

# Editorial

With the current number (2008-1) of the *South-East Europe Review for Labour and Social Affairs (SEER)*, we enter the 11<sup>th</sup> volume of the journal. We use the occasion to introduce a few small changes in order to meet some established standards followed by academic journals: using continuous page numbers within a single volume; and adding abstracts and keyword to the articles. We hope that these meet with the approval of all our readers, those who have been with us since the beginning of the journal and those who have come to us more recently.

In the focus of this number, we address some aspects of health care reforms, while also devoting attention to certain consequences of labour migration in the region.

We start the volume with a broad overview of EU-western Balkans relations. Jens Becker gives an analysis of the policy framework of the EU towards the region, putting it also into historical perspective using a wide range of available literature. The author explores EU initiatives in the integration of western Balkans states, including the Stability Pact, in a critical manner going through the most important policy fields.

Related to our focus topic, Marina Kasunić Peris, Jagoda Milidrag Šmid and Nataša Malnar Đukić provide a full overview of the health care reforms which have been enacted in Croatia in the course of the last period. The permanent reform of the health care system and its funding has traversed the whole scale of institutions, resulting in a fragmentation of the universal health care system that once characterised Croatia which has had far-reaching social consequences.

Aleksandar Stojkoski examines the different paths of decentralisation in Macedonia's health system at its different levels, highlighting how decentralisation may work to improve the health system. He focuses extensively on the policy options for decentralisation, in particular around the opportunities for local self-government.

Viorel Rotilă takes a look at the Romanian case of the migration of health care workers, assessing the 'push' and 'pull' factors in the process and showing also its impacts.

Themba Lewis and Diana Daskalova deliver an overview of the legal aspects of employment for different categories of immigrants in Bulgaria. They also show the practical challenges that immigrants face in Bulgaria as regards integration into the labour market.

Arben Tabaku provides a regional and local overview on the role of ethnic Albanian organised crime groups in the trafficking and smuggling of human beings. He puts the topic into the context of the different waves of migration from Albania and analyses the different methods of organised trafficking within its international context.

As an outlook, we have two articles on two other topics at the close.

The article by Dejan Kostić documents the rise of peaceful means of settling collective labour disputes in Serbia. He describes collective negotiations as one means of the peaceful internal resolution of collective disputes, going on to explore the three forms of dispute resolution in which third parties may also become involved in this process.

Mehpare Tokay Argan in her article provides us with an analysis of consumer behaviour in relation to factors behind organic food consumption and the patterns of healthy lifestyles that have gained ground in Turkey.

Finally, Christophe Solioz contributes a book review on *Memoirs of a Snake Hunter*, the autobiography of Carla del Ponte, former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia – an institution once again in the news as we go to press following the capture by the Serb authorities of Radovan Karadžić.

Bela Galgoczi  
Calvin Allen

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