

Editorial

The current number (2008-4) of the *South-East Europe Review for Labour and Social Affairs (SEER)* appears as an open volume dealing with two major issues: social security reforms; and disadvantaged groups in society, such as women, people with disabilities and members of minority ethnic groups. Beyond these topics, however, we devote attention to contemporary political issues, such as the situation in Moldova after the elections and the themes of the quality of governance and skills of employees.

We begin the current number with a declaration by Moldovan intellectuals expressing their concerns about the worsening social and political situation in the wake of the recent parliamentary elections and about the dangers of an inadequate interpretation of the events.

In previous editions of the *SEER*, we have devoted much attention to health care and pensions reforms in the region. We have included two articles here to provide us with a follow-up. The one by Velizar Golubović gives a description of the pensions reforms in the countries of former Yugoslavia followed by a comparative analysis of their functioning.

The article by Ali Murat Özdemir and Gamze Yücesan-Özdemir evaluates social security reform in Turkey under the government of the Justice and Development Party (AKP), discussing recent developments and claiming that Turkey is currently on the road to adopting policy changes that are very strongly influenced by the neo-liberal social security model advanced by the international institutions.

Danijela Jaćimović, Vesna Karadžić and Tatjana Bošković look at the efficiency of state governance based on the indicators of good governance used by the World Bank and bringing these into correlation with the economic performance of south-east European countries.

Darko Marinković examines the interrelation of lifelong learning, new technologies and changes in the structure of the employed labour force in the context of Serbian society. He concludes that a fundamental reform of the education system is needed, including its democratisation and development as a flexible, open system based on ethical principles.

Zdravka Leutar and Natalija Raič give an account of empirical research into the influence of certain socio-demographic markers of young people on their attitudes towards people with physical disabilities.

Yonca Altindal focuses on the place of women in Turkish politics, delivering also a suitable conceptual framework for analysing the prevailing political structure. She shows how women have been restricted on political platforms by the dominant structure.

Finally, the article by Rasim Özgür Dönmez looks at collective Armenian identity given its minority status in Turkey. He delivers case study-based research on the weekly bilingual Armenian newspaper, AGOS, and analyses whether the newspaper has managed to create a collective identity for the Armenian community in contrast

to mainstream society and a state policy which ignores minorities and their collective identity.

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