumed that training materials will be a valid source for raising awareness and finding solutions for better access and more person-centred treatment of older persons with migration backgrounds, in particular.

The project is based on a Theory of Change approach to project evaluation, which is the responsibility of the European Centre. Dissemination events at national and EU levels will contribute to making the available resources known to relevant stakeholders, training agencies and policymakers.

## Sustainable and Socially Just Transnational Sectoral Labour Markets (JUSTMIG)

<b>Duration</b>	11/2023 – 10/2025
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj, Elif Naz Kayran, Selma Kadi, Mirjam Pot, Eszter Zólyomi, Anette Scoppetta, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Tibor Meszmann, CELSI
<b>Project Partners</b>	CELSI – Central European Labour Studies Institute (Slovakia); CREDI – Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (Bosnia and Herzegovina); De Burcht – The Scientific Bureau for the Dutch Trade Union Movement, Foundation de Burcht (The Netherlands); Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (Slovenia); Uni of Belgrade – University of Belgrade Faculty of Economics (Serbia); JYU – University of Jyväskylä (Finland); UTARTU – University of Tartu (Estonia)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Social Fund+ (ESF+), Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SocPL)

In recent years, especially in some economic sectors, a pattern of permanent reliance on temporary employment of migrant workers has grown in significance across the EU. In most EU Member States, industrial relation structures and social partners struggle with problems of declining regulatory influence and deteriorating organisational capacities. Additionally, they find it extremely challenging to regulate sectoral labour markets where precarity and transnationalised vulnerability have been growing.

The JUSTMIG project combines innovative research and data collection on labour market dynamics in both service and manufacturing sub-sectors across six EU Member States where fixed-term contracting of migrant workers occurs, and three candidate countries as source countries for workers. Starting from the development and application of innovative participatory methodology, the project addresses and involves social partners and labour market institutions throughout the project period. Activities are designed evenly to exert short-, medium- and long-term impacts on experts and social partners as well as on migrant and local workers themselves. The project's impact ranges from strengthening social partner capacities to supporting policies for just and sustainable labour market outcomes.

The JUSTMIG project aims to provide innovative analysis and data collection on new labour market dynamics, and how industrial relations structures are adjusting to the increased presence of temporary migrant workers from other EU countries and candidate countries.



## Enhancing Charter Compliance of EU Funds (ECHO Funds)

<b>Duration</b>	03/2024 – 02/2026
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi BIRTHA, Sandra Scharf, Anette Scoppetta, Elif Naz Kayran, Sabina Gjylsheni
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Katrin Wladasch, LBI-GMR
<b>Project Partners</b>	LBI-GMR – Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights (Austria); CECL – Centre for European Constitutional Law, Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsou Foundation (Greece); INPRIS – Institute for Law and Society (Poland); Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Hungary)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers, CERV Action Grant

EU funds form a significant share of national budgets and are regulated by a set of common provisions. For the funding period of 2021-2027, the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) foresees that the principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU must be complied with throughout the funding cycle as horizontal enabling conditions. Additionally, the CPR also foresees a more articulated role for bodies representing civil society and national bodies with a human rights remit.

The project aims to enhance the human rights conditionality of EU funds by ways of raising awareness about Charter rights and their implications. Moreover, it will contribute to a common understanding of the roles of different stakeholders in EU funding at all stages of the funding period. The research will serve to transfer knowledge and exchange experiences via national events in Austria, Greece and Poland along with virtual transnational open consultation days about Charter rights and their implications in EU funds. Dissemination activities will be tailored to the needs of different target groups and the wider public, including online tools that can be applied to enhance Charter awareness and compliance.

## Enhancing the Collection and Analysis of National Data on Intra-EU Posting 2.0 (Posting.STAT 2.0)

<b>Duration</b>	04/2024 – 03/2026
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Sonila Danaj, Leonard Geyer, Judith Schreiber, Sandra Scharf, Nikko Bilitza
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Frederic De Wispelaere, HIVA, KU Leuven
<b>Project Partners</b>	HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium); CUE – Cracow University of Economics (Poland); ELMI – European Labour Mobility Institute (Poland); COMILLAS – Comillas Pontifical University (Spain); UCLM – University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain); SEO – SEO Amsterdam Economics (Netherlands); UNIVE – University Ca’Foscari of Venice (Italy); UNISTRA – University of Strasbourg (France); CNRS – The French National Centre for Scientific Research (France); ZRC SAZU – Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Slovenia); CELSI – Central European Labour Studies Institute (Slovakia); LCSS – Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (Lithuania); WMP CONSULT – Wilke Maack GmbH (Germany)
<b>Associate Organisations</b>	EFBWW – European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (Belgium); CEEMET aisbl – Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industries (Belgium); SIOD – The Social Information and Investigation Service (Belgium); ACV-CSC – ACV-CSC Transcom (Belgium)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Social Fund+ (ESF+)

This project aims to complement the data collected on intra-EU posting at the European level by bringing together a research consortium from the main sending and receiving Member States (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain). Following up from Posting.STAT 1.0, the goal of this follow-up project is to increase the level of empirical evidence on intra-EU posting. The project will serve to collect and analyse national administrative data related to research questions that remained unexplored, such as data on third-country national posting, temporary work agency posting, subcontracting chains and monitoring and infringements. The consortium, coordinated by KU Leuven, consists of 14 beneficiaries, mainly representing research institutes and universities, one affiliated and four associated partners representing social partners and a public authority.

The first main objective of the project is to collect administrative (micro) data from the competent public authorities to obtain more detailed information on the scale, characteristics, and impact of intra-EU posting, both in the main receiving and sending Member States. Furthermore, the aim is to get a better view of the enforcement of the posting rules, by reporting data collected from the national labour inspectorates. The second main objective is to stimulate the discussion about intra-EU posting and to disseminate the results of the data collection.

## Peer Reviews and Mutual Learning Activities in Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (MFC ICF Peer Reviews 2)

<b>Duration</b>	10/2022 – 10/2026
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Anette Scoppetta, Selma Kadi, Cassandra Simmons, Kai Leichsenring, Magdi BIRTHA, Sonila Danaj, Eszter Zólyomi, Leonard Geyer, Elif Naz Kayran, Michael Fuchs, Mirjam Pot
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Mattias Wihlborg, ICF (United Kingdom)
<b>Project Partners</b>	ICF International (Belgium & United Kingdom), Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale (Italy)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

ICF, in collaboration with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and IRS, has been awarded a framework contract with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) to organise and provide content for peer reviews and mutual learning activities for another four years (2022-2026). In the preceding framework contract, which was implemented between 2016 and 2021, ICF and its partners organised around 100 events and mutual learning activities.

The general objective of the peer reviews and mutual learning activities in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion is to facilitate learning debate regarding policy developments, reforms and investments at European and national levels in domains such as employment, social protection, social inclusion, labour law, health and long-term care, pensions, free movement and coordination of social security, working conditions, health and safety at work, social dialogue, labour mobility, minimum income, inclusion of migrants, competences, skills, including digital skills, vocational education and training, adult learning, and other policy fields relevant to social economy.

We support the organisation of peer reviews and mutual learning activities through facilitation and analytical support services, including thematic and country discussion papers. Mutual learning is facilitated through different types of activities such as peer reviews, peer learning, policy learning conferences and events, working groups, expert groups, etc. Various formats such as peer reviews, mutual learning seminars and Conferences are used throughout the Framework Contract.

## European Disability Expertise II (EDE II)

<b>Duration</b>	03/2024 – 03/2028
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Magdi BIRTHA, Eszter ZÓLYOMI, Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth, Sabina GJYLSHENI
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Andrea Schouw-Naphegyi, Human European Consultancy
<b>Project Partners</b>	Human European Consultancy
<b>Funded by</b>	European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The European Disability Expertise (EDE) started in July 2020 as the successor to the Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED, December 2007 - May 2019). It is managed by the Human European Consultancy and is now in its third contract period (March 2024 – February 2025). Under this contract, as with ANED, data on disability across the EU will be assessed to support EU policymaking. Magdi BIRTHA, Eszter ZÓLYOMI and Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth are part of the central team of senior experts in the EDE network and are responsible for the European Semester task and the development of statistical reports, linked to the annual thematic and ad-hoc reports.

The European Disability Expertise (EDE) project aims to collect, analyse and provide independent and scientific data and information relating to national disability policies and legislation and their relationship to policy and legislation at the EU level, as well as about persons with disabilities. The information and data collected is intended to support the European Commission by:

- providing information relevant to EU-level disability policies and activities (e.g. for the European Semester Cycle);
- feeding policy and legal information useful for the preparation of future disability policies and mainstreaming disability in forthcoming initiatives under the Commission;
- raising awareness of disability issues;
- contributing to an informed dialogue with organisations of persons with disabilities and with EU Member States; and
- contributing to the legal reporting obligations arising from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

## Analytical and Methodological Support in Qualitative Analysis, Mapping and Mixed Methods (ELA FWC Lot 2)

<b>Duration</b>	03/2024 – 03/2028
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Team</b>	Elif Naz Kayran, Leonard Geyer, Sonila Danaj, Anette Scoppetta, Eszter Zólyomi, Judith Schreiber
<b>External Coordinator</b>	Monica Andriescu, Ecorys Europe
<b>Project Partners</b>	ECORYS – Ecorys Europe (Belgium); HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, KU Leuven (Belgium); Milieu Consulting SRL (Belgium)
<b>Funded by</b>	European Labour Authority

The European Centre is partnering in a consortium with Ecorys Europe, HIVA KU Leuven, and Milieu Consulting to provide analytical and methodological support related to qualitative analysis, mapping and mixed methods to the European Labour Authority (ELA). The provision of analytical and methodological support consists of identifying, compiling, analysing and presenting qualitative data from external sources. The consortium thus might be asked to design and implement qualitative data-gathering exercises on behalf of ELA, as well as to compile, analyse and present the information. While the focus of this project is on qualitative research methods and data, a mixed methods approach might be requested for individual assignments, that is the combination of qualitative approaches (main task) with a minor degree of quantitative ones (e.g. contextualisation or supplementary statistics).

This framework contract aims to provide analytical services and methodological consultancy support for ELA. The services provided shall support and complement analytical and other strategic, as well as operational, activities performed by ELA. The commissioned services will enable ELA to carry out its operational activities including analysis and risk assessment, provision of labour market intelligence, information provision, tasks related to the European Network of Employment Services (EURES) and supporting Member States in tackling undeclared work and communication.

# Publications

## Books and Chapters in Books

Danaj, S. (2024). Introduction, pp. 9-17 in: Danaj, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (Eds.), *Access to information on the posting of workers – Construction companies' practices and challenges*; Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

Danaj, S., Kayran, E.N. & Zólyomi, E. (2024). *Access to information on the posting of workers: Company practices and challenges in the case of Austria*, pp. 36-53 in: Danaj, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (Eds.), *Access to information on the posting of workers – Construction companies' practices and challenges*; Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

Danaj, S. (2024). Conclusions and Recommendations, pp. 120-128 in: Danaj, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (Eds.), *Access to information on the posting of workers – Construction companies' practices and challenges*; Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

Danaj, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (Eds.) (2024). *Access to information on the posting of workers – Construction companies' practices and challenges*; Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

Leichsenring, K. & Sidorenko, A. (Eds.) (2024). *A Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Leichsenring, K. & Sidorenko, A. (2024). Introduction: Why do we need a research agenda for ageing and social policy in the 21st century?, pp. 3-18 in: K. Leichsenring & A. Sidorenko (Eds.), *A research agenda for ageing and social policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Leichsenring, K. & Sidorenko, A. (2024) Conclusion: Towards a research agenda for ageing and social policy in the 21st century, pp. 261-273 in: K. Leichsenring & A. Sidorenko (Eds.), *A research agenda for ageing and social policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Kayran, E.N., Zólyomi, E. & Danaj, S. (2024). The cross-national mixed methodology applied in the book: Mapping and evaluating information channels on posting, pp. 18-35 in: Danaj, S., Toplak, K. & Vah Jevšnik, M. (Eds.), *Access to information on the posting of workers – Construction companies' practices and challenges*. Ljubljana: Založba ZRC.

Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C., Ilinca, S. & Zólyomi, E. (forthcoming). "Who will still need me, who will still feed me, when I'm sixty-four?" Inequalities in long-term care in: Ranci, C. & Rostgaard, T. (Eds.), *Handbook of Social Care Research*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Simmons, C., Ilinca, S., Comas-Herrera, A., Champeix, C., Southard, L. & Zonneveld, N. (2024). Strengthening social infrastructure in long-term care for older people: coordinated action and local empowerment in Europe, pp. 39-56 in: Getzner, M., Plank, L. & Renner, A. (Eds.), *Introduction to the Handbook of Social Infrastructure*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Simmons, C., Szenkurök, V. & Rodrigues, R. (2024). Care regimes in Europe: a dynamic view of typologies and evolving long-term care policies over time, pp. 205-217 in: Moreira, A., van Gerven, M., Greve, B. (Eds.), *Handbook on the Political Economy of Social Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Scoppetta, A., Naegele, L. & Valmerova, M. (2024). Labour market research for an ageing workforce in times of digitalisation, pp. 113-129 in: Leichsenring, K. & Sidorenko, A. (Eds.), *A Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Stott, L. & Scoppetta, A. (forthcoming). Changing the focus: Towards a new evidence base for SDG 17. In: *The Elgar Companion to Data and Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Medgyesi, M., Rodrigues, R. & Zólyomi, E. (forthcoming). Methods to match a novel concept: Approaches to measuring care poverty. In: Kröger, T. et al. (Eds.), *Care poverty and unmet needs: Care inequalities in theory and practice*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kadi, S., Ehni, H.J. (2024). Gesundheit als höchstes Gut? Schlagworte des guten Alterns in subjektiven Perspektiven, pp. 91-104 in: Pfaller, L. & Schweda, M. (Eds.), *“Successful Aging”? Leitbilder des Alterns in der Diskussion*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS (Altern & Gesellschaft).

Pot, M. & Prainsack, B. (2024). Governing AI technologies in healthcare: beyond the ‘ethics bubble’, pp. 411-422 in: Paul, R., Carmel, E. & Cobbe, J. (Eds.), *Handbook on Public Policy and Artificial Intelligence*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

## Journal Articles

Danaj, S. & Meszmann, T.T. (2024). Weathering intermediated temporary labour mobility: social partners in Central and Eastern Europe after EU enlargement. *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 30(1), 67-85.

Geyer, L., Vandaele, K. & Prinz, N. (2023). Riding together? Why app-mediated food delivery couriers join trade unions in Austria. *Economic and Industrial Democracy*, 45(3), 835-858. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0143831X231195151>

Rodrigues, R., Simmons, C., Zólyomi, E., Vafaei, A., Rehnberg, J., Kadi, S., Socci, M., Fors, S. & Philipps, S. (2024). Depends on whom you ask: discordance in reporting spousal care between older women and men across European welfare states, *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, 125. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.archger.2024.105518>

Kayran, E.N. (2024). Attitudes towards immigration and unemployment risk cleavages: Untangling the economically rooted group conflict framework. *Migration Studies*, Online First. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnae003>

Kayran, E.N. & Nadler, A.L. (2024). Local Alien Enfranchisement and External Efficacy Perceptions: Intended and Unintended Effects on Non-citizens and Citizens. *Political Behavior*, online first. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-023-09910-w>

Pot, M. (2024). Social prescribing for and beyond health: hyper-solutionism in health policy. *Critical Policy Studies*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19460171.2024.2373780>

Pot, M., Spalletta, O. & Green, S. (2024). Precision medicine in primary care: How GPs envision “old” and “new” forms of personalization. *Social Science & Medicine*, 358, 117259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.117259>

Simmons, C., Pot, M., Lorenz-Dant, K. & Leichsenring, K. (2024). Disentangling the impact of alternative payment models and associated service delivery models on quality of chronic care: a scoping review. *Health Policy*, 105034. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthpol.2024.105034>

## Policy Briefs

Korir, L. & Ushchapovska, Y. (2024). *Expansion of Social Protection Programmes to Address Child Poverty in Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia*, Policy Brief 2024/6. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A., BIRTHA, M. & Gjylsheni, S. (2024). *Mutual learning in social welfare in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region*, Policy Brief 2024/5. Vienna: European Centre.

Cillo, R. & Perocco, F. (2024). *Challenges and good practices in the provision of information on the posting of workers*, Policy Brief 2024/4. Vienna: European Centre.

Kayran, E. N., Danaj, S. & Zólyomi, E. (2024). *Cross-national gaps in information provision for companies in posting*, Policy Brief 2024/3. Vienna: European Centre.

Borland, J. (2024). *Categorising tax and benefit family policies in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic*, Policy Brief 2024/2. Vienna: European Centre.



Moran, A. & Mýtna Kureková, L. (2024). *Fragmentation of information on the posting of workers in Slovakia*, Policy Brief 2024/1. Vienna: European Centre.

Vah Jevšnik, M. & Toplak, K. (2023). *Company size and resources as determinants of access and use of information on the posting of workers: Evidence from Slovenia*, Policy Brief 2023/6. Vienna: European Centre.

De Wispelaere, F. & De Smedt, L. (2023). *Access to information on the posting of workers: Are we blinded by the importance given by EU legislation to the single official national website?* Policy Brief 2023/5. Vienna: European Centre.

Kayran, E.N. & Kadi, S. (2023). *Piloting Social Innovation in Long-Term Care: Application of Theory of Change and Lessons Learnt*. InCARE Policy Brief No. 10. Vienna: European Centre.

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (2023). *Potenzial für soziale Innovation in der Langzeitpflege*. InCARE Policy Brief No. 8. Wien: European Centre.

## Reports and Working Papers

Birtha, M., Zólyomi, E., Wohlgemuth, F. & Gjylsheni, S. (2023). *Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost-of-living crisis*. Brussels: European Parliament, Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, Directorate-General for Internal Policies (PE 754.127).

Danaj, S., Kayran, E.N., Zólyomi, E., Prinz, N. & Geyer, L. (2023). *INFO-POW: Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers. Country report Austria*. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

De Smedt, L., Zólyomi, E., Kayran, E.N., De Wispelaere, F. & Danaj, S. (2023). *Comparative report of the survey on posting and receiving companies in the construction sector*. INFO-POW project. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

De Smedt, L., Zólyomi, E., Kayran, E.N., De Wispelaere, F. & Danaj, S. (2023). *Survey manual of the survey on posting and receiving companies in the construction sector*. INFO-POW project. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

De Smedt, L. & De Wispelaere, F. (2023). *INFO-POW: Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers*. Country report Belgium. Leuven: HIVA KU Leuven (European Centre Reports).

European Commission, written by Birtha, M. (2023). *Disability-relevance of quality assurance systems in social services – Synthesis report with input from the country experts of the European Disability Expertise (EDE)*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

European Commission, written by Birtha, M. (2023). *European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference report*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, DOI: 10.2767/37891.

Fuchs, M., Geyer, L. & Wohlgemuth, F. (2023). *EUROMOD Country Report Austria 2020-2023*. Sevilla: JRC.

Geyer, L., Prinz, N. & Bilitza, N. (forthcoming). *Driver Survey – Working conditions and collective action in the platform-based ride-hailing sector and beyond*. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

Gjylsheni S., Birtha, M. & Scoppetta, A. (2024). *Policy Review Report: Policy measures to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable groups*. Vienna: European Centre.

Gjylsheni, S., Birtha, M., Zólyomi, E. & Kadi, S. (2023). *Policy Review Report: Gender Equality and Care for Relatives*. Vienna: European Centre.

ICF & European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (2024). *Mutual learning workshop on access to social protection for workers and self-employed: focus on health, sickness, accidents at work and occupational diseases. Summary report*. Brussels & Vienna; ICF & European Centre.

ICF & European Centre, Fuchs, M. & Fiorio, C. (2024). 8th Mutual learning event on distributional impact assessment: reflecting on progress and looking ahead. Summary report. Brussels & Vienna: ICF & European Centre.

ICF & European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (2023). Mutual learning workshop on access to social protection for workers and self-employed: focus on transparency. Summary report. Brussels & Vienna: ICF & European Centre.

Kayran, E.N. & Mosimann, N. (2023). *Unequal Democracies. Trade Union Power and Welfare Equality between Foreign and Native Workers in Advanced Democracies*. Working Paper no. 45. Geneva: University of Geneva.

Kureková, L.M., Moran, A., Kováčová, L. & Studená, I. (2023). *INFO-POW: Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers. Country report Slovakia*. Bratislava: Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences, Institute for Forecasting, Slovak Academy of Sciences (European Centre Reports).

Scoppetta, A., Birtha, M. & Gjylsheni, S. (2023). *Peer Review North Macedonia Report: Deinstitutionalisation of Children and Persons with Disabilities*. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A. & Zólyomi, E. (2024). *Analysis of the state system in Uzbekistan to promote an integrated approach in employment and welfare services delivery for persons with disabilities*. Vienna: European Centre.

Scoppetta, A., Stott, L. & Gjylsheni, S. (2024). *Implementation of the Partnership Principle in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries. Report from the hands-on pilot of the project “Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings”*. Vienna: European Centre.

Simmons, C., Pot, M. & Leichsenring, K. (2023). *Scoping review on alternative purchasing arrangements: impact of purchasing, service delivery and institutional design on quality of chronic care*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Simmons, C., Zólyomi, E., Schoen, A. & Rodrigues, R. (forthcoming). Unmet needs, informal care and carers' health: Do unmet needs for formal care services impact informal carers?

Vah Jevšnik, M. & Toplak, K. (2023). *INFO-POW: Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers. Country report Slovenia*. Ljubljana: ZRC SAZU (European Centre Reports).

Cillo, R. & Perocco, F. (2023). *INFO-POW: Assessment of the channels of information and their use in the posting of workers. Country report Italy*. Venice: Ca'Foscari University (European Centre Reports).

Simmons, C., Kadi, S., Ondas, K., Leichsenring, K. (2023). *Policy Roadmap Austria*. InCARE Short Report. Vienna: European Centre.

Kayran, E.N., Ondas, K., Grberska Mitalkovska, T., García-Soler, Á., Olano, A., Iturburu, M., Prieto, D., Aguirregabiria, I., Galdona, N., Tesfay, E., Kadi, S., Leichsenring, K., van Gerven, L., Zonneveld, N. (2023). *Project evaluation report InCARE Project. InCARE Short Report*.

## Conference Papers, Presentations and Blogs

Pot, M. & Kadi, S. (2024). "Paradoxical citizenship": Informal carers and the politics of administrative burden. Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 15 August.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). Rising longevity and the life-course perspective – The need for a comprehensive research agenda for ageing and social policy. Paper presented at the British Society of Gerontology Annual Conference, Newcastle, United Kingdom, 4 July.

Birtha, M. (2024). EU Framework on Social Services of Excellence. Presentation at EASPD Knowledge Café (online), 3 July.

Geyer, L., Prinz, N., Danaj, S., Bilitza, N. & Kayran, E.N. (2024). Job quality and unionisation among platform workers in Austria. Paper presented at the ILERA conference "Challenges and Choices at Work in a Time of Heightening Worker Activism", New York City, 26-30 June.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). Im Alter dabei sein – wie geht das? Altern in der Gemeinde [Participation in old age – how to do? Ageing in the community]. Presentation given at St. Andrä-Wördern, Austria, 6 June.

Birtha, M. (2024). The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research – An Overview. Guest lecture at Central European University, Skills for Impact Course: Engaging international organisations in Vienna, Austria, 28 May.

Scoppetta, A. (with M. Varlamova) (2024). Labour market research for an ageing workforce in times of digitalisation. Book chapter presented at the European Centre's International Seminar 'A Research Agenda for an Ageing Workforce and Shifting Social Relations in Times of Digitalization' (online), 21 May.

Danaj, S. (2024). Peer Review Input on Albania. Eurofound Workshop on the Report: Young People in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, Brussels, Belgium, 14 May.

Kayran, E.N. (2024). Fighting for Social Europe while Europe is at War. Paper presented at the Tübingen Seminar on Social Europe. University of Tübingen, Germany, 2-3 May.

Fuchs, M. (2024). (Nicht)Inanspruchnahme von Sozialhilfe & Mindestsicherung – Österreich und EU. Guest Lecture at the University of Applied Sciences Linz, Austria, 19 April.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). Challenges of emerging long-term care systems – Needs, rights and choices in Europe. Lecture at the training of doctoral researchers of HOMeAGE (Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home), Ancona, Italy, 10 April.

Kadi, S. & Pot, M. (2024). Enabling young carers and young adult carers to care and not to care in the welfare state. Paper presented at the 4th International Young Carers Conference, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom, 9-11 April.

Fuchs, M. & Groß-Wohlgemuth, F. (2024). Simulation of an increase of the minimum pension top-up in Austria. Paper presented at the 6th ESPAnet Austria Research Conference on Social Policy, Linz, Austria, 4-5 April.

Groß-Wohlgemuth, F. (2024). *Which family ideals benefit from the hidden welfare state? The objectives of family taxation in Europe.* Paper presented at the 6th ESPAnet Austria Research Conference on Social Policy, Linz, Austria, 4-5 April.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). A research agenda for ageing and social policy. Presentation at the ASEM Global Ageing Center (AGAC) Global Advisory Group (online), 28 March.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). Reimagining LTC Coordination and Integration – Revisiting concepts and practices in Europe. Input to the Worldbank Seminar 'Gray Matters: Strengthening Long-Term Care Coordination', Zagreb, Croatia (online), 20 March.

Birtha, M. (2024). Disability-relevance of quality assurance systems in social services. Presentation on behalf of EDE at the Disability Platform meeting by the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, 18 March.

Kadi, S. (2024). Langlebigkeit für alle? Überlegungen zu den ethischen Aspekten der Langlebigkeit [Longevity for all? Considerations on ethical aspects of longevity]. Presentation at Trendtage Gesundheit Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland, 6 March.

Scoppetta, A. & Danaj, S. (2024). Entsendung – Grenzüberschreitende Arbeitsmobilität mit komplexer Rechtsmaterie und Ausbeutungsrisiko [Posting – Cross-border labour mobility with complex legal issues and risk of exploitation]. *A&W Blog*. 27 February. <https://www.awblog.at/Arbeit/Entsendung-komplexe-Rechtsmaterie-und-Ausbeutungsrisiko>

Danaj, S. (2024). The challenge of undeclared work in long supply chains spanning outside the EU. ELA Platform webinar: Tackling undeclared work among third-country nationals working in supply chains, including via temporary work agencies (online), 21 February.

Fuchs M. & Groß-Wohlgemuth, F. (2024). Simulation der Einführung einer Kindergrundsicherung in Österreich [Simulation of a basic security for children in Austria], Expert Talk, Landhaus Bregenz, Austria, 16 February.

Fuchs, M. (2024). Evidence-driven design of benefits. Presentation at the 8th Mutual Learning Event on Distributional Impact Assessment: Reflecting on progress and looking ahead, Brussels, Belgium, 7-8 February.

Leichsenring, K. (2024). The role of migration in long-term care – European patterns and the case of Austria. Contribution to the EU-Taiwan Engagement Support Facility: Expert Study Visit Inquiry, European Values Center for Security Policy (online), 23 January.

Birtha, M. (2024). Energy poverty and targeted measures to support vulnerable groups during the cost-of-living crisis in the EU and selected Member States. Presentation at the Study visit of the Moldovan high-level delegation in the frame of the Data for Impact project (funded by USAID), Vienna, Austria, 17 January.

Danaj, S. (2024). Introduction to the *INFO-POW Final Conference and Upscaling Event*. European Labour Authority (ELA), Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 17 January.

Kayran, E.N. (2024). Mapping exercise: methodology and comparative findings. Presentation at the INFO-POW Final Conference and Upscaling Event. ELA, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 17 January.

Zólyomi, E. (2024) Case studies: national findings Austria. Presentation at the INFO-POW Final Conference and Upscaling Event, European Labour Authority (ELA), Bratislava, 17 January.

Fuchs, M. & Groß-Wohlgemuth, F. (2024). Simulation of an introduction of a basic security for children in Austria. Paper presented at the 9th IMA World Congress, Vienna, Austria, 8-10 January.

Birtha, M. (2023). Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost-of-living crisis. Presentation at the Annual Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 29 November.

Birtha, M. (2023). The implementation of reasonable accommodation in employment by the European Union. Keynote presentation at the International Congress on Intellectual Disabilities in the Workplace: Towards universal accessibility in employment, Elche, Spain, 5-6 October.

Kadi, S. (2023). Short introduction to the InCARE project and results. Presentation at the final conference of the InCARE project – Supporting Social Innovation in LTC, Vienna, 28 September.

Kayran, E.N. (2023). Integrating evaluation into social experimentation projects. Presentation at the final conference of the InCARE project – Supporting Social Innovation in LTC, Vienna, 28 September.

Danaj, S. (2023). Expert input at the *Launch Event of the ELA report on the construction sector*, BMAS & ELA. Berlin, 25 September.

Fuchs M., Wohlgemuth F. (2023). Simulation of an introduction of a basic security for children in Austria. Paper presented at the EUROMOD Annual Meeting, Seville, Spain, 21-22 September.

Staflinger, H., Kadi, S., Pot, M. (2023). Young (Adult) Carers in (Ober-)Österreich, *A&W blog*, 18 September 2023. Available online: <https://awblog.at/young-adult-carers-in-oberoesterreich/>

Wohlgemuth, F. (2023). Exploring cross-country differences in family taxation. Do they fit to countries' family ideals? Paper presented at the D-A-CH Congress 2023, Salzburg, Austria, 11-13 September.

## Training

Scoppetta, A. & Leichsenring, K. (2024). Partnership and interagency cooperation. Training on Integrated Case Management in Uzbekistan (online), 26 June.

Leichsenring, K. & Birtha, M. (2023). Innovation in long-term care and quality assurance in delivering social services. Training for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Moldova in the framework of the 'Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings' project (online), 15-16 November.

## Media Presence and Coverage

Fuchs M., interview by newspaper Der Standard, "4600 Euro Mindestsicherung als Spaltpilz", 2 August 2024, p. 13.

Fuchs M., Krank, aber nicht versichert?, Live-Discussion in Ö1 (radio station of Austrian public-service broadcasting) "Punkt eins", 1 August 2024.

Fuchs M., Groß-Wohlgemuth F., Erhöhung der Ausgleichszulage über Armutsgefährdungsschwelle: Es profitieren mehr als 1,1 Millionen Menschen, in: Interesse 2024/2, p.4, Diözese Linz.

Fuchs M., interview by newspaper Vorarlberger Nachrichten, “Den Kindern eine Grundsicherung?”, 17 February 2024, p. 2.

Fuchs M., interview by ORF.at (news-website of Austrian public-service broadcasting), “Kindergrundsicherung gegen Armut”, 16 February 2024.

## International Seminars (online)

*A Research Agenda for Opportunities of Rising Longevity and Developing Long-Term Care Systems*, 4 June 2024

Speakers:

- Sarah Harper, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Giovanni Lamura, INRCA, Italy
- Henk Nies, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

*A Research Agenda for an Ageing Workforce and Shifting Social Relations in Times of Digitalization*, 21 May 2024

Speakers:

- Toni C. Antonucci, University of Michigan, USA
- Anette Scoppetta, European Centre
- Maria Varlamova, University of Krakow, Poland

*A Research Agenda against Ageism and for Active Ageing*, 30 April 2024

Speakers:

- Liat Ayalon, Bar Ilan University, Israel
- Clemens Tesch-Römer, German Centre of Gerontology, Germany
- Oxana Sinyavskaya, Institute for Social Policy, National Research University, Russia

*A Research Agenda for Digitalisation and Population Ageing*, 16 April 2024

Speakers:

- Alexander Peine, Open University, The Netherlands
- Anne Meissner, University of Hildesheim, Germany
- Anna Wanka, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany

*A Research Agenda for Ageing and Social Policy - Book launch event, 27 March 2024*

Speakers:

- Kai Leichsenring, European Centre
- Alexandre Sidorenko, European Centre
- Short inputs and contributions by the authors

*The Finnish social and healthcare reform: First evaluation results, 5 December 2023*

Speaker:

- Minna-Liisa Luoma, National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland), and Associate Professor at the University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Guest Fellow at the European Centre

*Administrative registers in research – Nordic and Austrian perspectives, 3 October 2023*

Speakers:

- Mika Gissler, National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland), the University of Turku (Finland), the University of Oulu (Finland) and Karolinska Institutet (Sweden)
- Minna-Liisa Luoma, National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland), Associate Prof. University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Guest Fellow at the European Centre
- Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (Austria)





# Organisation

## Management and Staff

### Management

**Kai Leichsenring**, Executive Director

**Anette Scoppetta**, Deputy Director

**Judith Schreiber**, Head of Administration and Finance

### Researchers

**Nikko Bilitza**

**Magdi BIRTHA**

**Sonila Danaj**

**Michael Fuchs**

**Leonard Geyer**

**Sabina Gjylsheni**

**Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth**

**Selma Kadi**

**Niki Kalavrezou**

**Elif Naz Kayran**

**Kai Leichsenring**

**Mirjam Pot**

**Nicolas Prinz** (until July 2024)

**Anette Scoppetta**

**Cassandra Simmons** (until March 2024)

**Eszter Zólyomi**



## Administration, Public Relations and IT

**Monika Hunjadi** (until October 2023)

**Daria Jadric**

**Anna Valerie Obernberger**

**Sebastian Ruttner**

**Sandra Scharf**

**Judith Schreiber**

**Amália Solymosi** (until March 2024)

## Research Affiliates / Policy Consultants

**Nikolai Botev**

**Adelina Comas-Herrera**

**Katrin Gasior**

**Cornelius (Cees) Goos**

**Giovanni Lamura**

**Ricardo Rodrigues**

**Andrea E. Schmidt**

**Alexandre Sidorenko**

**Cassandra Simmons**

# Board of Directors

## Chair

**Ghada Fathi Waly**, Director-General  
United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

## Acting Chair

**Angela Me**, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

## Ex Officio Member

**Kai Leichsenring**, Executive Director  
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

## Austrian Mandate

**Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection – Bundesministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege und Konsumentenschutz**

**Georg Reibmayr**  
(Alternates: Manfred Kornfehl, Marc Pointecker, Andreas Schaller)

**Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research – Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung**

**Matthias Reiter-Pázmándy**  
(Alternate: Bettina Glaser)

**Vienna City Administration / Magistrat der Stadt Wien**

**Ursula Ganai**

**Federation of Austrian Trade Unions – Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund (ÖGB)**

**Julia Stroj**  
(Alternate: David Mum)

**Austrian Federal Economic Chamber – Wirtschaftskammer (WKO)**

**Emanuel Ludwig**  
(Alternate: Christa Schweng)

## International Mandate

### Israel

**Renee Techelet**, Board Member  
Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs

### Poland

**Ewa Chylek**, Board Member Alternate  
Ministry of Family and Social Policy

### Slovenia

*(to be nominated)*  
Ministry of Solidarity-Based Future

### Spain

**María Teresa Sancho Castiello**  
(Alternate: Manuel Montero Rey)  
Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO)

### Sweden

**Tony Malmborg**  
(Alternate: Kristoffer Lundberg)  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

### Switzerland

**Sabina Littmann-Wernli**  
Federal Social Insurance Office

### Finland (coopted)

**Minna-Liisa Luoma**  
Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

### Norway (coopted)

**Thore Hansen**  
NAV - Directorate of Labour and Welfare

### Ireland (coopted)

**Jim Lynch**  
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

## NLOs / National Liaison Officials

### Armenia

**Yevgine Vardanyan**

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

### Austria

**Georg Reibmayr**

Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

### Azerbaijan

**Aygun Khalilova**

National Observatory on Labour Market and Social Protection Affairs  
under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan

### Belgium

**Koen Vleminckx**

FOD Sociale Zekerheid – SPF Sécurité Sociale

### Czech Republic

**Robin Maialeh**

Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs

### Finland

**Minna-Liisa Luoma**

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

### France

**Chloé Ridel**

Ministère des Solidarités/Ministère délégué chargé de l'égalité

### Georgia

**Ketevan Goginashvili**

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories,  
Labour, Health and Social Affairs

### Ireland

**Jim Lynch**

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

### Israel

**Renee Techelet**

Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs

### Kosovo

**Muhamet Klinaku**

Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo

### Moldova

**Oleg Barcari**

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection



**North Macedonia**

**Aleksandra Slavkoska and Ana Georgievska**

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

**Norway**

**Thore Hansen**

NAV – Directorate of Labour and Welfare

**Poland**

**Ewa Chylek**

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

**Portugal**

**José Albuquerque and Rute Guerra**

Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

**Serbia**

**Danka Cancarević**

Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs

**Slovak Republic**

**Daniel Gerbery**

Institute for Labour and Family Research

**Slovenia**

**Martina Trbanc**

Social Protection Institute

**Spain**

**Manuel Montero Rey and Manuel Vuguín Garcia**

Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO)

**Sweden**

**Kristoffer Lundberg**

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

**Switzerland**

**Sabina Littmann-Wernli**

Federal Social Insurance Office

**Ukraine**

*(pending)*

Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

**Uzbekistan**

*(pending)*

National Agency of Social Protection under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



**Copyright © 2024 European Centre  
for Social Welfare Policy and Research**

**Publisher**

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research  
Berggasse 17

A-1090 Vienna, Austria

Tel +43-1-319 45 05-0

Email [ec@euro.centre.org](mailto:ec@euro.centre.org)

<http://www.euro.centre.org>

**Editor** Kai Leichsenring

**Copy-Editing & DTP** Daria Jadric,

Anna Valerie Obernberger

**Design** Barbara Waldschütz

**Status** as of 1 September 2024



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH