

## Editorial

RECWOWE activities now focus on the dissemination of the main research results, through various exchange meetings and through publications. Our penultimate annual conference will be crucial in preparing these activities.

In this Newsletter, Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas from the European Social Observatory (OSE, Brussels) present the dialogue activities organised by PUDIACwowe. The OSE has organised several important meetings in Brussels, where RECWOWE researchers presented their work to a broad audience. In addition to these activities held in Brussels, we have also encouraged national exchange meetings. These meetings offer RECWOWE researchers the opportunity to meet and exchange with members of the national policy community. This Newsletter also announces future national exchange meetings.

Besides these events, we are also preparing future RECWOWE publications. At this stage, no less than 18 publications are already in preparation (as listed in this issue). Palgrave will devote a special series to RECWOWE books (*Work and Welfare in Europe*). We hope to see as many volumes as possible published already before the last RECWOWE conference that will take place on 15-18 June 2011 in Brussels.

This issue also focuses on the EU2020 strategy, the successor of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. The EU2020 strategy will be extensively discussed during the RECWOWE Week in Nantes.

Denis Bouget and Bruno Palier

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## 1 – INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

### Dalila GHAILANI and Ramón PEÑA-CASAS – Publication, Dissemination and Dialogue Centre (PUDIACwowe)

by Anna Safuta



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**Dalila Ghailani** and **Ramón Peña-Casas** are Researchers at the European Social Observatory (OSE) in Brussels. Within RECOWE, they took part in the research on job quality that resulted in the publication of a book in English (*Quality of Work in the European Union: Concepts, Data and Debates from a Transnational Perspective*) and in Spanish (*Calidad del Trabajo en la Unión Europea. Concepto, Tensiones, Dimensiones*). Ramón also (co-)authored two papers from [the RECOWE Working Paper series](#). They are currently working in a project on in-work poverty in Europe that will result in the publication of a book co-edited by Ramón (together with Rodolfo Gutiérrez from the University of Oviedo and Neil Fraser from the University of Edinburgh). Dalila and Ramón are also taking part in the RECOWE task investigating job quality from a legal perspective. They are in charge of the 'exchange meetings' organised by the OSE in the framework of the dialogue and dissemination activities of the RECOWE Publication, Dissemination and Dialogue Centre (PUDIACwowe).

PUDIACwowe is the result of the merger of two former RECOWE strands – the Dialogue Centre (DIACwowe) and the Publication and Dissemination Centre (PUDISC). The activities of the former have already been presented in the 5<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter, we will thus focus here on 'dialogue' activities, coordinated by the OSE.

**Q1: On [the RECOWE website](#), we can read that the objectives of PUDIACwowe are 'to**

**maximise the efficiency and impact of the network by encouraging the effective publicity of the network activities and research results' and to establish 'an on-going dialogue' between RECOWE researchers and stakeholders involved in or interested in employment and more broadly social policy making. In concrete terms, how does PUDIACwowe pursue these objectives?**

**DG & RPC:** The aim of PUDIAC is to make sure that the results of the research within RECOWE reach interested stakeholders. In order to allow all strands to introduce themselves to a large audience, we organise 'exchange meetings'. Those events are usually held in Brussels, but that's not a rule, the latest meeting took place in Madrid for example.

Each exchange meeting is in fact a debate between one or several task leaders from RECOWE, one or several scholars or experts discussing the presented findings, and a large audience made up of representatives of the civil society, policy makers, civil servants from national and EU institutions, domestic and EU-level social partners, NGO, consultancies and permanent representations members. So far, the OSE organised 'exchange meetings' in partnership with institutions such as the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), the Belgian Federal Public Service 'Social Security' or the Belgian National Works Council.

The idea is to allow academics from the network to meet with practitioners active in the domain they are investigating. Indeed, it is often the case that senior civil servants, decision makers or social partners complain that they are not informed of the results of the on-going research dealing with their area of expertise. Questions from the audience are thus a key part of these meetings. The latest PUDIAC event gathered researchers working on the same issue (social dialogue) within different research networks, in order to confront their respective findings on the role of the social partners in economically difficult times. RECOWE member Waltraud Schelke from the London School of Economics has been joined by Maarten Keune from the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Labour Studies, Jean De Munck from the Catholic University of Louvain and member of the research



network Capright (Resources, Rights and Capabilities), and by Lowell Turner from Cornell University.

There is also a second type of meetings within PUDIAC, aiming at 'improving research capacities'. These are usually smaller-scale events, during which RECOWE members are given the opportunity to meet EU-level practitioners from a particular sector, in order to exchange on the issues for future scholarly investigation. The aim is to ensure that the research projects developed fit the main concerns of the actors 'in the field'.

**Q2: How many 'exchange meetings' have already been organised and how many more are to be held in the future?**

**DG & RPC:** Drawing on the long-standing experience of the OSE in connecting the academic world with what's happening 'on the field', we have already organised 8 PUDIAC meetings and are planning at least 3 more until the end of the network. The minutes of the past meetings are downloadable from the RECOWE website.

Organised jointly by RECOWE and the research institutions that contributed to the ETOS.be project, the first of these foreseen 'exchange meetings' will take place on 2 July in Brussels. ETOS.be brought together political scientists, lawyers and sociologists from six Belgian, French and Dutch research teams. During this common exchange meeting, they will reflect together on the impact of the European Union on domestic social policies.

The second event will take place in October 2010 and will be co-hosted by RECOWE, the Belgian Presidency of the EU, and the Belgian Committee of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. We will discuss the role of social partners in the fight against poverty. The last PUDIAC meeting will probably be the 'improvement of research capacities' event foreseen for December 2010, during which RECOWE members will meet the presidents of the European political foundations.

## IALOGUE WITH THE POLICY COMMUNITY

**More information on RECOWE dialogue activities on the [RECOWE website](#).**

– **Public Meeting**

**'Life courses and sustainability: the central dilemma of European welfare models'**  
**Utrecht, the Netherlands, 28 June 2010**  
**Organiser: University of Utrecht**

**For more information: [r.m.maier@uu.nl](mailto:r.m.maier@uu.nl)**

– **PUDIAC Meeting**

**'Understanding the Europeanization of Domestic Welfare States: How does the EU affect social policies'**  
**Brussels, Belgium, 2 July 2010**  
**Organisers: European Social Observatory (OSE), RECOWE and ETOS.be**

This **exchange meeting** will examine the role of the European Union in social affairs. It will address the differentiated effects of several EU policy instruments (classic European law, the European Social Fund and the OMC) in three policy fields: employment, social inclusion and gender equality. In addition, speakers will reflect on whether (and how) small Member States can influence EU-level decision-making.

**More information on the [OSE website](#).**

– **RECOWE Executive Seminar**

**'The coordination of social security schemes for working age people. Integrating income protection and activation in European welfare states'**  
**Lausanne, Switzerland, 30 September and 1 October 2010**  
**Organiser: IDHEAP (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration)**

This **executive seminar** will deal with one of the most topical issues in social security policy: how to ensure the optimal coordination of schemes referring to different social risks (unemployment, invalidity and social assistance benefits). During this seminar, the participants will be given the opportunity to discuss problems associated with the internal fragmentation of social security, examine the tools available to improve the coordination of different schemes, compare the reforms already adopted by other European countries. The executive seminar is targeted at members of the policy-making community working on social security issues.

**More information on [IDHEAP website](#).**

## 2 – NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

### CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

For more information on all RECOWOWE events: <http://www.recwowe.eu/>.

#### – International Conference

**'Transforming care: Provision, quality and inequalities in late life'**  
**Copenhagen, Denmark, 21-23 June 2010**  
**Organisers: University of Hamburg, the Danish National Centre for Social Research, the University of Vechta**

This **international conference** will explore the recent changes in care policy and provision. The key themes that will be discussed are: the quality of care, the formalisation and informalisation of care and the situation of informal carers, care staff (shortages, transnational recruitment, professionalisation, hierarchisation between carers), changes in work organisation, intersecting inequalities (gender, class, ethnicity).

More information on [the RECOWOWE website](#)

#### – RECOWOWE/ESPAnet Summer School 2010

**'Tensions between work and welfare: Balance and future prospects at the dusk of the Lisbon Strategy'**  
**Oviedo, Spain, 20-28 July 2010**  
**Organiser: University of Oviedo**

This **summer school** targets PhD students who have started or are about to start a project related to welfare and labour policies in Europe and/or the renewal of the Lisbon Strategy. Topics that will be addressed are the comparative analysis of welfare states and labour market reform/adjustment, EU activities in the social policy field, tensions between work and family life, quality vs. quantity of jobs issues, current challenges for pensions and health care systems, social and labour market integration of migrants, income mobility and economic inequality, the role of collective bargaining in reconciling work and welfare, and the impact of the financial crisis.

For more information: [the TACwowe website](#)

#### – RECOWOWE Doctoral Workshop 2010

**'The politics of employment-friendly welfare reforms'**  
**Menton, France, 28-30 October 2010**  
**Organiser: Science-Po Paris**

The 2010 RECOWOWE **doctoral workshop** will focus on the politics of employment-friendly welfare reforms. Over the last decades, 'activation', 'employability', 'employment rates' became the key words in national and EU-level employment policies. Blamed in the past for hindering job creation, today's welfare states undergo reforms aiming at making them more employment-friendly. This doctoral workshop targets PhD students with projects related to the theme of the workshop, doing comparative work (focusing on national reforms, EU policies, or both) and at least in their third year.

More information on [the TACwowe website](#)

#### – International Symposium

**'Re-forming activation: a new turn in policy?'**  
**Hamburg, Germany, 2-3 December 2010**  
**Organisers: RECOWOWE and the German Research Foundation (DFG)**

Activation became a fashionable social policy concept in the 1990s. It has however been disputed ever since. Furthermore, current developments seem to make the implementation of such policies rather difficult. Is a simple backlash in which states refrain from activation and return to 'passive' policies plausible? Or will the concept be recast? This **international symposium** will offer a review of activation policies.

Registration at [patrizia.aurich@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:patrizia.aurich@uni-hamburg.de)

#### – RECOWOWE Integration Week

**'The future of work and welfare in Europe in the context of the post-Lisbon strategy'**  
**Nantes, France, 8-12 June 2010**  
**Organisers: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange-Guépin (Nantes) and Centre for European Studies at Science-Po Paris**

More information on [the RECOWOWE website](#).

(See also the summary of the programme on the next page of this Newsletter).

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL RECOWE INTEGRATION WEEK:

### Tuesday, 08 June 2010

**13:30 – 14:00: Opening plenary**

**14:00 – 15:30:** Tasks meetings (five parallel sessions)

**15:30 – 16:00:** Coffee-tea break

**15:30 - 17:00:** Tasks meetings (five parallel sessions)

**19:00:** Visit of the Machines de l'île and dinner in the Gallery of the Machines

### Wednesday, 09 June 2010

**08:45:** Coffee

**09:00 – 10:30:** Tasks meetings (six parallel sessions) and EDACwowe 'Data Stop and Shop'

**10:30 – 11:00:** Coffee-tea break

**11:00 – 12:30:** Tasks meetings (six parallel sessions) and EDACwowe 'Data Stop and Shop'

**12:30-13:30:** Lunch at the Cité des Congrès

**13:30-15:00:** Tasks meetings (five parallel sessions)

**15:00-15:30:** Coffee-tea break

**15:30-17:00:** Tasks meetings (five parallel sessions)

**17:00:** Short break

**17:00-18:30:** Tasks meetings (four parallel sessions)

**19:00:** Reception at the Regional Council of Pays de la Loire

### Thursday, 10 June 2010

**08:45:** Coffee

**09:00-10:30:** Tasks meetings (five parallel sessions)

**10:30-11:00:** Coffee-tea break

**11:00-12:30**

**Plenary session on the transversal variables, presentation by RECOWE members of four papers on the transversal variables**

Chairperson: **Jochen Clasen** (University of Edinburgh)

- **Denis Bouget** (University of Nantes and Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange Guépin), 'Analysis of the tensions between work and welfare: a diversified approach'
- **Sonja Drobnič** (University of Hamburg), 'Tensions at the Interface of Work and Well-Being in Europe'
- **Hans van der Broeck** (University of Oviedo), 'Immigrants and the national labour markets: best practices in RECOWE deliverables?'
- **Paolo Graziano** (University of Bocconi, Milan), 'Europa, Europae. Europeanization and the differential usage of Europe in welfare state reforms?'

**12:30-13:30:** Small lunch – workpackages' lunches: gender, EDACwowe, PUDIACwowe and TACwowe

**13:30-19:00:** Free afternoon

**14:00:** Invitation to attend a presentation of the French mutual company system

**19:00:** Dinner at the LU restaurant

### Friday, 11 June 2010

**08:45:** Coffee

**09:00-10:30:** Meetings of the workpackages (WP01-WP04), discussion about the planned results, outputs of the existing tasks and their dissemination

**10:30-11:00:** Coffee-tea break

**11:00-12:30:** Plenary session: presentation of what will be presented by each workpackage at the final RECOWE conference in Brussels

**12:30-13:30:** Lunch at the Cité des Congrès

**13:30-15:30**

**Plenary session on 'The Future of Work and Welfare in Europe in the Context of the post-Lisbon Strategy'**

- **Tony Atkinson** (Nuffield College, University of Oxford), 'Poverty and the EU: the New Decade'
- **Jane Jenson** (Université de Montréal), 'Looking forward, looking back. Work and family in the new decade'

**15:30-16:00:** Coffee-tea break

**16:00-17:30:**

**Round table on the future of the welfare state in Europe with stakeholders and policy makers at national and European levels**

Chairperson: **Bruno Palier**, Sciences-Po Paris, RECOWE Scientific Coordinator

- **Agnès Hubert**, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)
- **Monika Queisser**, Head of Social Policy, OECD
- **Bruno Coquet**, Head of the EU Employment Committee

**17:30-18:30:** Meeting of the Governing Committee

**18:30:** Dinner in the Musée des Beaux Arts

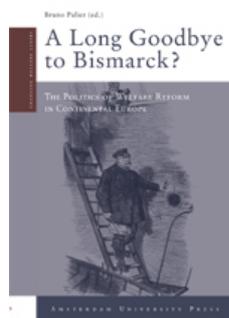
### Saturday, 12 June 2012

**09:00-12:30:** Departures

**10:30-12:30:** Meeting of the Executive Committee in the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Ange Guépin

Meeting rooms will be available for interested participants.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE AREA OF WORK AND WELFARE



**Palier, B. ed., 2010. *A Long Goodbye to Bismarck? The Politics of Welfare reform in Continental Europe.* Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.**

This book provides an extensive and comparative account of all welfare reforms that occurred during the last three decades in Continental European countries, covering Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. It reveals unexpected important structural reforms, to be understood as the culmination of a long reform trajectory, analysed in detail with the tools of Comparative historical institutionalism. With these reforms, Bismarckian welfare systems have lost their encompassing capacities, partly turned to employment-friendliness, and weakened the strongest elements of their male breadwinner bias. They have been transformed into dual welfare systems that differentiate between the protection of the core workers and the assistance and activation of the "atypical" ones. With contributions by RECOWE members Bruno Palier (Scientific Coordinator), Ana Guillén (University of Oviedo), Karl Hinrichs (University of Bremen) and Matteo Jessoula (Bocconi University).

**More information on the [Publisher website](#).**



**De Beer, P. and Schils, T. eds., 2010. *The Labour Market Triangle. Employment Compensation and Activation in Europe.* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.**

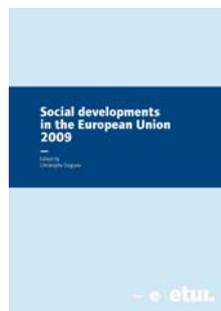
This study examines strengths and weaknesses of social policy instruments in seven European countries, focusing on their unique combinations of unemployment insurance, employment protection, and active labour market policies in the search for a balance between a functioning labour market and protection for workers. The editors explore the formal laws and regulations, as well as the administration and implementation of social

policy, paying special attention to the role of the social partners.

**More information on the [Publisher website](#).**

**Clifton, J. and Díaz-Fuentes, D. 2010. Evaluating EU policies on public services: a citizen's perspective. *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 81(2), pp. 281-311.**

This article evaluates EU policies on public services – particularly public network services – from the citizens' point of view. It is first argued that citizens' perceptions are important because the provision of fundamental services is at stake and because they constitute the infrastructure necessary for social and economic development. Citizens' 'voice' can, therefore, be known, analyzed and used in the design of improved policy on public services along with other indicators. Changing EU policy on public services is synthesized and classified into two main phases in section two. Citizen satisfaction with public services as revealed through surveys from 1997 to 2007 is explored in the third section. In the discussion, the prospects for EU policy on public services are considered and, it is argued that, from the perspectives of subsidiarity and proportionality, policy towards strengthening the common market is being increasingly uploaded to the supranational level in the form of directives, whilst cohesion and redistribution policies are being downloaded to the national level or dealt with at the supranational level by 'soft' instruments.



**Degryse, C. ed., 2010. *Social Developments in the European Union 2009.* Brussels: ETUI/OSE.**

This 2009 edition of Social developments in the European Union examines the ways in which the 'European social model' has cushioned the blow – more so in some instances than others. This model is compared with that of the United States; the EU's role in multilateral financial governance (in particular at the G20) and within international organisations (such as the ILO) is also assessed. In addition, this volume analyses the specific impact of the crisis on the Union's social policies: employment strategy, pensions funding, social dialogue, social inclusion, etc.

**For more information on this edited volume: [the OSE website](#).**

## MOST RECENT RECOWE WORKING PAPERS

### **Emmeneger, P., 2010. Gendering Insiders and Outsiders. Labour Market Status and Preferences for Job Security. *RECOWE Working Paper*, REC-WP 02/2010**

This paper examines the role of gender in the relationship between labour market status and preferences for job security. The author hypothesises that the insider/outsider theory of (un-)employment suffers from a gender bias, because it doesn't take into account either family-related market transitions, or the household situation of the individual. This paper incorporates thus the (on average) higher number of labour market transitions experienced by women in the model based on the insider/outsider theory of (un-) employment.

[Read this working paper](#)

### **Goerne, A., 2010. The Capability Approach in social policy analysis. Yet another concept? *RECOWE Working Paper*, REC-WP 03/2010**

There is still some lack of clarity regarding the question of what the Capability Approach (CA) actually is, how it should be interpreted and operationalised, and not least whether it is an adequate and useful concept for the analysis of social policy in Europe. Against the backdrop of these questions, this paper looks at recent contributions which use the CA for analysing social policy. This leads me to argue that the most interesting applications of the CA may not lie in policy evaluation in the classical sense, but rather in an analysis of policy outputs through the lens of concepts such as individualisation and diversity. In this sense, the CA may serve as normative foundation for addressing the dependent variable problem in comparative welfare regime research. In order to play this role, however, CA applications will need to clearly differentiate between the potential and implications of the CA itself, and various external normative reference points which should not be identified with the CA.

[Read this working paper](#)

### **Bernaciak, M., Duman, A. and Scepanovic, V. 2010. Employee welfare and collective bargaining in exposed and protected sectors: Evidence from Poland and Serbia. *RECOWE Working Paper*, REC-WP 04/2010**

Collective bargaining is closely related to social policy making to the extent that the outcomes of the former inform and influence social policy agenda. It is widely held, however, that trade

unions in Central Eastern Europe (CEE) do not have a strong bargaining position and thus exert little impact on policy decisions. This paper challenges the view of CEE labour as a uniformly weak actor. It argues that CEE unions' ability to shape the bargaining agenda and social policies depends largely on the degree of privatisation, which overlaps with sectoral divisions. We find that unions in exposed sectors are unable to oppose greater flexibility even when there are no considerable wage gains, whereas workers in protected sectors manage to maintain their status and at times even enhance their welfare, both in terms of higher wages and better working conditions.

[Read this working paper](#)

### **Duman, A. and Horvath, A., 2010. Reconciliation of Work and Family Life in Hungary. *RECOWE Working Paper*, REC-WP 05/2010**

The paper analyses the 'Europeanization' of policies concerning the reconciliation of work and family life in Hungary between 1998 and 2005. It looks at how politicians – in government or in the opposition – framed European requirements and/or standards and how they used references to European processes in their arguments. The paper distinguished three periods of Europeanization. In the first period – in which the first comprehensive Family Support Act was adopted – basically no reference was made to the European Union. Accordingly, this Act – its goal being to protect the institution of the family to ensure demographic growth – did not prioritize reconciliation and women' employment at all and was criticized for not being in line with European principles. The second period was the period of legal harmonization before 2004. Therefore, reconciliation-related acts (e.g. on telework) were mainly adopted as an answer to European expectations. Finally, in the third period, after the 2004 accession, the reconciliation of work and family life became an explicit goal of the government, usually with references made to European processes and European principles. In this period, MPs started to use the jargon of the EU. Furthermore, the availability of European funding was an important trigger of reconciliation-related reforms.

## FUTURE RECOWE PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

**Sigrid Betzelt and Silke Bothfeld** (eds), Challenges to Social Citizenship: Activation and Labour Market Reforms in Europe

**Jochen Clasen and Daniel Clegg** (eds), Regulating the risk of unemployment. National adaptations to post-industrial labour markets in Europe

**Daniel Clegg and Paolo Graziano** (eds), The politics of flexicurity in Europe

**Sonja Drobnič and Ana Guillén** (eds), What is a quality job? Working conditions and tensions between work and private life

**Patrick Emmenegger, Silja Häusermann Bruno Palier and Martin Seeleib-Kaiser** (eds), The dualisation of European societies

**Colette Fagan, Maria Gonzales & Silvia Gomez** (eds), Women on Boards in Europe

**Neil Fraser, Rodolfo Gutierrez and Ramon Peña-Casas** (eds), Is employment the route out of poverty? The extent and causes of working poverty in Europe

**Ewa Frątczak and Livia Olah** (eds), Fertility, Female Employment and Reconciliation Policies

**Patricia Frericks and Robert Maier** (eds), Life courses and sustainability. The central dilemma of European social policy

**Willibrord de Graaf, Tomáš Sirovátka and Rik van Berkel** (eds), The Governance of Active Welfare States in Europe

**Paolo Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier** (eds), Europa, Europae. The EU and the Domestic Politics of Welfare State Reforms

**Ana Guillén and Barbara Hobson** (eds), Tensions at the Interface of Work, Work Life Balance and Well-Being in Europe

**Karl Hinrichs and Matteo Jessoula** (eds), Flexible Today — Secure Tomorrow? The interplay of labour market flexibility and pension reforms

**Trudie Knijn**, Social policies in Europe in times of fluid family-lives and flexible labour markets

**Birgit Pfau-Effinger and Tine Rostgaard** (eds), Tensions related to care in European welfare states

In order to welcome many of these publications, a new book series has been launched by Palgrave: the 'Work and Welfare in Europe' Special Series. The series will be edited by Denis Bouget, Jochen Clasen, Ana Guillén, Jane Lewis and Bruno Palier.

### Special issues:

**Paolo Graziano, Sophie Jacquot and Bruno Palier** (eds), Letting Europe In. The Domestic Usages of Europe in Reconciliation Policies in the *European Journal for Social Sciences*

**Ana Guillén and Barbara Hobson** (eds), Tensions at the Interface of Family, Work and Well-Being in Europe: Capabilities to Achieve a Worklife Balance linking the Household, Workplace and Policy Levels in *Social Politics*.

### Symposium:

**Waltraud Schelke**, Reconfiguring Welfare States in the Post-Industrial Age: What Role for Social Partners? in the *European Journal of Industrial Relations*

## PRESENTATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PARTNER 27



The Institute of Sociology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences ([IS HAS](#)) was founded by the president of the Academy in 1963. With more than 40 research associates, including seven professors, it is currently the biggest research establishment of Hungarian sociology.

The basic aims of the IS HAS are twofold: firstly, to conduct 'classical' sociological research, that is, basic research on theoretical and methodological sociological issues; and secondly, to examine the dynamics of changes in Hungarian society, and to work out methods for solving current social problems and conflicts. Consequently, it carries out empirical and interdisciplinary social research on the one hand, while also pursuing policy-oriented research on the other. It applies both analytical and normative research methods. The greater part of the work is of dual use due to the demand for empirical data processing and analysis. The results can be used for the preparation and testing of social-political strategies, while the collected data are an impulse for creating basic research syntheses.

In line with performing its public duties, IS HAS carries out scientific researches and science-based developments, promoting social and technological innovations. The IS HAS links sociological research with technological developments by elaborating models for innovation, directly applicable methods able to respond to social problems. With their academic research and advice, the IS HAS research associates contribute to the establishment of medium and long term national strategies. In the past few years, research within IS HAS has been dominated by international projects and data surveys. The IS HAS vividly reacts to those problems within the Hungarian society which fall within its research scope. According to the scientific policy of the IS HAS, EU

objectives and the concept of sustainability, the following four main research areas have been given priority on the IS HAS research agenda:

- Equal opportunities
- Knowledge economy
- Value and culture
- Environmental and social sustainability

The structure of the IS HAS consists of research groups based on these four research areas. The research conducted by the IS HAS is strongly interdisciplinary. The IS HAS participates in national and international scientific networks indicating direction for future research, and cooperates with civil society actors, including social partners. The IS HAS has an extensive international scientific network with close connections to Eastern, Central, Western European and Balkan countries, the Community of Independent States (CIS), major universities around the world, foreign social science institutions, as well as Hungarian research institutions situated outside Hungarian borders.

Building on these resources, the IS HAS conducts large-scale national and EU projects, and regularly hosts national and international conferences. Its tasks involve disseminating scientific results and supporting their social and economic utilization, expressing professional views, as well as shaping public opinion. The IS HAS consciously appears in the media, providing frameworks of self-expression and self-interpretation to the changing society. Besides ensuring professional development for researchers, it also monitors and supports young professionals. The associates publish several periodicals: 'Social Research' and 'Community and Culture', the 'Booklets of Methodology' and the 'Working Paper' series, while their scientific results are published by famous Hungarian and international publishing houses. They teach at great Hungarian universities, colleges and PhD schools and are members or chairpersons of prominent national and international professional committees, social-policy oriented foundations and advisory boards established by national and multinational companies.

Some of the supranational research projects in which the IS HAS has recently been involved (besides RECOWE):

- The Role of Knowledge in the Construction and Regulation of Health and Education Policy in Europe: Convergences and Specificities Among Nations and Sectors (KNOWandPOL)
- Measuring the Dynamics of Organisation and Work (MEADOW)
- HAPPY AGEING: A Home Based Approach to the Years of Ageing
- Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society (WORKS)



### 3 – EUROPEAN NEWS

The last plenary session in Nantes will be devoted to the future of work and welfare in Europe in the context of the 'post-Lisbon' EU2020 strategy. We provide here a short summary of the path to its adoption.

#### – The EU2020 Strategy

Adopted in 2000 and subsequently revised in 2005, the Lisbon strategy planned to make the EU 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion' (as stated in the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of March 2000). In the words of the Commission, the Europe 2020 strategy is '**a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century**'. It aims at demonstrating that EU economies can come out stronger from the crisis and that the EU should be turned into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.

Last March, the European Council agreed on the main elements of this new strategy, which will be formally adopted in June 2010.

Three mutually reinforcing priorities lie at the heart of this new strategy:

- **smart growth (an economy based on knowledge and innovation)**
- **sustainable growth (a competitive, low carbon economy)**
- **inclusive growth** (the EU must foster high employment, help people acquire skills and fight poverty and exclusion).

Progress towards these objectives will be measured against **five headline targets**, which constitute shared goals that should guide the action of the Member States and of the Union:

- 75% of the population aged between 20 and 64 should be in work (including through the greater participation of young, older and low skilled workers, and the better integration of legal migrants)
- the combined public and private investment in research and development (R&D) should reach at least 3% of the EU GDP (the European Commission will elaborate an indicator reflecting R&D and innovation intensity)
- the greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by 20% compared to 1990 levels (and potentially by 30%, provided that other developed countries

commit themselves to comparable reductions and the developing countries contribute adequately), the share of renewable energies in the energy mix should increase to 20%, the energy efficiency should increase by 20%

- education levels must be improved, in particular the share of the population having completed tertiary or equivalent education, while drop-out rates must be reduced
- social inclusion must be promoted, particularly through the reduction of poverty.

In the light of these headline targets and in a dialogue with the Commission, Member States will set their own **national targets**, taking into account their relative starting positions and national situations. The results of this dialogue will be examined by the Council by June 2010. In the autumn 2010, Member States will present their **National Reform Programmes**, setting out in detail the actions they will undertake to implement the new strategy. Once a year, the European Council will make an overall assessment of progress achieved both at the EU and at national level in implementing the strategy. The European Council will also regularly hold debates dedicated to economic developments and the main priorities of the strategy. Two such debates are already foreseen: research and development will be discussed in October 2010 and energy policy in early 2011.

The European Council announced that the **numerical rates** of the two last targets (education and poverty reduction) will be agreed upon during the June European Council, taking into account European Commission's proposals. In its Communication 'Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' published on 3 March 2010, the European Commission put forward numerical targets with regard school drop-out rates (less than 10% of early school leavers), tertiary (or equivalent) education (at least 40% of the population aged 30-34 should have a tertiary degree) and poverty reduction (the number of Europeans living below the national poverty lines should be reduced by 25%, i.e. 20 million individuals should be lifted out of poverty).

Read [European Council's conclusions from March 2010 adopting the main elements of the EU2020 strategy](#).

Read [European Commission's Communication 'Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'](#).

To complement the elements of the future EU2020 strategy on which the European Council agreed on 25-26 March, a month later the European Commission published a [recommendation](#) for a Council recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union (or Part I of the EU2020 Integrated Guidelines) and a [proposal](#) for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (or Part II of the EU2020 Integrated Guidelines).

The 'reflection process' for a post-Lisbon strategy has been launched by the March 2008 European Council. On 24 November 2009, the Commission launched a public consultation on the Europe 2020 strategy. All interested parties had until 15 January 2010 to submit their views on the consultation document, that the Commission described as 'some suggested broad policy considerations for the future EU 2020 strategy'.

**View the [consultation's web page](#).**

**Read the [responses](#) to the consultation.**

**Read the [Commission's staff working document](#) providing an overview of the responses to the consultation.**

On 2 February 2010, the Commission published an **evaluation of the Lisbon strategy**. The document refuses to conclude that the Lisbon strategy has failed because its targets were not met. It underscores the fact that the strategy was instrumental in building a broad consensus among Member States on the reforms that are needed at national level. As an example of the strategy's ability to influence national reform agendas, the document mentions the EU-wide success of the 'flexicurity' concept. The document admits however that this success was rather 'discursive', since 'in many cases relevant measures still need to be implemented'. While this evaluation recognises that it is not always possible to demonstrate a causal link between Lisbon reforms and growth and jobs outcomes, it claims that reforms agreed in the context of Lisbon have delivered tangible benefits (such as the 18 million new jobs created before the crisis). According to the evaluation, until the crisis hit, labour markets were performing well, while the EU GDP growth was just short of the envisaged 3% growth. The document argues that those positive labour market developments owed much to the Lisbon-related structural reform efforts of the Member States. According to the report, while in the recent years, most national labour market reforms focused on easing employment regulation for new entrants in order to facilitate more contractual diversity, there

is a need to reform legislation on existing contracts. Indeed, in line with ensuring transition between types of contracts, the report identifies the latter type of measures as the only way to achieve greater flexibility. The evaluation also criticises the Lisbon strategy for the lack of national targets that would complement the 'one-size-fits-all' EU-level headline targets, and take into account the starting positions of the Member States and/or their comparative advantages.

The document also evaluates negatively the insufficient engagement of social partners and/or regional/local authorities in the implementation of the strategy. The document identifies a 'lack of ownership' of the strategy at national level, which allowed some Member States to use the 'Lisbon brand' to legitimate difficult reforms. Weak ownership is also identified as the reason why peer pressure has not been working as a way of speeding up reforms.

The evaluation of the strategy instruments is also rather critical: the Integrated Guidelines were too broad and insufficiently action-oriented to impact significantly national policy-making; the precise purpose of National Reform Programmes has never been clearly articulated, so they often remained rather broad and unfocused documents; while the OMC was meant to be a forum of peer pressure and a way of sharing good practice, most Member States used it as a reporting device rather than a policy coordination instrument. According to the Commission's evaluation, the only real success-story with regard governance instruments were the country-specific recommendations.

**Read the official evaluation of the Lisbon strategy on [the Commission's website](#).**

**More about the EU2020 strategy on [the Commission's website](#).**

**Read the [European Parliament's resolution](#) on the EU2020 strategy.**

**For more critical assessments of the process leading to the adoption of the EU2020 strategy:**

**OSE [Briefing Paper](#) by Cécile Barbier, OSE, Brussels (in French)**

**ETUI [Policy Brief](#) by Philippe Pochet, ETUI, Brussels**

**For a more critical assessment of the Lisbon strategy:**

**ETUI [Working Paper](#) by Lars Magnusson, Uppsala University**

### – More women in top jobs

The European Commission has recently published a report showing that women continue to be severely under-represented in economic decision-making. In the corporate world, men account for nearly 89% of the board members in Europe's biggest listed companies. The disparity is widest at the very top where only 3% of such companies have a woman in charge. Norway stands out as the only country with anything approaching gender balance: 42% women and 58% men on the boards of the largest listed companies – a result of a legal quota. The report argues that there is a positive correlation between the share of women in senior positions and the company's performance and the economy would thus benefit from a better representation of women in high-level posts.

The report is available [here](#).

### – Social protection for self-employed workers and assisting spouses

In March, the Council adopted its first-reading position on a draft directive aimed at improving the social protection of self-employed workers and of 'assisting spouses'. The draft directive aims at removing disincentives to female entrepreneurship. It also seeks to improve the social protection of 'assisting spouses', who often work in the self-employed sector without enjoying the corresponding rights. According to the text of this directive, self-employed women, assisting spouses and life partners of self-employed workers are granted a maternity allowance enabling them to interrupt their occupational activity for at least 14 weeks. Moreover, assisting spouses and life partners of self-employed workers receive autonomous social protection rights. Compared to the Commission's proposal, the Council has extended the scope of the directive to life partners recognised by national law. The decision on the amount of the maternity allowance has however been left to the discretion of the Member States. Called to vote for the second time, on 18 May, on this proposal for a directive, the European Parliament demanded that the length of the maternity leave for the self-employed workers and assisting spouses be identical to the duration of maternity leave in force for employees.

### – New micro-finance instrument to promote jobs and social inclusion

The Employment and Social Affairs Council recently approved a decision on a new European micro-finance instrument to promote jobs and social inclusion. Hungary abstained and Germany voted against this instrument, which will provide loans to people who have lost their jobs and want

to start or further develop their own small business. This instrument aims at helping those who encountered difficulties in obtaining credit because of the economic crisis and the current lack of credit supply. Those helped under the initiative will also be able to benefit from mentoring, training and coaching as well as assistance in the preparation of a business plan, in close cooperation with the existing European Social Fund. In addition, the beneficiaries of this European Microfinance Facility will also be entitled to interest rate rebates through the European Social Fund. The loans offered will be under € 25 000 and tailored for micro-entreprises employing fewer than 10 people.

Read [the Commission's press release](#).

### – The 2010 'Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion'

Each year, the Joint Report reviews the main trends in social protection and social inclusion across the EU and at national level. This year's Joint Report aimed at drawing lessons from both the economic crisis and a decade of Lisbon strategy. It argues that national welfare systems and the specific short-term policies adopted in response to the crisis have been vital in mitigating its social and economic impacts. However, the ability of national welfare states to address the effects of the crisis varies: some Member States have major gaps in their social safety nets, others do not have the financial room for manoeuvre to let the automatic stabilisers embedded in their welfare system function fully. Member States also used the European Social Fund to enhance support to the unemployed, to keep workers in employment and to help the most vulnerable facing structural barriers to labour market integration. The report argues that short-term responses to the crisis should be consistent with the indispensable longer-term reforms that aim at modernising social policy. With regard to the Lisbon strategy, the report points out that despite the economic growth and the increase in employment rates observed in 2005-2008, the at-risk-of poverty rate in the EU-25 stagnated at 16%. Similarly, the in-work poverty rate at EU-level also remained stable. During the same period the at-risk-of poverty of the unemployed rose significantly from 39 to 44%. The report suggests that this increase might be due to changes in the characteristics of the unemployed population and to 'make work pay' reforms of unemployment benefit schemes (increased conditionality, shorter duration).

Read [the report and the supporting documents here](#).