

SPEAKERS



Slavina Spasova

Slavina Spasova, PhD in Political Science (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB), has been OSE's Director since December 2023. Previously, she was a Senior Researcher, focusing on social protection topics like protection for the self-employed, pension reforms, work-life balance, long-term care. She is the OSE coordinator in the European Social Policy Analysis Network (ESPAN). She is also a research associate at the CEVIPOL, ULB and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of European Social Security



Michael Förster

Michael Förster is a senior researcher and policy analyst in the fields of economic inequality and social policy. He has lead OECD work in this area for more than ten years, resulting in a series of flagship publications: "Divided We Stand" (2011), "In It Together" (2015), "A Broken Social Elevator?" (2018), "Under Pressure: The Squeezed Middle Class (2019), and "Does Inequality Matter? How people perceive economic disparities and social mobility" (2021). Since 2022 Michael has been lecturing as a guest professor at the University of Antwerp and at SciencesPo Paris. He is member of several advisory boards of international research projects and author of various journal articles, research papers and book contributions, including to the Elsevier Handbook of Income Distribution.

CHAIR

Anette Scoppetta is Deputy Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and part of the Employment and Labour Mobility team. [Read more.](#)

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SPEAKERS

Mihail Arandarenko

Mihail Arandarenko is professor of Labour Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Belgrade, Serbia. He has published extensively on issues of labour markets and employment, political economy and social policy, especially in the context of difficult socio-economic transformation in Serbia and South Eastern Europe. He was a distinguished visiting professor at the City University of New York (2018-2019), academic visiting fellow of the IMF (2017); senior visiting fellow at the London School of Economics (2014-2015) and post-doctoral fellow at Collegium Budapest (1999-2000). He has had a large number of short and long term consulting engagements for the European Commission, International Labour Organisation, World Bank, UNDP, ETF, Eurofound, EBRD, OECD, USAID, GIZ, SDC, DFID and other international institutions and development agencies.

Meike Bukowski

Dr. rer. pol Meike Bukowski is post doc and senior scientist at the Paris-Lodron University Salzburg, Austria. Her work for the department of Social Geography and Sociology, incl. the Centre of Ethics and Poverty Research (CERP), involves teaching and research on socioecological topics related to space, environmental and climate justice and conflict (inter alia affordable and climate-friendly housing, urban and rural inequalities). She is experienced in leading international SDG research projects e.g. in Tanzania, Brazil, USA etc. focusing SDG1 and SDG10. As an ecological economist, she has designed an Inequality and Poverty Assessment Model (IPAM) as well as the Conservation Justice and Conflict model (CJC) on environmental and social impacts. She is affiliated with the SDG university network UniNetZ, focusing SDG1/SDG10 and SDG/E4A indicator development, with participative modelling parts. She is a member of the Club of Rome Austrian Chapter and therefore researching on the combination of SDG and Earth for all implementation.

Kristoffer Lundberg

Kristoffer Lundberg, Deputy Director at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, specializes in policy analysis across various domains. He integrates statistical and AI methodologies to enhance policy development. As the Chair of the EU's Social Protection Committee's Indicators' Sub-Group (2020-2024), he led the development of EU social indicators and analytical frameworks for policy evaluations. He represents Sweden in several EU and OECD committees and is a board member of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. Kristoffer holds an M.Sc. in Mathematical Statistics from Stockholm University.

Lisa Warth

Lisa Warth heads the Population Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) whose work contributes to promoting policy dialogue on various facets of demographic change across the UNECE region. Through the inter-governmental Standing Working Group on Ageing, UNECE supports member States across Europe, Central Asia and North America in the implementation, monitoring, and appraisal of progress in implementing international policy frameworks on ageing, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Through technical advisory services, capacity building and various knowledge products including guidelines, policy briefs and seminars, UNECE promotes experience exchange and guidance on mainstreaming ageing. Prior to joining UNECE in 2017 Lisa coordinated and developed the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities and Age-friendly World platform at WHO. Lisa has a background in comparative policy analysis and holds a doctorate in Social Policy from the London School of Economics. www.unece.org/population

CHAIR

Sonila Danaj is team lead of the Employment and Labour Mobility team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

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PRESENTATION OF DISCUSSION PAPER



Elif Naz Kayran

Elif Naz Kayran is part of the Employment and Labour Mobility team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)



Leonard Geyer

Leonard Geyer is part of the Employment and Labour Mobility team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

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Michael Blauburger

Michael Blauburger is Professor of European Union Politics at the University of Salzburg. He wrote his doctoral thesis at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, and the University of Bremen; he was Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence and Visiting Professor at Rutgers University and Ludwig Maximilians University Munich. His publications on EU free movement and competition policy, EU judicial politics and on (countering) democratic backsliding have appeared e.g. in the Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of European Public Policy, West European Politics, Regulation & Governance. He edits the research agenda and debate sections of the Journal of European Public Policy and coordinates the doc.funds doctoral college "Challenges of European Integration".



Tadas Leončikas

Tadas Leončikas is Head of the Employment unit at Eurofound (EU agency in Dublin). Previously, he was a senior research manager in the Social Policies unit, managing the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) and developing Eurofound survey research. Since joining Eurofound in 2010, he has worked on various topics including survey methods, quality of life, trust, social mobility, social inclusion, social services. Tadas's background is in sociology and in his earlier career, he headed up the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Lithuania working on studies related to the situation of ethnic minorities, migrants and other vulnerable groups, and helped to facilitate integration of Roma to labour market. As a researcher, he has previously collaborated with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration.

CHAIR

Kai Leichsenring

Kai Leichsenring is Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and team lead of the Health and Care team at the European Centre. [Read more.](#)



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Selma Kadi

Selma Kadi is part of the Health and Care team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)



Niki Kalavrezou

Niki Kalavrezou is part of the Health and Care team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)



Mirjam Pot

Mirjam Pot is part of the Health and Care team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

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Emma Dowling

Emma Dowling is a sociologist and political scientist. Prior to joining the Department of Sociology at the University of Vienna, she held academic positions in Germany and the UK. Her research interests include social change; welfare state transformations; gender, care and social reproduction; emotions and work. She is the author of *The Care Crisis: What Caused It and How Can We End It?* (Verso, 2021).



Henk Nies

Prof. dr. Henk Nies has worked at the edge of policy, practice and research in long-term care throughout his career. He was CEO of Vilans, the National Centre of Expertise in the Netherlands. From 2012 to 2023 he also held a position as endowed professor of Organisation and Policy Development in Long-term Care at the Vrije University of Amsterdam. At this moment he has a number of additional functions in the Netherlands, such as member of the Quality Council at the National Health Care Institute and chairman of the Operational Committee of the National Dementia Strategy 2022-2026. Since the end of 2019 he is member of the Board of Directors of Eurocarers, and since 2021, vice-president.

CHAIR

Magdi BIRTHA is team lead of the Social Protection and Inclusion team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

Magdi BIRTHA



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Eszter Zólyomi

Eszter Zólyomi is part of the Social Protection and Inclusion team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

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Karin Heitzmann

Karin Heitzmann is an associate professor at the Institute for Social Policy at WU-Vienna University of Economics and Business. She also heads the Research Institute Economics of Inequality. She studied at WU, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA, the University of Bath, England, and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland. After completing her doctorate at WU, she worked for one year as a consultant at the World Bank (Social Protection Department) in Washington, D.C., USA. Her main research and teaching interests are: welfare state research (Austrian social policy; foundations of social policy); poverty research (analysis of poverty policy, causes and effects of poverty and groups affected by poverty, e.g. single parents); inequality research (poverty, wealth and inequality in the EU/OECD).

CHAIR

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Sonila Danaj



PANELISTS

Marta Kahancova

Marta Kahancova is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of the Central European Labour Studies Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia. She also works as an Associate Professor of Public Policy at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. Marta's research interests centre on working conditions, social dialogue, collective bargaining, vulnerable groups in the labour market and working conditions of non-standard workers including gig workers. She has published in international peer reviewed journals, works regularly in international research consortia on labour market research and also serves as an employment policy expert for the European Commission and the European Labour Authority's working group The European Platform for Tackling Undeclared Work.

Thore Hansen

Mr. Thore Hansen has since 2016 held the position of Senior Advisor in the Department of Research and Analysis in the Norwegian Directorate of Labor and Welfare. From 2008 – 2016 Mr. Hansen served as the Director-General of the Norwegian National Office for Social Insurance Abroad, the central case management unit for international social security affairs. Prior to joining the Labor and Welfare Administration in 2008, Mr. Hansen held a number of international posts for the United Nations Development Programme over a period of 15 years, serving in 4 countries.

Jan Drahokoupil

Jan Drahokoupil is Head of Analysis and Risk Assessment Sector at the European Labour Authority. Before joining ELA, Dr Drahokoupil conducted academic and applied research on labour markets and labour mobility in the European Union.

Anna Daimler

Anna Daimler was born in Salzburg in 1980. She is a trained social worker and business economist. Since 2019, she has been the General Secretary of the transport and services union vida. She previously worked in the cabinet of Federal Minister Jörg Leichtfried (transport, innovation & technology, bmvit). Between 2007 and 2016, Anna Daimler held a number of senior roles in the transport and services union vida. Between 2005 and 2007, she was Secretary General of the Austrian Students Union.

Natasha Ghulam

Ms. Mag. Natasha Ghulam, LL.M. (Cambridge) is a lawyer who has been working as a legal policy officer at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Department of Social and Health Policy, since 2020. She studied at the University of Vienna, Leiden University, and the University of Cambridge. As part of her work, she deals with legal issues relating to the employment of third-country nationals and labor and skills shortages. Therefore, one focus of her work is legal issues relating to the 'Red-White-Red Card.' She is the author of several publications on the topic of employment of third-country nationals, participates in relevant expert panels, and holds lectures for specialist audiences.

CHAIR

Cees Goos studied social sciences and psychology and was employed initially by the national center for addictions and mental health, Ministry Foreign Affairs and UNESCO. He joined WHO later and is since his retirement associated with the European Centre as [voluntary consultant public health](#).

Cees Goos



PANELISTS



Niamh Lennox-Chhugani

Dr Niamh Lennox-Chhugani is Chief Executive of the International Foundation for Integrated Care. She has experience in evidence-based transformation in healthcare internationally as a clinician, academic and consultant. She has led care programmes in the NHS over a span of 30 years. She also has international policy experience with the World Bank and WHO including health system policy reform in Europe, Africa and Asia. As a subject matter expert on integrated care as part of wider healthcare reform, she has spoken at conferences, on panels, authored peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, contributed as part of international teams to health system reviews and integrated care evaluations. She has a PhD from Imperial College London in organisation change in healthcare. She is on the editorial board of the International Journal for Integrated Care and sits on the advisory board of numerous integrated care research programmes.



Stefania Ilinca

Dr. Stefania Ilinca is Technical Officer for long-term care with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health and a Salzburg Global Seminar fellow. She has extensive experience working at the interface between policy and research, dividing her time between policy advice, technical support, applied research and advocacy efforts. Her work focuses on innovation and service design in health and long-term care systems and discrimination and inequity in access to health and long-term care, with particular attention to strengthening care delivery for people with complex needs, supporting integrated care models and improving access to needed care over the life course.



Giovanni Lamura

Giovanni Lamura leads the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at IRCCS INRCA (Italy's National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He graduated in economics, achieved a PhD in Life course and social policy (University of Bremen, Germany), and was visiting fellow at University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research (Austria). His interests focus on international research on family and long-term care; migrant care work; interdisciplinary research on ageing. He has led several European projects on long-term care issues, including the use of new technologies to support care delivery and reduce the burden of family carers.



Mateja Nagode

Mateja Nagode is the Acting General Director of the Directorate for Elderly, Long-Term Care, and Deinstitutionalization at the Ministry for a Solidary Future, Slovenia. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Ljubljana. Before joining the Ministry, she worked for nearly 20 years at the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, where she led key research and development projects in the field of social welfare and long-term care. Her current focus is on shaping policies for improving care systems through evidence-based approaches and effective project management.



Stecy Yghemonos

Stecy Yghemonos is the Executive Director of Eurocarers, the European organisation dedicated to supporting informal carers. Eurocarers brings together 75 organisations from 25 countries, working collectively to ensure that the growing care needs of Europe's ageing population are met in a universal and equitable manner, while also recognising, valuing and supporting the vital contribution of informal carers. With a background in journalism, Stecy is an EU policy and communications specialist. Over the past two decades, he has played an active role in the development and strengthening of EU policies in the fields of human rights, health and social equity, and access to high-quality care.

CHAIR

Magdi Birtha is team lead of the Social Protection and Inclusion team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

Magdi Birtha



PANELISTS

Oleg Barcari

Oleg Barcari is head of the Social Assistance of Low Income Families and the Elderly Policy Unit at the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. He has a significant experience of over 20 years in supporting social initiatives regarding human rights, and during the activity he participated in the development of the National Guaranteed Minimum Income Program for poor families, developed and implemented 4 programs to support the population during the cold period of the year, developed the normative framework for the protection of veterans; during 2022-2024, successfully developed and implemented 3 National anti-crisis Payments Programs for the Population with the support of UN Agencies; normative framework for creating the Social Assistance Informational System; and normative framework for creation of the State Social Inspection Authority.

Jadranka Kaludjerovic

Jadranka Kaludjerovic is professor of economics at UDG, Montenegro and director of Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses (ISSP) economic think tank. She has 25 years of research experience. Her research interests are business cycles, economic theory and macroeconomics. She managed implementation of more than 100 projects in the area of macroeconomics, economics and social policy analyses as well as different sectorial policies.

Irene Bertana

Irene Bertana is a Senior Policy Officer at the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD). In her role, she focuses on policy work with the European Parliament and on services related to children, families, and inclusive education. Irene holds a Master's degree in International Relations and Human Rights and has extensive experience in the non-profit sector, working and volunteering in areas such as non-discrimination, human rights education, migration, and disability.

Michael Herrmann

Michael Herrmann has more than 25 years of work experience in the UN, serving in headquarters and field offices. Before assuming his current role as Senior Adviser with UNFPA, he worked as an Economist with UNCTAD. His work focuses on economics, demography and sustainable development and the strengthening of the science-policy interface. He is a Member of the WEF's Global Expert Network; author and co-author of more than a dozen UN flagship reports on the world economy and emerging markets; and editor and lead author of "Consequential Omissions" -- a book on the ways in which demographic megatrends shape progress towards sustainable development goals.

Michael Fuchs

Michael Fuchs is part of the Social Protection and Inclusion team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

CHAIR

Anette Scoppetta is Deputy Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and part of the Employment and Labour Mobility team. [Read more.](#)

Anette Scoppetta



LEARNINGS FROM DAY 1



Sonila Danaj

Sonila Danaj is team lead of the Employment and Labour Mobility team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)



Kai Leichsenring

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Magdi BIRTHA

Magdi BIRTHA is team lead of the Social Protection and Inclusion team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. [Read more.](#)

COMMENTS



Žarko Šunderić

Žarko Šunderić has served as the Director of the Center for Social Policy, a Belgrade-based think-tank, since January 2016. He co-founded and is a member of the [the regional Western Balkans Network: The Future of the Welfare State](#), which gathers leading think-tank organizations and researchers in the Western Balkan countries dealing with welfare state issues. Previously, Žarko headed the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia from 2008 to 2015, overseeing coordination, monitoring, and reporting on social inclusion and poverty reduction efforts. He actively contributed to the development and implementation of key national development strategies in Serbia, with a focus on European social inclusion policies and the Poverty Reduction Strategy. He has been working in public administration reforms in the area of social protection and promoted evidence-based policy making throughout his career.



Martin Kahanec

Martin Kahanec is a Professor at the Department of Public Policy at Central European University (CEU) in Vienna, Director of its Shattuck Center for Human Rights, and former Dean of CEU's School of Public Policy. He co-founded the Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI) and is an Affiliated Scholar at the Global Labor Organization. His research spans labor and population economics, migration and EU mobility, social and welfare policies, education, with extensive academic and policy publications. Kahanec has held senior advisory roles with e.g. the World Bank, European Commission, and European Parliament, contributing to policy discussions on labor markets, migration, and social reforms. He also serves as Chair of the "Economics, Business and Management" Section at Academia Europaea.



Adelina Comas

Adelina Comas-Herrera is the director of the Global Observatory of Long-Term Care and works at the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science. She has a background in Economics (BA and MSc, Universitat Pompeu Fabra). She is Principal Investigator of STRiDE England, a project exploring how to address inequalities in access to care, treatment and support for people with dementia. During the COVID pandemic she led the LTCcovid.org website, facilitating international learning on how the pandemic was affecting people who use and provide long-term care. She has over 25 years experience of research on Long-Term Care, particularly on projections of future spending on care, Long-Term Care financing, and the impacts and challenges posed by dementia.

CHAIR

Alexandre Sidorenko

Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko is an expert in national and international policy on ageing. He is involved in providing advisory services to the Central European, Eastern European and Central Asian countries in developing and implementing regional and national policies on population change and ageing. His current assignments and duties: [Senior Advisor](#), European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna, Austria); Member of the Board of HelpAge International (London, UK); International Tutor, International Institute on Ageing (UN-Malta); Member, Societal Advisory Board for the Joint Programming Initiative More years, better lives (EU).



SPEAKERS

Frederico Guanais

Frederico Guanais is Deputy Head of the OECD Health Division. He leads the Division's work in health statistics, people-centred health systems, climate change and health, and developing the Patient-Reported Indicators Survey (PaRIS), a large-scale, multi-country initiative benchmarking the performance of health systems from the patient's perspective. He also directs the Division's efforts in supporting the implementation of health reforms in European countries and regional initiatives in Latin America. Before joining the OECD, he was Principal Health Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank, and served as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Social Development at the Government of Brazil. He has an extensive record of publications on primary health care and health systems strengthening. He is a dual citizen of Brazil and Italy and holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration from New York University.



Anna Zhamakochyan

Anna Zhamakochyan is Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia, a position she has held since 2020. In her role she directs social assistance, social integration, housing policies; manages the budget and ensures compliance with international norms. She holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Sociology from Yerevan State University, alongside certifications in Art Criticism and Translation. Before her current role, she served as President of the Socioscope NGO, where she led policy advocacy and research initiatives. From 2009 to 2016, Anna Zhamakochyan served as Researcher and Head of the Information Center for Research, where she conducted research and managed educational projects.



Ana Carla Pereira

Ana Carla Pereira is Cabinet Expert and employment&social policy adviser to Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights. Previously she was Head of Unit in Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission, firstly being responsible for skills and qualifications policies and later on for social protection policies (including pensions, long-term care and health). As Head of Unit she coordinated several Commission policy initiatives such as the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the initiative on 'access to social protection' or the Pensions Adequacy Reports. She has also worked more than ten years on the implementation of European Employment Strategy and several years in the private sector as a business consultant specialised in human performance. She graduated in Economics at University of Coimbra (PT) and holds a MA in European Human Resources Studies from the College of Europe (BE). She speaks Portuguese as a mother tongue and is fluent in English, French and Italian.



Kai Leichsenring

Kai Leichsenring is Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and team lead of the Health and Care team at the European Centre. [Read more.](#)

