Singularities of the European Centre

1. Coverage of the UN-European Region, i.e. ‘Europe of the 56 plus’ countries including North America, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Israel in the Middle East as a geographical domain

2. UN-affiliation (since 1974) and independence at the same time

3. Policy expertise: integrated policies in overlapping areas between welfare, health, care, labour, migration, population and social development

4. Linking the worlds of theory and practice
Our Vision

- Extend applied research in the UNECE Region (enlarged Europe)
- Enhance policy relevance
- Boost networking and public relations
- Facilitate organisational development and sustainable funding

Our Mission: Bridge-building

- Translate research findings
- Provide access to knowledge and opportunities
- Improve social participation and inclusion
- Engage in strategic partnerships (Research, NGOs, Market and Governments)
- Between research and policy-making
- Between Europe and UN European Region
- Between excluded and included partners in the welfare mix
Our Organisation

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Sandra Schaffr
Willem Stamatis

Areas of Expertise – Research Focus

Expertise in the fields of welfare and social policy development in a broad sense

Focus on

- interplay of socio-economic developments with institutions of the mixed economy of welfare
- governance of social policies in the context of population ageing
- monetary transfers, in-kind benefits, and social services
- population needs and social rights (UN Sustainable Development Goals)
Areas of expertise

**Work & Welfare Unit**

- Ageing & Generations
- Poverty & Social Inclusion
- Labour Market & Social Policy
- Pensions & Social Security
- Tax Benefit Policy Modelling

**Health & Care Unit**

- Ageing, Health & Social Services
- Health Economics & Health Policy
- Long-term Care
- Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction
- Health Promotion and Prevention

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**Ageing 4.0: Integrated life-course perspectives in a solidaristic society**

- 'Second, third ... chances'
- Guaranteed Income ('life-course transition payments')

Source: Leichsenring & Schmidt, 2016, © European Centre
The welfare triangle and the mixed economy of welfare

- Market
- State
- Third Sector
- Households / Families

- (New) Partnerships needed
- Multi-level governance
- Acknowledging formal and informal contributions
- Considering unpaid (care) work
- Social inclusion is not only a statutory responsibility

The Bridging Function

- Between policy, research and practice
- Between EU Member States, potential Accession Countries and the Eastern Partnership
  - Comparative social policy research
  - Knowledge transfer and public forum
  - Policy consultancy based on empirical evidence
- Between various sectors of social welfare to promote people-centred, inclusive and integrated provision of services and facilities
  - Qualitative and quantitative approaches
  - Microsimulation and modeling
  - Policy analysis and case studies
Bridge-building highlights

- **EESPN - Eastern European Social Policy Network**

- **Missions to and Memoranda of Understanding of most Western Balkan countries and countries of the Eastern partnership**

- **Projects**: Support for Better Social Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups in Kosovo, EEPPOW- Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe, Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkan economies, ...

First Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare

- 5 days of intensive training and knowledge exchange for 12 participants from 9 Eastern European countries
- Involvement of most staff members
- Development of 3 project proposals
- Public event at the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Selected Projects

EEPOW – Posting of Workers in Eastern Europe

- EaSI – Posting of Workers: enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information (VP/2017/003)
- Proposal submitted in June 2017 (follow-up of POOSH with altered focus on the Western Balkans)
- European Centre as lead partner with
  - 7 partners from Slovenia, Italy, Germany, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia; and
  - 3 associate organisations
- Respective Ministries/public organisations act either as partner or associate organisations

The project is set up to proactively address the issue of posting of workers at its pre-accession stage and to enhance mutual learning on the prevention of social dumping to minimise associated risks for workers between EU and EU candidate countries.
Kosovo: Support for better social services for the most vulnerable groups

- April 2017 - September 2019
- Funded by: European Union Office in Kosovo, SIDA Sweden
- Project partners: Save the Children Sweden, Save the Children International Kosovo Office

- Objectives: The project will support stakeholders in addressing the following issues:
  1. Develop a financial model and establish a specific formula for social services
  2. Enable data collection on vulnerable groups for planning purposes
  3. Set criteria for assessing training needs
  4. Enhance professional capacity at municipal level
  5. Refine and implement standards for social service provision
  6. Support action plans for cross-municipal cooperation with service providers
  7. Engage NGOs to provide financially sustainable social services for the vulnerable

Integrated Case Management for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the Western Balkans

- July 2017 - November 2017
- Funded by: UNDP - Istanbul Regional Hub & ADA (Austrian Development Fund)
- The project objectives are to
  - improve labour market governance through expansion of institutional capacities of Public Employment Services (PES) and Centres for Social Welfare (CSW) to develop integrated support and outreach to individuals at risk of exclusion;
  - develop innovative solutions fostering inclusive labour markets through piloting and/or scaling up new tools and approaches to reach those who are most distant from the labour market; and
  - promote convergence towards EU and global practice through peer learning.
Western BalkanMOD: Extending the Coverage of EUROMOD

- Western BalkanMOD aims at covering (potential) candidate countries in the Western Balkan region
- Building bridges between countries with already existing models (e.g. BiHMOD, MAKMOD, SRMOD) and those without (e.g. Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro) and
  - incorporating the Western Balkan States into EUROMOD;
  - improving accessibility of EUROMOD;
  - improving the quality of results by enhancing comparability across countries; and
  - reducing the resources necessary to maintain, update and develop EUROMOD in the Western Balkan States in the future.

First steps in Macedonia: Workshops and joint research

- Social protection for marginalised groups – Developing strategies for rural municipalities (Krivogastani and Dolneni, 2017)
- ‘Innovating health and social care in rural areas – New approaches for Macedonia’ (Krivogastani, 2016)
- Social enterprises in active labour market policies in Macedonia (in cooperation with ‘public’, 2017)
Thank you for your interest!