

Editorial

This 2011-4 issue of the *SEER Journal for Labour and Social Affairs in Eastern Europe* focuses on 'South-east Europe: between crises and EU accession'. One article is devoted to the process of EU accession, with its internal repercussions in Croatia, while another shows a very different side of the impact of EU policies: the pressure it has mounted on social dialogue and collective bargaining systems. Meanwhile, three articles examine different aspects of post-crisis societies in south-east Europe.

A second block in this issue consists of two articles that deal with the development of trade unions in the south-east Mediterranean region, in Turkey and in Israel.

The article by Darko Šeperić reviews domestic political processes, media coverage and public support linked to the EU accession of Croatia. Taking account of the main challenges, the author concludes that the economic and social effects of accession may be only weakly positive, but that a Croatia operating outside the EU would still face many of the same obstacles.

Ivana Palinkas addresses the pressures on social dialogue in central and eastern Europe which have been derived from recent EU policy. Collective bargaining systems have come under pressure from the EU due to the applied case law of the European Court of Justice as well as from the measures taken within the framework of economic governance. The article identifies and explains the types of impulses and possible adjustments from a predominantly legal point of view.

Christophe Solioz proposes a framework for facilitating a discussion of the crucial questions centred on the relationship between state and civil society in the context of the war-to-peace transition process in former Yugoslavia. The article focuses on the consequences of the emergence of a neo-liberal governance-beyond-the-state, based on new social and political transnational practices and on the necessity to rethink the question of multi-level governance.

The article by Sanja Paunović and Rajko Kosanović focuses on the problem of unemployment in Serbia, with special regard to the role of the informal economy.

Rossitsa Rangelova and Grigor Sariiski address the impact of an ageing population on labour productivity in Bulgaria.

Manfred Wannöffel presents a survey on the development of trade unions in Turkey. Beside a historical overview, the article examines the role of and changes in legislation, the economic and social environment and, not least, the impact of EU accession negotiations on the development of industrial relations. The author concludes that trade union influence is currently very limited, mostly as a result of the constraints of the prevailing Turkish trade union law, passed in one of the country's periods of military intervention. On the other hand, the need to adapt labour legislation to suit EU norms offers some possibilities for the introduction of core labour standards, although progress is very slow.

Finally, the article by Yaffa Moskovich sums up research findings on the transformation of the Israeli trade union Histadrut, from a large-scale welfare organisation with economic activities to a downscaled democratic organisation focusing on workers' representation. Based on a theoretical framework and international comparison, the

findings deliver lessons for the renewal and empowerment of trade unions in a broader context.

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