

Editorial

The current number (2007-3) of the *South-East Europe Review for Labour and Social Affairs (SEER)* appears as an open volume dealing with a diversity of social problems in south-east Europe.

Welfare states are under the pressure of globalisation all over Europe, while the post-socialist countries of central and south-east Europe have to face further challenges to their social and welfare systems during the transformation process. Most of the articles in this number examine a diversity of social issues that are linked to economic, political and demographic change.

Manfred Wannöffel, Josef Le and Julia Kramer describe and analyse industrial relations structures in south-east Europe and Turkey. This study is an academic accompaniment to the EU project *Strengthening the social dialogue in south-eastern Europe through CSR instruments*. DGB Bildungswerk, the European Metalworkers Federation (EMF) and the Office of Co-operation Ruhr University Bochum/Industrial Metal Union (GAS) participated in this project; the latter took responsibility for the accompanying research effort. The project ran over the course of one year (June 2006 – July 2007). This article considers the situation of the labour and employment conditions, as well as the operational and industry-wide representation structures, in the five countries surveyed in the project.

Barbara Rajgelj and Matija Rojec examine the employment-related legal and policy framework for company restructuring in Slovenia. Employment redundancies and collective dismissals related to the processes of company restructuring are not particularly new for Slovenia. Nevertheless, the article focuses in depth on the legal framework for handling collective dismissals, on the economic policy measures specifically targeted towards relieving the consequences of collective dismissals and on the main actors involved in the resolution of the employment-related problems of company restructuring, as well as on the economic policy measures aimed at the creation of new employment.

Vladimir Perović and Gordana Komazec examine creativity as a factor in competitiveness on the international market. The article analyses a range of aspects that determine the background of creativity and locate this within the framework of the reality in which enterprises in Serbia are currently operating.

The article from Aleš Novak takes another aspect of managing change in a transformation economy. Here, he examines the role of accounting in business organisations and evaluates the Slovenian concept of accounting.

The article by Erka Čaro and L.J.G. van Wissen deals with the issue of labour migration in the Albania of the post-1990s. The article aims at providing an understanding of migration trends in Albania and describes the migration levels and trends which were embedded in the context of the transition and triggered by the political and economic transformation. Furthermore, the impact of migration on social and demographic changes is also discussed. Research findings also confirm that the mass migration following the transition period has been shaped by the political changes and economic developments while, at the same time, also being a facilitator of further social and demographic changes.

The article by Dorian Jano addresses the necessary and sufficient conditions for reforming pensions schemes in eastern Europe, with a comparative study of pensions reform in Slovenia and FYR Macedonia.

Aleksandar Fatić examines the role of the social contract in his social theory-inspired article.

Murat Kayıkçı has chosen a very specific topic and examines social adaptation and the role of social policies as a case study. He looks at the way of life and survival strategies in earthquake adapted settlements in Turkey.

Jens Becker reports from a conference in Bucureşti on the role of the mass media in transformation economies. He takes a look at the freedom of the press and the ambivalence of the privatised mass media in south-eastern Europe.

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