



Dear Reader,

Presently, there are two vacancies at the European Centre. They are announced in this issue. You might be interested or might know persons who could be interested. Please feel free to make them aware of these positions.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider,

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

National Liaison Officials (NLO) Matters

Slovak Republic

The Research Institute for Labour and Family Research headed by our Slovak NLO, Ms. Kvetoslava Repkova, this year has published five issues in its series “Bulletin Rodina a práca”. All issues are in Slovak with an English abstract and you may find the contact addresses of authors on the website in case of queries (www.sspr.gov.sk).

The latest issue (5/2006) is on “Working Conditions as Determinants of Gender Inequality of Work”.

Read more about: [Bulletin Rodina a práca](#)

Spain

We congratulate our (alternate) Spanish Board member, Ms. Margarita Bravo Torres, on her appointment as Director of International and Institutional Relations at The Economic and Social Council of Spain.

Read more about: [The Economic and Social Council of Spain](#) (in Spanish)



Events

3-5 October – London: Workshop on Measurement of Non-market Output in Education and Health

The EC's Director "Health and Care" Manfred Huber delivered a presentation on "International Comparisons of Prices and Volumes in Health Care among OECD Countries". This workshop has been jointly organised by the OECD, the United Kingdom and Norway.

Read more about: [Workshop](#)
[Manfred Huber's Research](#)

For further information please contact: [Manfred Huber](#)

Visits

Norwegian Delegation

From 9 to 13 October a group of scholars from Oslo University College (Ann-Helén Bay, Ann Englund, Vigdis Madsen, Einar Øverbye, Kristen Rytter, Ingun Sletnes, Pal Veiden) visited Vienna in the framework of a study visit organised in collaboration with the European Centre.

The background of this visit was the development of a new "semi-profession" at Oslo University College, aimed at providing better-trained civil servants dealing with activation. "Activation" in this context refers to different ways to encourage the transition into work of people on unemployment benefits, social assistance, rehabilitation benefits, immigrant (integration) benefits etc. plus policies aimed at preventing early exit from the labour market.

The development of this new semi-profession is in its turn tied to an impressive administrative welfare reform taking place in Norway these days: Between 2006 and 2010, all Labour Market Offices and Social Insurance Offices will be merged into a new labour-and-social-insurance office; eventually also encompassing the provision of social assistance. The aim is to overcome problems connected to the existing division of labour between these institutions and to provide street-level civil servants with a much larger "activation toolkit", since three until now separate administrative agencies will be merged into one.



The Norwegian delegation was welcomed at the European Centre on 9 October where an introduction to the Austrian system of labour market, welfare and social assistance policies was provided. During the ensuing days the delegation visited the most important institutions acting in this field in Austria, in particular in Vienna, to see how social benefits are distributed in a continental European benefit system. A final wrap-up meeting on 13 October was to exchange experiences and to provide some additional background information. This exchange was particularly interesting as coordination problems as well as difficulties to provide claimants certain legal rights to benefits and services (unemployment benefits, social assistance benefits etc.) could be identified in Austria, too. However, this has often resulted in additional innovative projects or institutions, rather than to merging institutions such as in Norway.

These most intriguing issues as well as the Norwegian reform efforts will also be tackled in the context of the ongoing EC project [“Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies”](#).

For further information please contact: [Kai Leichsenring](#)

Publications

Journal Article:

Berman, Yitzhak / Keizer, Margo (2006) “Indicators of Social-Economic Security Based on the Social Quality Paradigm”, *Social Security, Number 7 (May)*, National Insurance Institute of Israel.

Social Security is the English title of *Bitachon Soziali*, Journal of Welfare and Social Security Studies, published in Hebrew by the National Insurance Institute of Israel. *Bitachon Soziali* appears twice a year, in winter and summer. Each issue includes English summaries of the main articles.

For further information please contact: [Yitzhak Berman](#)

Newspaper Articles:

[Marin, Bernd \(2006\) Various articles in Der Standard, Vienna, 2006](#)



Personnel Matters

Mattia Makovec

At the end of September 2006, Mattia Makovec left the European Centre to join the Department of Economics at the University of Alicante (Spain), where he currently is Visiting Professor. He will keep collaborating with the European Centre as a Research Affiliate.

Read more about: [University of Alicante Department of Economics](#)

Yvonne Giedenbacher

Yvonne Giedenbacher, former staff member of the European Centre, has won the FM4 literary award "Wortlaut 06".

Read more about: [Award](#)

Open Positions

The European Centre has two vacancies:

[Health Economist/Policy Analyst](#)

Closing date: 30 November 2006.

[Research Fellow in Ageing-related Economic and Social Research](#)

Closing date: 8 December 2006



Contact for general newsletter/web site comments, suggestions or questions:

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