

Editorial

This first issue of the *SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe* for 2016 focuses on *Labour market developments and employment policies in south-east Europe* with an outlook to Georgia.

We have five articles focusing on the broad theme of labour market developments from different angles, taking a look at various countries of the region in a comparative way. One article examines non-standard work using the example of Croatia; then we take a detailed look at labour market transitions experienced by young employees in Montenegro. A further article takes account of the effects of labour migration in Albania and Kosovo. A review of employment and industrial policies in Turkey addresses the limits of a low-wage-based growth model, while the last article in the block conducts a similar analysis for Albania.

Hrvoje Butković and *Višnja Samardžija* discuss developments in the area of non-standard work in Croatia in four sectors of the Croatian economy since the outbreak of the economic crisis. The focus of the analysis is targeted towards the responses of the social partners concerning non-standard work in the sectors of construction, metal industry and retail.

In his article, *Dragan Đurić* sums up the main findings of his study, prepared for the ILO's School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS), and presents an in-depth review of the specific employment challenges facing young people in Montenegro. The survey was implemented by MONSTAT, the Statistical Office of Montenegro, and provides a detailed statistical analysis of the various forms of under-employment of the young generation in Montenegro. Detailed policy recommendations to facilitate school-to-work transitions follow.

Bruno S. Sergi and *Giacomo Morabito* deal with the effects of migration and the impact of remittances on the economies of Albania and Kosovo. The authors show how declining remittances in the recent past have undermined economic growth and social stability and also make policy recommendations.

Melda Yaman presents a critical review of Turkey's industrial and employment strategy in the context of the international specialisation of the Turkish economy. Policy-makers acknowledge that the low wage-based economic model reached its limits at the same time as economic and employment policies were applied to create Turkey's own 'China' in the south-eastern region of the country.

Ela Golemi draws a balance on twenty five years of transition in Albania and makes the case for a re-orientation of the low wage-based growth model for smarter growth geared towards regional integration.

Three articles in the second part of this issue are devoted to key social and economic issues from Albania, Serbia and Georgia.

Ermir Shahini and *Ermira Kalaj* sum up their findings of an empirical study conducted into the performance of the public health care system in Albania, paying special attention to the role of institutions.

Spomenka Paunović, *Sanja Paunović* and *Rajko Kosanović* provide a detailed analysis on the processes of social dialogue in Serbia and give proposals on how to

improve its functioning with special regard to collective bargaining and the representativeness of the social partners.

Finally, the article by *Levan Bechkhadze* examines recent pension reform plans in Georgia that aim at the introduction of a funded pensions system and compares it with alternative models.

We hope that our readers find something of interest in the articles that we have featured in this edition – as well as something which may challenge findings from their own research programmes. If we have stimulated your thought processes, why not drop us a line with an idea for an article in response? We are always open to new approaches to established themes of study and would be happy to talk to you about how your work can fit within our themes.

Béla Galgócz

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Calvin Allen