

Editorial

The current number (2009-1) of the *South-East Europe Review for Labour and Social Affairs (SEER)* focuses on the effects of the world economic crisis on central eastern and south-east European countries. Previous high growth rates have given way to a huge setback for economic performance in all countries of the region. Unemployment, which remained at a high level even in the years of high economic growth, is growing rapidly.

This issue gives an overview of several aspects of the crisis, or otherwise touches upon the circumstances that have had a major influence on the way the crisis is affecting these countries such as, for example, migration and privatisation or the hidden economy.

Beyond these topics, we devote attention to several actual political issues, including the situation in Moldova after the elections, as well as to the quality of governance and skills of employees.

First, Igor Munteanu delivers an insight into the background of the events in Moldova that followed the April elections. Besides a detailed account of the events, the author considers some of the political background to the elections from the perspective of examining why the protests at the election results came about, and provides an initial assessment of the immediate political circumstances of Moldova.

The article by Bela Galgoczi sets out the background to the economic crisis with a focus on its effects on the wider region. It addresses the most important factors in the vulnerability of these economies and sums up the major effects of the crisis on employment in the broader central-eastern European region.

The article by Rossitsa Rangelova analyses labour migration from and into central and eastern European countries over the last twenty years and discusses the participation and integration of such migrants in the EU labour market.

Milivoje Radović, Milorad Jovović and Jurij Bajeć address the question of the extent to which the privatisation process in Montenegro has contributed to the economic development of the country. They also examine the impacts it has had on the change in and modernisation of the Montenegrin economic structure and the main effects it has had as regards employment. It also seeks to look at what extent privatisation has been followed by overall transition and reform processes which are aimed at the creation of a modern market and an economy open towards the world.

Valentin Goev gives an account of the results of an independent study into the hidden economy in Bulgaria, conducted in 2007–2008. The study provide estimates of the size of the hidden economy and its composition by economic sector, and also gives the most important reasons for it.

Gürol Özçüre and his co-authors evaluate the effects of the system of employee participation in the European Union and the related *acquis* on Turkish companies and workforces. The article includes an evaluation of developments in the area of the information, consultation and participation of employees in the management of Turkish national and multi-national companies (MNCs) operating in EU member states and in Turkey.

With the article by Vesna Milanović-Golubović, we return to a previous focus topic of the *SEER* – in which we extensively discussed the effects of health care reform in the region. This article examines the role of marketing in improving communications between medical staff and the beneficiaries of health care services.

Finally, Mile Vasic touches upon human resource management issues based on a survey of 200 managers in Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina and puts the findings in a comparative perspective with several EU15 countries.

Bela Galgoczi
Calvin Allen

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