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Sedef Akgüngör



Hanife Akar

TITLE:

Social Inclusion and academic performance of the Immigrant Students in Türkiye

BIO:

Dr. Hanife Akar, is a full professor in Educational Sciences and is affiliated with Middle East Technical University, Turkey. Dr. Akar received her Ph.D. degree in Curriculum and Instruction, METU, and was a TUBA fellow as a visiting researcher at Stanford University, School of Graduate Education, and Pedagogical University of Krakow doing research on fast-track teacher development policy. She received post-doctoral honorary positions as visiting scholar and research fellow at Northeastern University, NU Global, and Boston College, and Higher Education Research Center as a Fulbright fellow doing research on the internationalization of higher education curriculum. Her research focuses on international comparative research, curricular and instructional policy in K-12 and higher education, qualitative research, teacher education, deeper learning instruction, teacher education, intercultural education, citizenship/democracy education, and migration mainly. She coordinated and operated several national and international lifelong learning projects on climate change and active citizenship education. Her recent research focuses on migration and education policies in Turkey, Project for the International Organization of Migration, and national consultant for policy development and capacity building as part of Council of Europe Joint Project on Strengthening Democratic Culture in Basic Education (SCOD). Dr. Akar is a bilingual of Turkish and Dutch languages, and is fluent in English and German.

Prof. Sedef Akgüngör graduated from Ege University Faculty of Agriculture in 1984. She obtained her MS degree in Agricultural Economics at Ege University (1986), MA degree in Economics at Michigan State University (1991) and Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University (1992). Between 1993 and 2005, she worked at Michigan State University (visiting scholar), Ege University, and Işık University as a Faculty member and in various administrative positions. Prof. Akgüngör is currently a faculty member at Dokuz Eylul University since 2005. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Residence and taught at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service and Philander Smith College at Little Rock (2014-2015). As a Fulbright Scholar, she gave invited lectures at Clinton School, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), Philander Smith College, University at Albany Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, University at Albany Rockefeller School of Public Affairs and Policy. She has 20 years of experience in leading and participating in the EU projects including the European Science Foundation Eurocores programme, European Science Foundation Collaborative Research Project programme, COST and EU Framework 7 programme (FP7) as well as bilateral joint research projects with various European Institutions, including University of Hohenheim and Ghent University. She has worked in evaluating projects as an expert in H2020 programme. She served as an expert in various EU framework programme workshops including EC Joint Research Centers, Ispra and Montpellier. Prof. Akgüngör has worked with various international organizations and NGOs. She worked in agricultural evaluation projects in Malawi, the Philippines and Turkey and gave training seminars for the monitoring and evaluation staff in Heifer International Nepal and Malawi country offices. Prof. Akgüngör has extensive experience in field study design, including sampling, survey design, survey implementation, quantitative data analysis and reporting. She worked for as an expert for various organizations such as Dokuz Eylul University Technopark, Aegean Young Businessmen Association, Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Development, World Wildlife Foundation and Izmir Development Agency.

ABSTRACT:

Hanife Akar and Sedef Akgüngör

The objective of the study is to investigate the connection between immigrant students' social and economic standing and their academic success. We select Turkey as a case where internal and external migration has become an issue of increasing concern particularly over the last decade. In this study, the immigrant status is based on the condition that language other than Turkish is spoken at home (diversity group). Through a mixed-method research design we attempted to explore the indicators that have an influence on the social inclusion and achievement levels of students at risk (diversity group) in order to recommend policies to break the intergenerational cycles of disadvantage at the EU and national levels. The data for the mixed-method research is based on an innovative approach by interpreting the 2018 PISA student data outcomes with the meta-synthesis results of research studies published between January 2011 and 2022 July.

The quantitative analysis relies on using the PISA 2018 data and explores indicators that intersect with the student's social inclusion and achievement levels in Turkey. We use the 2018 PISA student data. Out of the total of 6890 Turkish student respondents, 512 students speak a language other than Turkish in their homes, out of which only 36 of the students have at least one member born outside Turkey. The analysis includes a comparison of the diverse group of 512 students with the rest of the students in the sample that consists of Turkish-speaking homes (control group) using independent sample t-test. The comparison is made using variables that measure student achievement, social and economic status, student's cognitive abilities, student's perceptions related to the school, student's perceptions related to their ability, student's attitudes in life and parent characteristics. Statistical comparison of the average values will be followed by a regression analysis where the dependent variable is student achievement. The independent variables include a dummy variable that measure whether or not the student belongs to the diversity group as well as additional explanatory social and economic variables that may have an impact on student performance. The analysis is facilitated by the syntax developed by the IDB Analyzer (International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement) that is used in studies of large-scale databases and suitable for using plausible values.

The qualitative part is a meta-synthesis of a review of the literature on migration starting from 2011 onwards due to the dramatic influx of migrants from neighboring countries to seek asylum from conflicts, wars, and political and economic turmoil in their home countries. Accordingly, the in-migration process inter-regionally and intra-regionally have accelerated the more external migrants have become apt to reside in districts where former external migrants settled or reside. Thus, the schools in those in-migration localities experience out-migration simultaneously and the turnover rates of students, teachers, and school managers are considerably high.

Our meta-synthesis, is based on a number of inclusion exclusion criteria, and only studies that are interpretive by nature, or are part of a mixed-method study adopting an interpretive approach are selected from articles that are indexed in WoS and Scopus, empirical peer-reviewed articles that are published in English and Turkish and are open-access meet our inclusion-criteria. The quality of the meta-synthesis is based on the trustworthiness, credibility and dependability of qualitative studies included. Through the meta-synthesis we aim at exploring complementary or explanatory findings that intersect with school-based factors, home-based factors, students' SES, social inclusion and achievement levels of migrant students overall.

The meta-synthesis data is based on using the keywords, *migration, *Turkey, *Türkiye, 2011-onwards in the WoS, the first screening yielded 1670 studies available, through excluding the studies that are *quantitative in nature, *not empirical, the data reduced to 170 studies. Through screening the abstracts and excluding university student-related studies, the data is reduced to 12 studies. As for the Scopus-indexed studies, the same trend above is used and data revealed from 57 studies to 23 studies dealing with internal and external migrant students' education, and the schools they attend. Yet, overlapping/similar studies have not yet been explored by comparing the synthesized data by both authors to validate the inclusion criteria. In case the data may not be satisfactory to complement the quantitative findings, grey literature from research reports and unpublished thesis studies will be included in the synthesis considering the same inclusion-exclusion criteria.

Preliminary synthesis findings indicate that poor school quality indicators of migrant students' schooling are reproduced for both in-migrant and external migrant students. Quality indicators are likely to range from poor school infrastructure to lack of qualified teachers due to high turnover rates, and the over-crowding of class sizes. A common reality is the low socio-economic status of children and family backgrounds. The poor language skills in the official language, i.e. Turkish intersect with low academic outcomes and social adaptation.

Similarly, the initial findings of the quantitative analysis reveal that there are significant differences across Turkish-speaking homes and non-Turkish-speaking homes with regards to the index of economic and social status. Factor analysis results show that the student-based factors can be summarized in 8 dimensions: competitiveness, perceived feedback, cultural awareness, interest in reading, cooperation, perceived discrimination, perception to immigrants, and general fear of failure. The regression analysis demonstrates that the students' achievement scores (plausible values) in reading, math, and science are significantly correlated with the student-based factors as well as the index of economic and social status and language spoken at home.



Jaroslav Dvorak



Galyna Mishenina

TITLE:

Transformation of budgeting technologies in the context of inclusive sustainable development

BIO:

Jaroslav Dvorak is a professor and head of the Department of Public Administration and Political Sciences at Klaipeda University, Lithuania. He has executive and expert experience in national and international institutions. He is chair of Non-governmental organizations council at Klaipeda City Municipality. He is a member of the Research Board at People Powered.

Galyna Mishenina Ph.D. in economics. Currently, she works at the University of Klaipeda, Lithuania as a researcher in the Department of Management and as associate professor at the Sumy State University, Ukraine. She worked as an investment attraction manager and deputy director of the Regional Development Agency of Sumy region, Ukraine. G. Mishenina in her work combines the experience of entrepreneurial, research, and teaching activities.

ABSTRACT:

Jaroslav Dvorak and Galyna Mishenina

The idea of inclusive sustainable growth is integrated at all levels of sustainable development (local, regional, national and global). This makes the world community, state, local self-government, business and other stakeholders highly responsible for the decisions made. There is a need for a qualitative change in the understanding of the goals and processes of development of social-economic systems, taking into account the priorities of sustainability and inclusiveness. Since inclusive development provides an emphasis on the distribution of social and material goods among various groups of the population, it has an influence on structural factors in order to reduce the manifestations of exploitation and marginalization of vulnerable groups of society. These provisions, in the center of whose people and their well-being, are today proclaimed as priorities in the programs of the most influential international organizations for sustainable development and economic growth, in the strategies and policies of states, in the codes of corporate social responsibility.

Inclusiveness, as a characteristic of public-political and social-economic processes, presupposes the expansion of borders, forms and models of the attraction of subjects' relations in the process of management or regulation. In this aspect, thanks to the decentralization of public administration in developed countries, the influence of inclusiveness principles on economic and social processes that contribute to local and regional development is increasing. At the same time, the challenges of financial decentralization are related to ensuring citizens' understanding of problems and ways of implementing changes, as well as their possible benefits and influence. At the same time, in an ideal model, citizens should be involved in the creation of reforms long before their implementation. This necessitates the search and application of effective approaches to the transformation of public financing, including an inclusive approach. We are talking about raising the level of inclusiveness in the budgeting process at the state, regional and local levels. In this aspect, participatory budgeting and gender-oriented budgeting play a bigger role.

Thus, the research considers the key features of inclusive budgeting (IOB) and its main elements of participatory and gender-oriented budgeting, highlighting the specifics of the cases of Ukraine and Lithuania in the context of other young democracies of the EU, which must be taken into account when examining the future vision of inclusive sustainable development.

The purpose is to generalize and define the features and possibilities of applying budgetary innovation mechanisms in the context of inclusive sustainable growth, directions for expanding the influence of inclusive-oriented budgeting (IOB) on ensuring the development of territories in the conditions of deepening the processes of decentralization in Ukraine and realizing the goals of sustainable development.



Vadims Mantrovs

Iveta Reinholde



TITLE:

Migration processes and the impact on contract law

BIO:

Dr iur. Vadim Mantrov is Docent of Civil Law and Research Fellow at the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia; he is also the Head of the Legal Science Institute of the Faculty of Law. His main research interests are related to civil law and its relationship with special civil law branches such as insurance law (as well as risk regulation in general), consumer protection, and intellectual property (especially in conjunction with food law and product quality protection). The (co)author of more than 70 scientific publications (including those indexed in recognised databases), inter alia, monographs published abroad and in Latvia. Delivered papers in more than 30 international and domestic scientific conferences. Participated in implementation of significant international and domestic scientific projects either as a head or a performer of the project. He is recognised as an expert in legal science by the Science Council of Latvia since 2012.

Iveta Reinholde is the professor of public administration at the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Latvia. She has considerable experience in conducting policy evaluations, working in multi-national teams and international setting on such areas as public administration reform, internal audit, human security and public services. In addition, fields of her research include EU public policy, public policy evaluation and analysis, public sector organizations and organisation theory. She is experienced in advising and designing policy recommendations for national and local governments as she is a head of Public Council of National Audit Office. Since 2014, she is an independent expert for the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe. In 2019, she has been awarded with Alena Brunovska Award for Teaching Excellence in Public Administration (NISPAcee).

ABSTRACT:

Vadims Mantrovs and Iveta Reinholde

Current migration processes and accompanying effects of different nature (social, economic, legal, etc.) produce different challenges and problems for every EU Member State. These challenges differ as by their variety as well as by the potential impact and consequences. From the point of variety of aspects. Out of many challenges, there is one related to an issue whether current legal regulation is appropriate to deal with challenges posed before EU Member States which are produced by modern migration processes. Impact of integration processes on contract law is an unexplored area in EU Member States in general and Latvia as a separate EU Member State in particular. Such a situation prevents arriving at the conclusion whether current contract law regulation effectively deals with those challenges which are created by modern migration processes. However, analysis of such an impact should be carried out based on experience of the each EU Member State as they could be in different situations depending on their location, economy, state of development and other similar factors.

The aim of the paper is to explore how the Latvian legislator dealt and still deals with challenges of modern migration processes from the point of view of contract law. To reach the aim, the paper has two tasks. On the one hand, the paper analyses policy considerations which were or might be used by the Latvian legislator in adopting legislative measures in recent years in contract law (mostly, but not limited to, concerning labour contracts) dealing, directly or indirectly, with migration processes. On the other hand, the paper characterises these legislative measures of the Latvian legislator from the legal point of view by discussing their appropriateness with both announced and required policy considerations. By discussing suitability of Latvian contract law with challenges of current migration processes, the authors of the paper will discover, whether Latvian contract law is adequate to deal with these challenges. In addition, action performed by the Latvian parliament and policy makers will be revealed from the perspective of eventual improvements in both from the policy and legal point of view.



Emmanouil Sofos



Aikaterini Tsakmakidou

TITLE:

Immigrants' Inclusion, Adult Education and Agricultural Policies in a Changing Europe

BIO:

Emmanouil Sofos is an experienced Education Professional with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Strong education professional with a Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. focused in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of the Aegean. As a University Lecturer, he is employed remotely on a temporary contract at Hellenic Open University for teaching-related responsibilities and teaching the subject NEW APPROACHES IN ADULT EDUCATION in the postgraduate course "MSc in Adult Education Studies". He served as a diplomatic Educational Coordinator representing the Greek nation and government in international organizations and managing the day-to-day issues of Greek primary, secondary as well as elementary schools in Germany.

Aikaterini Tsakmakidou is an Agronomist with a Master's degree in Environmental Policy & Management and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science with a focus on Climate Change from Aegean University, specializing in IT-Project management at Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin. Her academic interests include environmental governance, rural development, sustainable growth, and IT/AI input in dealing with environmental issues. Experienced project manager in government administration and nonprofit organizations, expert project evaluator, and online volunteer lecturer. Skilled in Rural Development, Sustainable Growth, and Environmental Governance. She served as head of the Agribusiness Unit in Rhodes Municipality and currently she is a seconded national expert at the European Commission, DG NEAR.

ABSTRACT:

Emmanouil Sofos and Aikaterini Tsakmakidou

Since the immigration influx in 2015, integration policies have been a broadly discussed and examined topic. Although immigration itself could be potentially bring various benefits to the host country (social diversity, new labor force), these benefits in order to become realized should be sustained and underpinned by efficient integration process. Apart from the economic dimension, successful integration is also conditioned by cultural integration and civic integration. In our paper we will attempt to: (a) examine the policies followed by EU countries concerning immigrant integration (b) delineate the factors that have contributed to the effectiveness of these policies at national or regional level (c) identify barriers and challenges to integration faced by immigrants in an enlarged European Union (d) make suggestions for the crucial role of Adult Education and Training in the framework of incorporating large numbers of immigrants into the European societies (e) argue how the agricultural sector of several EU countries could profit from immigrant workforce.



Dijana Štrbac

TITLE:

Social entrepreneurship and social economy in the Republic of Serbia – evaluation of policies, resources and key actors

BIO:

Dijana Štrbac is a Research Associate at the University of Belgrade, Institute Mihajlo Pupin, Science and Technology Policy Research Centre. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kragujevac and an MSc in European studies from the University of Belgrade. Her research interest and fields of expertise are focused on S&T and innovation policy, economic development, and industrial policy. She has published more than 40 scientific and professional papers in scientific journals and conference proceedings. Since 2011 she has participated in several national R&I projects and more than 10 international projects funded by the EU programmes. The projects were related to innovation management, RTDI evaluation, education and research policy, support for entrepreneurship, and technology transfer. Since 2015 she is a member of the Coordination team managing Priority area 7 (Knowledge Society) of the EU Strategy for the Danube region.

ABSTRACT:

Dijana Štrbac

Social entrepreneurship is a global phenomenon which has an important role in addressing social, economic and environmental development as well as in increasing social inclusion and democratic participation. The policy makers consider social entrepreneurship as a growing sector which offers different opportunities for economic growth, implementing innovation and creating new jobs. There are different examples of policies which support creation of social enterprises and development of an enabling ecosystem for social economy on national and international level. The main objectives of this research are to explore the existing social entrepreneurship landscape in Serbia, evaluate public policies in this field and identify gaps which could be addressed by future policy actions related to social enterprises. The framework used for evaluation of policies focused on social entrepreneurship is based on the OECD approach. According to the OECD, there are six key areas for supporting social entrepreneurship on a national and local level: promotion; building enabling legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks; providing sustainable finance; offering business development services and support structures; supporting access to markets and support to further research in this field. The research methodology includes analysis of statistical data, legal acts, policies, programmes and organisations in this field.



Katalin Bördős

TITLE:

NEETs in Hungary: a summary on the evaluations of policies and challenges

BIO:

Katalin Bördős is a research analyst at HÉTFA Research Institute and has more than 10 years of professional experience. She acquired her Master's Degree in Economics at the Corvinus University of Budapest, and she is also an alumna of the Széchenyi István College for Advanced Studies. Between 2012 and 2016, she worked as a junior research fellow at Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis.

Katalin's main fields of study include employment policy, labour economics and social inclusion policies. She has participated in research projects on both Hungarian and international (EU-) level, including various projects on youth unemployment and the labour market situation of NEETs, the institutional and regulatory framework of public employment services, active labour market programmes (ALMPs), long-term unemployment or women in the labour market. She has also worked on projects that analysed the performance and heterogeneity of firms in Hungary (e.g., estimating the impact of investment incentives).

Katalin has extensive experience in handling large datasets (including both regional-, individual- and firm-level data) and has a profound knowledge of data analysis techniques, microeconometrics and counterfactual impact evaluation methods. Besides quantitative research, she has also gained experience in qualitative research by conducting several interviews with stakeholders and experts in various fields. Being lead researcher in several projects, she has acquired good communication, project management and leadership skills as well.

ABSTRACT:

Katalin Bördös

NEET-rates in Hungary are not outstandingly high: for 15-24-year-olds, NEET-rates correspond to the EU-27 average (in 2021, it was 10.6% and 10.8% for Hungary and the EU-27, respectively), and for the 25-29 cohort, it is even below the average of the Member States (13.4% for Hungary and 17.3% in the EU-27 for 2021). However, if we have a closer look at the situation of NEETs, we can see that certain groups – especially women, those with a low level of educational attainment and those who belong to the Roma minority – are in a significantly worse position than the ‘average’ youth in Hungary: for example, the gender gap concerning the 25+ NEET-rate was 17.9 percentage points in 2020, and the vast majority (84%) of female NEETs were outside the labour force. Among those with the lowest levels of education, the 25+ NEET-rate in 2020 was almost 3 times higher (49%) than among those with an upper secondary degree (17.0%) and almost 4.5 times higher than among those with tertiary education (11.1%). Also, Romani people have a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion, their employment rate is lower and they complete fewer grades of school on average compared with non-Roma Hungarian citizens.

The different fields of public policy have the potential to improve the situation of NEETs and to enable youth to integrate into the labour market. Concerning NEETs, the most relevant fields of policy in Hungary are youth policy, employment policy, education policy (especially vocational adult training and higher education) and social policy. In this paper, we take stock of the different legislations and regulations in effect in Hungary that can potentially affect the situation of NEETs, and summarise the results of the relevant (counterfactual) impact evaluations as well. Among NEETs, we pay special attention to the 25-29 cohort as well, as this is an age group that is often overlooked in Hungarian public policies.



Luca Koltai

TITLE:

Evaluation of measures supporting social enterprises in Hungary

BIO:

Luca Koltai is a senior associate at the HÉTFA Research Institute, and has a degree in social policy and Europe. In addition, she gained additional knowledge on business ethics, equal opportunities, and non-profit management courses. During her career, she gained experience at Budapest Esély, the National Family and Social Policy Institute, and the Hungarian organization of Habitat for Humanity. As a researcher, she primarily dealt with employment and social issues, including public employment, those excluded from the labor market, and social enterprises. She is one of the leaders of the HÉTFA Research Institute's "Women entrepreneurs during the coronavirus" research.

ABSTRACT:

Luca Koltai

The aim of the evaluation is to provide input for further interventions, thus contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness of developments by presenting the results of programs, exploring potential development opportunities and ways to achieve them.

The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of measures supporting social enterprises, including:

- an outlook to measures financed by EU funds in the 2007-2013 period, their results, and impacts, and
- assessment of the financial progress and (partial) results of the 2014-2020 period.

The Social Business Initiative of the European Commission (2011) declare the commitment of the EU towards the support of social enterprises: since these enterprises, operating embedded in local communities, can contribute to social cohesion and the diminishing of territorial inequalities. Thus, increasing the competitiveness of social economy has become one of the main goals of the EU. There were many calls for application in the last two programming periods for developing social enterprises; also, since 2016 there are domestic funds in Hungary as well.

This abstract focuses on the programmes carried out using EU funds in the 2007-2013. Although this period was only part of the aforementioned evaluation, but this period is finished and long-term effects could be examined.

Results

In order to exploit the employment potential of social cooperatives, in 2010 the New Széchenyi Plan contained the first project intervention within the Social Renewal Operational Programme (Hungarian acronym: TÁMOP), TÁMOP-2.4.3, called "Supporting atypical employment forms". The B-2 component of this measure aimed to support the employment of disadvantaged people by supporting employment in social cooperatives. In 2013 there have been another two calls for application, also for social cooperatives (focused on supporting the employment potential of social cooperatives, and to contribute to the development of activities and operation of the organizations).

In this period only social cooperatives could apply - thus this support contributed to the strengthening and spread of this type of organization.

Contrary to the intention of the authorities, most of the supported organizations (72.5%) were new enterprises, established in the year of the application. A part of the beneficiaries (15.6%) though were older cooperatives, who were able to realize more complex and comprehensive projects due to their experience, resources and the larger amount of funding. With the employment of 10.5 persons on average, beneficiaries completed double of the target indicator.

Since the projects put a heavy emphasis on employment, beneficiaries mostly emphasized the lasting of employment and labour market effect of the project funding. According to the interviews and previous research results it can be stated that it was not among the aims of most project organizations to orient their participants to the labour market. Their aim was mostly the stabilization of the social enterprise and the strengthening of their business opportunities - and keeping their employees.

Apart from employment, beneficiaries deemed the launch of the enterprise, the stabilization of the organization and the increase of their social and attitude-changing effects the most important results of the SROP funds.

According to the survival analysis of the beneficiary organizations, the survival rate of these organizations is higher than those who are not beneficiaries. A larger share of beneficiary organizations is active in a formal sense than of the non-beneficiaries, but there are less actually active organizations among them. Thus, many beneficiaries kept their organization alive because of the maintenance period, with only formal operation. Among the beneficiary organizations, the proportion of those who did not show actual activity was higher than that of the non-beneficiary organizations. This could indicate that a part of the beneficiaries did not continue their activities or did it in other legal form (not as a cooperative).

According to the propensity score evaluation of the beneficiaries, although the funding did not cause significant increase in the number of employed persons, there is significant increase (according to the pairing and difference in differences methods) in other indicators of social cooperatives, such as sales revenue, assets and liabilities. The reason behind this significant increase is that many of the cooperatives were founded during the programming period– when using the pairing method, we paired similar, relatively and absolutely small cooperatives. In terms of their growth trajectory and their level at the end of the period, the share of subsidies resulted in significant differences in all three examined balance sheets and profit indicators, but not in the number of employees.

Studying the geographical distribution of the funds we can observe, that overall, the bigger rural districts including cities with county rights have the most projects for social enterprise development. Similar to the 2007-2013 period, the Eastern and South-western region dominates considering both GINOP and EFOP projects, although with a larger expansion and smaller gap than in the case of SROP. Looking at the number of projects on local level, we see similar patterns to the districts: there are more funded projects in bigger locations and in their vicinity. 22% of all projects were implemented in districts in need of a complex development programme (which are districts in the most difficult situation), 7-8% were implemented in districts in need of development, while the ratio of projects increased for the 2014-2020 period from 22% to 30% in beneficiary districts. Districts in the best situation, which do not belong to any of the above categories, implemented the highest ratio of the projects: 48% in the 2007-2013 period and 40% in the 2014-2020 period.



Doriana Matraku (Dervishi)

TITLE:

Positive and negative impact of migration in Albania. How the returnees are re-integrated in the country?

BIO:

BIO

ABSTRACT:

Doriana Matraku (Dervishi)

Albania has a high number of emigrants every year, especially in Germany, US, Italy, Greece, but also UK, France, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland ect. The country is facing a new wave of migrants nowadays.

As the number of emigrants has grown up every year, also the number of returnees is not low. The international migration of Albanians, especially starting from the late 1990s, goes hand-in-hand with their return. Survey data show that 17.5%, aged 18 years and older, have migrated for at least one year, mainly to Greece (63.3%), Italy (20.6%), Germany (6%), and to a much lesser extent to the US, Austria, France, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, etc.

The return of Albanian migrants in 2009–2013 is related to the global economic crisis and the resultant high unemployment levels in Greece and Italy. At the end of 2013, according to Eurostat data[1], the unemployment rate was 27.8% in Greece and 12.6% in Italy, but this rate was even higher among the migrants. According to a joint study by INSTAT and IOM, during this period, around 134,000 migrants returned to Albania[2]. In the meantime, the return bulge during 2016–2018 is related mainly to the return of asylum seekers in Germany and some other EU countries.

The return of migrants is a potentially very important process for the economic and social development of Albania. Returnees bring financial capital (savings), human capital (skills and know-how, new mentality and ideas, work habits, etc.) and social capital. However, this depends, on the one hand, on the duration of stay in the host country and the reasons for returning. Potential benefits for the home country are maximized when the returnees have stayed long enough in the destination country to achieve their objectives with regard to saving, education or professional qualifications, or when they are still relatively young and wish to invest human and financial capital in their home country. On the other hand, it depends on the creation of premises in the home country to effectively utilize the human, financial and social capital of returnees.

Returnees need: health support, support to find a job, housing support, educational support, vocational training support

What are Albanian local and central government doing to re-integrate all these people? There are many institutions in central and local level involved in the reintegration process deal with the implementation of policies for reintegration of returnees.

The paper will be focused: firstly, in the data about the migration and also returnees in Albania, secondly, in the policies and strategy for the integration of the returnees.

[1] EUROSTAT (2015) Euro area unemployment rate at 11.4%, December 2014. 20/2015–30 January 2015. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6581668/3-30012015-AP-EN.pdf/9d4fbadd-d7ae-48f8-b071-672f3c4767dd>

[2] INSTAT, IOM(2014)Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania. Tirana: Institute of Statistics/International Organization for Migration.



Cao Xu

TITLE:

Engaging the social participation of young people in rural areas

BIO:

BIO



ABSTRACT:

Cao Xu

Over 53 % of the world's population live in rural areas and more than 70 % of the poor population reside in rural areas. Engaging the social participation of rural youth in society is beneficial to reducing the intergenerational transmission of poverty and improving human resources in rural regions.

The essential to enhancing social inclusion is to involve more individuals in society. Existing studies mainly are improving the integration of immigrations into local communities, education and employment of disabled people, and social participation of certain groups. The current dilemma is that most youth policies ignore the rural, and most rural policies ignore youth. We aim to identify the challenges that young people in rural areas face and to provide solutions to promote young people's social engagement. Although the share of young people in rural areas is declining in Europe due to an aging society, declining birth rate, and migration of young people to more urbanized areas, this group occupies a considerable proportion on a global scale.

For data collection, a desk review using secondary sources was employed such as relevant literature, legislation, national youth strategies, and programmes from the relevant authorities. Moreover, thirty-two questionnaires were collected from Hungarian rural and suburban regions. We find that improving the channel of acquiring and transmitting information to young people in rural is critical. Influencing variables includes financial concerns and awareness of the necessity of education. Therefore, one of the achievable and effective methods is advocacy activity. Besides, increasing mobility make difference such as short-term exchanges, and study tour programs.



Martin Klatt

TITLE:

NTA as an instrument to manage diversity – not just for national minorities (KEYNOTE)

BIO:

Martin Klatt is Head of Research Cluster, European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg (since September 2022). He has been an Associate Professor at the Center of Border Region Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Sønderborg for 17 years (2005-2022). His previous scientific positions were as a research fellow at the Schleswig-Holstein Institute for Peace Research (1996), at the Research Department of the Danish Library for South Schleswig (1997-2000) and as an assistant professor at the Danish Institute for Border Region Studies (2001-2005). Regarding his research activities, he concentrates on national minorities in border regions, regional cross-border cooperation, cross-border regions in history and today, and cross-border regional governance.

His current international research projects:

- Borders in Globalization (BIG) - a global research project involving partners from four continents researching the development of global borders in the 21st century.
- European Non-Territorial Autonomy Network (ENTAN) - a COST Action examining the concept of non-territorial autonomy (NTA), from both a comparative and comprehensive perspective.
- Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance (IGCOORD) - a COST Action with the aim to generate new insights on how to organize and optimize institutions and processes of intergovernmental coordination.

ABSTRACT:

Martin Klatt

Non-territorial autonomy was designed in the 19th century as an instrument to accommodate national, cultural and ethnic diversity in multiethnic states, primarily the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as an alternative to territorial autonomy or secession. It has been applied in different forms, mostly in Europe. So far, NTA implementation has predominantly been focusing on autochthonous minorities. My presentation will demonstrate, how implementation of NTA can function as an instrument to analyze policies of social integration of vulnerable groups in general. Liberal Multiculturalism (Kymlicka, 2018) presupposes the necessity to recognize groups' cultural rights as a precondition for well-being and social inclusion. Here, NTA is a model on how to implement liberal multiculturalism without challenging state sovereignty. It allows minorities to establish institutions to ensure the continuous development of their linguistic, cultural, and ethnic identity without challenging the state they reside in.

My paper will address the Danish-German border region of Schleswig as a best practice example of how policies ensuring non-territorial autonomy have achieved conflict resolution and minority accommodation, but foremost also social inclusion. The former being widely consensus in research on the case (foremost Kühl & Bohn, 2005; Kühl & Weller, 2005), the development from social (and economic) exclusion to inclusion has not been subject to more in-depth research, yet.

Historically, the Danish-German antagonism has polarized Schleswig, especially in the 19th century, and has transformed a prosperous, economically central region into two peripheral regions. Nationalization (and the defense of perceived national gains) have dominated regional and national policies at least until the 1960s. A paradigm shift around the turn of the century rediscovered cultural and linguistic diversity as an asset of development (Malloy, 2010). Today, the minorities' cultural and educational systems are considered attractive by considerable parts of the majority population.

Both minorities have evolved from segregation and social exclusion during times of conflict, especially after World War II, to recognized groups with attractive social and cultural institutions. Decisive elements were a combination of national and regional policies, political goodwill, and minority self-restriction by the acceptance of the 1920-border between Germany and Denmark. This has resulted in an overall accepted system of diversity, which has been recognized and marketed by regional and national politicians and other stakeholders, culminating in the, albeit unsuccessful, attempt of recognition as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage.

Out of this experience, my paper will outline a policy checklist to assess successful social, cultural and linguistic inclusion of minorities, demonstrating successes, challenges and policy recommendations for different stakeholders.

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Ivana Djuric

TITLE:

Croatia and the EU's Migrant Integration Policy: Transfer, Implementation and Challenges to the Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

BIO:

Dr. Ivana Djuric is a political scientist and an active researcher and consultant engaged in the issues of forced migrations, asylum seekers and refugees, democratization and institution building in post-conflict societies, comparative governance and policy studies, international development, human and minority rights, the EU enlargement and the media. Her wider research interests include comparative politics, global public policy, post-conflict studies, economic development, migrations and Diaspora, nationalism, history, and ethno-politics in Southeast Europe/the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Russia.

ABSTRACT:

Ivana Djuric

Croatia has developed the legislative framework regulating the rights and protection of forced migrants - refugees and asylum seekers - in response and as a part of the EU accession requirements. The policy transfer from the EU included the general principles on the migrant integration and the common EU's policy action framework from 2005 (A Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union). On the face of it, Croatia's migrant integration policy and legislative framework was clearly defined, fully in line with the EU's integration framework for refugees and asylum seekers (in some cases it was even more advanced than the requirements and practices in other EU member states, as for an example a two-year coverage of the refugee and asylum seeker's rental cost) and a series of rules that regulated more closely the implementation of legally guaranteed rights. Yet, Croatia's migration policy practice has suffered for years from the lack of a wider vision and migration plans, and nearly non-existent integration policy, best described as slow and reluctant. Some of the reported problems have revolved around the implementation of the integration framework and derived from systemic issues such as: weak multisectoral integration of the policy; protracted absence of an accountable, single body with the policy enforcement powers; insufficient and challenged inter-agency cooperation; weak communication between state and non-state policy actors; missing or underdeveloped integration guidelines and programmes in the field of education; problems in refugees and asylum seekers' access to the health care; insufficient language learning opportunities and inadequate employment support.



Irina Lonean

TITLE:

Evaluation of the horizontal principle of non-discrimination in European Structural and Investment Funds in Romania

BIO:

Since 2015 Irina Lonean conducted the evaluation of international, national, and local initiatives promoting wellbeing and support services for children and young people. She participated in the Youth policy evaluation review and drafted the Insights into social inclusion and digitalization, both published by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership in 2020. In 2021 she was part of the team working on the development of the online Knowledge HUB: COVID-19 impact on the youth sector developed and hosted by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership. She was also part of teams providing an evaluation of model projects and programmes of UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia.

ABSTRACT:

Irina Lonean

The evaluation represented the application of the Member State's obligations under the Common Provisions Regulation.[1] It stipulates that Member States must carry out an assessment of the approach to the horizontal principles and objectives set by the Commission. The evaluation is drafted taking into account the obligations of Romania as an EU Member State as per art. 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union. The evaluation is also in direct connection with the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These provisions regarding the fundamental values and rights promoted by the EU and Romania guided both the collection and analysis of data, as well as the formulation of evaluation conclusions and recommendations.

The purpose of this evaluation was to identify the actions planned and implemented by the EFSI managing authorities and the beneficiaries and to examine the extent to which they have contributed to an improvement in the situation in Romania as regards (a) the gender inequalities still present, (b) discrimination faced by some social groups, (c) barriers to access for persons with disabilities.

The number of actions planned and contracted with FESI funding to directly promote equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility is relatively small in Romania. A total of 1,430 projects were contracted[2] amounting to 28.10 billion lei (non-reimbursable financing). The number of projects represents 2.05% of the total number of contracted projects.[3] The budget for these actions also represents a small proportion of the FESI budget allocated to all contracted operations, i.e. less than 4%. The budgetary analysis shows that the largest budget allocation that could contribute to the assessed horizontal principles is for public transport investments, which, as the literature shows, indirectly (but unplanned) contribute to equal opportunities.

The analysis of the Partnership Agreement and of the programs, interviews and case studies shows that the proposed intervention logic starts from the premise that gender inequality, discrimination and lack of access for persons with disabilities are caused by the existence of vulnerabilities (such as: a lower level of education or qualification, poverty and social exclusion, inadequate housing, lack of transport infrastructure and access to public and private services). In this context, the programs aim to address vulnerabilities directly. On the other hand, operational programs do not take into account the causes of social norms, gender stereotypes and prejudices related to some social groups that generate gender inequalities, discrimination and lack of access for people with disabilities.

The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility have been integrated into the planning, implementation and monitoring of programs throughout the program management cycle.

[1] Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

[2] The terminated projects were not taken into account.

[3] 56,795 projects are registered under the NRDP, over 29,910 being related to Measure 6 "Development of holdings and enterprises" and 11,096 being related to Sub-measure 17.1 "Crop, animal and plant insurance premiums".

These horizontal principles have been taken into account in program planning, and the use of ex-ante evaluations and consultations with relevant stakeholders has led to programs that integrate the gender perspective and prevent discrimination, ensuring equal access to funding and project activities irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility have been mainstreamed in the implementation of the programs. FESI managing authorities have asked applicants for funding to assume and prove compliance with the horizontal principles. These requirements were reflected in projects that mainstreamed gender equality, opportunities and treatment. Thus, the projects did not generate obstacles for the participation of women or vulnerable groups through the project management and implementation procedures and through the activities carried out. In addition, the EFSI managing authorities monitored the extent to which the projects are fulfilling their commitments and provided support to the beneficiaries on the horizontal principles. The beneficiaries are satisfied and very satisfied with the received support. However, with the exception of projects dedicated to equal opportunities and social inclusion, the projects have planned and implemented gender-neutral measures that do not perpetuate discrimination, rather than active measures to reduce gender inequality, combat discrimination and to increase the level of accessibility to infrastructure, technology and services for people with disabilities.

The case studies identified a small number of good practices, which fall into one of the following categories::

- i. Preliminary gender and vulnerabilities analysis;
- ii. Inclusive involvement of the target group in project planning and implementation, including through community building activities / facilitation;
- iii. Involvement of a person responsible for equal opportunities and / or non-discrimination and / or the rights of persons with disabilities in project management;
- iv. Application of affirmative action measures (active measures to increase equality and eliminate discrimination, otherwise known as positive discrimination measures) adapted to the typology of the project and the needs of the target groups (according to good practices of preliminary gender and vulnerabilities analysis). This category of good practice includes both the procedures or quotas used in the selection of target groups and the planning of infrastructure investments with equal opportunities (e.g. the construction of kindergartens including friendly spaces for children and parents activities);
- v. Constant and systematic communication on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility;
- vi. Application of active measures to ensure accessibility (verification of texts drafted in projects to be accessible, inclusion in the built infrastructure of accessibility elements in addition to legal obligations, etc.);
- vii. Ensuring inclusive human resources management procedures in projects;
- viii. Procurement from social economy enterprises whose mission is to support women, people with disabilities or vulnerable people subject to discrimination.

Consequently, operational programs succeed in preventing the aggravation of inequalities, discrimination or lack of access through funded projects, which address these principles horizontally and do not introduce discriminatory criteria in implementation. On the other hand, FESI-funded projects have a limited contribution to reducing gender inequalities, combating discrimination or increasing the level of accessibility, which remain serious problems facing Romanian society, because not all the causes that cause problems are systematically addressed.



Danijel Baturina

TITLE:

Thirty years of evolution? Perspectives of elderly care policies in Croatia

BIO:

BIO



ABSTRACT:

Danijel Baturina

The shift from industrial to post-industrial societies, changes in employment, and decreasing capacities of family, together with demographic challenges, have put the future of personal social services at the heart of social policy debates.

Croatia is in the process of "deep ageing" with an increase of older people in the population (Nejašmić and Toskic, 2013). Elderly people in Croatia face multiple economic and social vulnerabilities (Baturina, 2021). Describing the field of elderly care Dobrotić (2016) emphasizes the absence of a clear state policy and coordination that leads to a "blurred" network of services, in which it is difficult to assess real capacities, especially the coverage of non-institutional services. Key challenges of policies and system for elderly care service coverage, which remains low, the problem of long waiting lists for institutional services, pricing policies and the non-transparency of the system. There are also the consequences of incomplete decentralization (emphasized by Dobrotić, 2016; Babić 2018). Several strategies (for example, The Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2017) recognized vulnerable position of elderly in society.

The main goal of the paper is to present the evolution of elderly care policies in Croatia. The paper gives an overview of the policy and institutional changes and developments of elderly care in Croatia in thirty years period after the democratic transition (years 1991-2021) as an attempt to estimate how this development contributed towards quality of life and social inclusion of elderly people in the society. The paper uses desk research as a method with research on elderly care, official data and policy documents and other relevant documents as sources.

The characteristics of elderly care policies will be explored in two aspects: trends and changes in (1) regulation (changes in legislative and strategic framework); (2) financing (changes in responsibility for financing services, trends of marketization, the structure of financing – state subsidies vs. out-of-pocket, etc.). The paper will specifically focus on how the elderly policies changed concerning the role of private not-for-profit and profit sectors in the provision of elderly care (institutional and in-home care) and their relations with the government and public service providers. The role of Europeanization and EU policies on the policy-making process in Croatia and changes that were introduced with it will be considered. Paper will also reflect on the EU new policy period 2021-2027. Croatia is a country with the highest proportion of the population with low resilience (Eurofound, 2020). So, in the end, the impact and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic on elderly policies and how they have responded will be highlighted.

The future and growth of the elderly population also raises the question of potential distributive conflicts between groups that favor different types of social consumption (Henjak, 2008) which can certainly change the perspective of social responses policy. We will conclude by giving an evaluative estimate of the current status and transformation of last three decades of elderly policies in Croatia in the context of the development of a general welfare state with a view toward the future.

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Albena Vutsova

TITLE:

Promoting social economy as an instrument for economic transformation

BIO:

BIO

ABSTRACT:

Albena Vutsova

The social economy is often defined by the supremacy of democracy over capital in economic decisions of people and organizations and its performance - measured rather in welfare than (gross domestic) product. The paper looks at the phenomenon from three perspectives: a) Identification of institutional factors and organizational approaches that shape social economy models and develop a supportive eco-system in EU; b) identification of functioning policies and measures to promote social economy in new member states and make it a steady part of the national GDP; and last, but not least c) how social economy itself could serve as an instrument for economic transformation.

The paper builds on approaches to estimate the size and interconnectedness of social economy to the whole economy. We will analyze in detail quantitatively associations, foundations, and cooperatives and qualitatively – social enterprises. The paper will also seek to identify regulatory gaps, which could be resolved through transposition of EU legislation and good practices. The post-pandemic and military conflicts on the territory of Europe highlight the importance of social economy and could serve as a growth anchor to the region.



Rubén Tamboleo García

TITLE:

The transformation of Social Policy in the City of Madrid during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis

BIO:

Rubén Tamboleo García is an adjunct Professor of Sociology at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) in the Faculties of Philosophy and Economic Sciences and of Social Psychology and Human Resources at the Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M). Professor of Sociology and Political Science and Administration at the National University of Distance Education (UNED). Previously Professor of Applied Sociology at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) in the Faculties of Law and Political Science and Sociology; and Research Methodology in Sociology at the University of Valladolid (UVa) in the Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences. Consultant and Manager of Training Projects and Public Affairs. Author of indexed articles, books and book chapters with different publishers. Director of several monographs in Public Administration. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Mahdia Campus in Tunis, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Universities of Liverpool and Vienna. Researcher of UCM Educational Innovation Projects, of R+D+I Projects, and International Research Projects such as Horizon2020 "REMINDER". Secretary of the Scientific Committees of the International Congress on "Governance and Public Affairs" in four editions (last one in Toluca de Lerdo, Mexico) and "Populist Challenges for Consolidated Democracies". Academic Secretary of the "XII Ortega y Gasset Summer Classroom: Initiation to the University" at the UIMP. Director of the XXVI International Congress of Sociology in Castilla La Mancha (ACMS). Analyst for different media (La Sexta, Cuatro, RT, Telemadrid, Televisa, HispanTV, 7NN, ABC,...).

ABSTRACT:

Rubén Tamboleo García

The social inclusion of people (including immigrants) at risk of poverty and social exclusion has been one of the great innovative developments of the Madrid City Council in Spain in the last two decades. Especially, it faced challenges never before known during the pandemic crisis and the economic crisis derived from the COVID-19 confinements, in the face of which the Madrid City Council's Family, Equality and Social Welfare Government Area had to transform its social policy , and equip itself with new tools to fight against poverty and social exclusion, within a perspective of social democratic public policies.

The Methodology makes a comparison in the issuance of money cards (which will later be called "family cards") in different periods, the annual budget items according to those same periods, and the transformation in the Delegated Area, in addition to including interviews with authorities relevant, especially the Delegate Councilor of the Area. As main conclusions, we see the increase in the issuance of what are known as "family cards" and the expansion of the service charter in Social Policy of the Madrid City Council.

For the debate and discussion, the question must be taken into account if it is the city councils that should be responsible for this type of social policy matters in general, and specifically to what extent their size influences as administrative entities to know if they can take charge of this type of policy, this issue being one of the main questions for possible evaluations of public policies.



Stephan Köppe

TITLE:

Evaluating Ireland's Paternity Leave: Sluggish Benefit Take-up and Occupational Inequalities

BIO:

Stephan Köppe is Assistant Professor at University College Dublin and fellow at the Geary Institute for Public Policy. His research is investigating the nexus of public and private welfare. This includes both the political economy of welfare market creation and analyses of inequalities resulting of these reforms. At the core, his research is comparative and covers Ireland, Germany, Sweden, the UK, and United States. This includes policy studies on private pension, private schools, provision of long-term care, or housing wealth. More recently, his research also included labour market reforms, leave policies, and nonprofit organisations.

ABSTRACT:

Stephan Köppe

The social inclusion of people (including immigrants) at risk of poverty and social exclusion has been one of the great innovative developments of the Madrid City Council in Spain in the last two decades. Especially, it faced challenges never before known during the pandemic crisis and the economic crisis derived from the COVID-19 confinements, in the face of which the Madrid City Council's Family, Equality and Social Welfare Government Area had to transform its social policy, and equip itself with new tools to fight against poverty and social exclusion, within a perspective of social democratic public policies.

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André Pereira Matos

TITLE:

The integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey: EU's policy-implementation under the multilevel governance theory

BIO:

André Matos holds a PhD in International Relations from the New University of Lisbon and currently works as an Assistant Professor at the Law Department of Portucalense University, where he scientifically coordinates the BA in International Relations and the MA in International Relations and Diplomacy. At the University, André Matos is a Member of the Scientific Council and a Member of the Directive Board of Portucalense Institute for Legal Research. His main research areas are the European Union, democracy and the Middle East, economic diplomacy and Human Rights. He is a member of the Portuguese Association of Political Science, has various national and international publications, as well as a significant record of participation in scientific events by invitation and through competitive peer-review acceptance. André Matos is a frequent invited commentator in national TV broadcast channels and press media for international issues.

ABSTRACT:

André Pereira Matos

In 2016, Turkey and the European Union signed an Agreement on irregular migration in order to create legal mechanisms to resettle Syrian refugees to the EU. Despite wide criticism, the financial support provided by the Union to Turkey has resulted in the creation of facilities and the implementation of those channels. Besides, the European Union has committed to the contribution of the integration of Syrians in Turkish society with a particular focus on children and the education system, namely through two financing decisions to support quality education and access to higher education.

Yet, social integration and education are two traditional fields of Westphalian state sovereignty and the participation of the EU in these domains as a policy-maker or as a provider of funding and strategies for integration within the Turkish territory raises important questions about legitimacy, power and authority. Therefore, this article aims to frame the European Union's activities within the scope of multilevel governance theory, using social integration of Syrian children in Turkey as a case study for the evaluation of EU's policy-making and policy-implementation.

Thus, it is built as follows: i) the presentation of the political and international context of Turkey-EU agreement; ii) a description of the undertaken measures, policies and legislation, including the respective processes, towards the integration of the Syrian children in the Turkish education system; iii) a critical evaluation of their implementation within the theoretical framework of multilevel governance, in order to assess the articulation between the EU and the Turkish government in this domain.



Maria Emília Teixeira

TITLE:

Financial Inclusion: Fintech

BIO:

Maria Emília Teixeira holds a Ph.D. in Commercial Law (Banking Law). She is an Assistant Professor at the Law Department of the Universidade Portucalense, a Researcher at the Portuguese Legal Institute, and a Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Banking and Securities Law.

ABSTRACT:

Maria Emília Teixeira

The way of providing financial services has long been transformed, and the relationship between the provider of these services and the consumer has changed its paradigm. Consumers currently manage their financial applications without human intermediation by using digital platforms and applications. These digital platforms automatically suggest the most suitable financial products to the consumer, according to the profile that is drawn after the consumer answer a set of questions.

The new consumer of financial services is gradually younger, with a higher level of education, mastered with new technologies, and rather subscribes to financial products at home.

However, the more digital and technological providers of financial services become, a new problem arises since it can increase the creation of a new social inequality, turning over into discrimination between those who use new technologies expeditiously and those who do not.

The purpose of our study is to answer whether FinTech will be a way to promote greater financial inclusion or contrariwise, will it promote consumer segmentation, thus creating inequality between consumers?

To this end, we propose to review the literature on the subject published in the last five years and list the disadvantages of the emergence of FinTech, specifically in the creation of potential inequalities in access to financial services, not only in Portugal but in other countries where FinTech also have grown exponentially and with which we propose to make a comparative analysis.



Zuzana Polačková



Daniel Škobla

TITLE:

Community centres and their roles in the context of marginalised Roma communities.

BIO:

Zuzana Polačková, is a researcher at the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, Slovakia. Her professional focus is paid to issues related to employment and employability; social economy and social entrepreneurship; social inclusion, with the main focus on Roma and people with disabilities and the quadruple helix approach to development. She often cooperates with a variety of governmental institutions same as non-governmental organizations in Slovakia and abroad.

Daniel Škobla is a senior researcher at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. As a researcher, he is focused mainly on ethnicity, social inclusion, and human rights. He worked for the United Nations Development Programme and provided technical assistance for the Slovak government regarding the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies to 2020. He has also been involved in ethnic Roma advocacy on an international level, participating in numerous meetings throughout Europe, and has cooperated with the European Roma Rights Centre, Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth, and the Open Society Institute. He has written academic articles in scientific journals such as Ethnic and Racial Studies, Sociologia Ruralis on social inclusion, and Roma integration.

ABSTRACT:

Zuzana Polačková and Daniel Škobla

The active presence of the community centre and other “low-threshold social services” is generally considered to be one of the basic prerequisites for improving the situation of people from marginalised Roma communities.

The systematic support and functioning of a network of community centres is part of almost every strategy and action plan for improving the situation of people from marginalised Roma communities in Slovakia. This was no different in the case of the Slovak Strategy for Roma Integration until 2020 (hereinafter as Strategy). The initial emphasis on increasing the number has been complemented over time by a focus on sustainability and quality in service delivery.

It can be argued that there is strong political support for the promotion of community centres in marginalised Roma communities. This has been confirmed by the inclusion of community centres among the Roma integration programmes financed with the help of the European Social Fund through the Human Resources Operational Programme.

The purpose of the presented evaluation focused on the quality and availability of the community centres is to assess to what extent the set indicators are met, to what extent the criteria and parameters enable the performance of quality community centres respecting the basic characteristics of low-threshold and to what extent the smooth functioning of the selected social services at the local level is ensured.

Due to the specific period during which the evaluation was carried out, much attention is also paid to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning and tasks of the community centres for crisis intervention.

The main objective of the evaluation carried out is to define recommendations that can be used for the benefit of the further implementation of the community centres in marginalized Roma communities. Therefore, the focus of the evaluation is mainly on aspects that have the capacity to positively influence the further functioning of community centres, such as support to staff capacities, administrative and methodological support or cooperation with other actors active at the local level.

For the purpose of the evaluation, emphasis was placed on the use of qualitative evaluation methods, information on project implementation was collected through three main methods: i) secondary data analysis, ii) online questionnaire survey and iii) semi-structured interviews.

In order to better conceptualize the community centres role on the topic of integration of marginalized Roma communities, several datasets of administrative data were also taken into account.



Valentyna Romanova



Noémia Bessa Vilela

TITLE:

Goal-achievement evaluation of Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons

BIO:

Dr. Valentyna Romanova is a Guest Lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine. She lives in Tokyo, and is a member of the Japan Association of Ukrainian Studies, the Japan Association of Russian and East European Studies, and COST Network Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance. In 2012-2016, she was an Elections Reports Editor for, and, since 2017, she has been a co-editor of the Annual Reviews of Regional Elections in the UK journal Regional and Federal Studies. Prior to moving to Japan, Romanova was a Senior Consultant at Ukraine's National Institute for Strategic Studies, team leader for the "Political Elites of Ukrainian Regions" project of the University of Tokyo, DAAD Visiting Fellow at the University of Jena, as well as Chevening Scholar and Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her research has been published in English, German, Russian and Ukrainian in, among others, Post-Soviet Affairs, Perspectives on European Politics and Society, Politics, Survival, Regional & Federal Studies, Vox Ukraine, Democratic Audit Blog, The Ideology and Politics Journal, Politychni doslidzhennia, and the Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal, as well as in reports by Chatham House, the Bertelsmann Foundation, and Wilson Center's Kennan Institute.

Noemia Bessa Vilela is Head of Research at OPHIZ, Inštitut pravnih znanosti, Maribor. She is currently a Doctoral Researcher at the EOTVOS LORAND University in Budapest, under a Grant from the FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, the Portuguese national funding agency for science, research and technology, attributed on the basis of scientific merits.

Partner in several EU-funded projects on EU Law, and with an impressive record of research funding, she is currently Chair of CA20123 - IGCOORD, dealing with matters of intergovernmental coordination. Noémia's research interests range from EU Law, Anti Trust, and Research Methodology to Human Rights.

ABSTRACT:

Noémia Bessa Vilela and Valentyna Romanova

Ukraine has been facing numerous interconnected challenges since Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. Arguably, one of the most critical challenges has been the migration of internally displaced persons from localities under Russia's persistent military attack to relatively safe places across the country. Initially, social inclusion policies have been ad hoc and primarily relied on domestic sub-state authorities' input. Then social inclusion policies have been rapidly evolving and engaging multiple international, national, and sub-national stakeholders.

This paper seeks to perform goal-achievement evaluation of Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons and, in particular, identify the impact of the recently implemented decentralisation reform that has strengthened the capacities of domestic local authorities.

The paper uses the concept of multilevel governance and perceives Ukraine as a multilevel system.

In order to identify the policy consequences of decentralisation on social inclusion, the paper applies the method of comparative analysis. It evaluates Ukraine's social inclusion policies toward internally displaced persons:

- (a) in 2014-2020 (after Russia's annexation of Crimea and its engagement in the armed conflict in Donbas), when the decentralisation reform has been gradually progressing, but partial;
- (b) since 2022 (since Russia's full-scale invasion), when the institutional and financial capacities of domestic local authorities have been strengthened throughout the whole country.

This research design is aimed at identifying the input of decentralisation and will allow comparing the extent of intergovernmental coordination during policy implementation (vertical and horizontal dimensions).

The paper is based on analyzing primary and secondary sources available for desk research.

The paper acknowledges its major limitation – Galton's problem than goes hand in hand with the comparative method: identifying a relationship between two phenomena does not necessarily mean it is a causal relationship, because the observed outcome might be caused by some intervening variable(s), i.e. the input of international stakeholders into Ukraine's social inclusion policies that has enormously increased since February 2022.



Fatima Castro Moreira



Bárbara Magalhães

TITLE:

The Portuguese special protection regime to displaced Ukrainians

BIO:

Fatima Castro Moreira is an Assistant Professor and Erasmus Coordinator at the Department of Law of Portucalense University. She has a Ph.D. in International Law/Law of the Sea and she is a Board Member of the IPDM-Portuguese Institute for the Law of the Sea. She works as a Researcher at the IJP-Portucalense Institute for Legal Research.

Bárbara Magalhães is an Assistant Professor at Portucalense University and Minho University. She has a Ph.D. in Administrative Law and she works at the IJP- Portucalense Institute for Legal Research as a Researcher.

ABSTRACT:

Fatima Castro Moreira and Bárbara Magalhães

The war in Ukraine caused a major humanitarian crisis, leading thousands of civilians to leave the country and seek refuge in third countries.

As such, rather than being migrants the people fleeing this war shall be considered as refugees in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

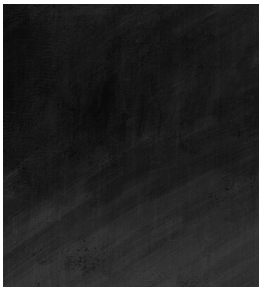
Moreover, the EU Temporary Protection Directive[1] created a special procedure to deal with a “mass influx” of people in need of international protection. Due to the war in Ukraine, this Directive was activated by an EU Council Decision[2].

In response to this need for assistance and protection to refugees Portugal presented a plan for their reception, having established a legal regime delimiting criteria for their protection, as well as the scope of temporary protection to be granted, the Law Decree 24-B/2022.

We propose to analyze the protection regime granted, considering the criteria defined by Public International Law and European Union Law, to assess the convenience, opportunity, and sufficiency of the measures implemented, proposing solutions consistent with the humanitarian crisis experienced in Europe, and the reception and integration of these migrants.

[1] Council Directive 2001/55/EC of July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof.

[2] (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection.



Guido Traficante



Yelenia Caruso

TITLE:

Evaluation of Single permit Directive (2011/98/EU Directive)

BIO:

BIO

ABSTRACT:

Guido Traficante and Ylenia Caruso

The Directive 2011/98/EU[1] allows third-country nationals to reside and work in a Member State and to benefit from a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State. The Directive has two main objectives:

- facilitating the procedure for the admission to work of a third-country citizen in a Member State by introducing a single procedure for applying for a single permit (a combined work and residence permit) and thus helping to better manage the immigration. Furthermore, the directive provides for advantages in the application process;
- The guarantee of equal treatment between workers from third countries and citizens of the Member State concerned.

The directive requires Member States to examine applications for authorization of foreign citizens to reside and work in their territory as part of a single application procedure and to issue, if successful, a single authorization which is, at the same time, authorization to stay and to carry out subordinate work activities.

However, this provision has shown some profiles of "regulatory failure" both at EU level and in its implementation in Italy. The "fitness check"[2] of the European Commission ("fitness check on EU regulation on legal migration" of March 29, 2019) highlighted some controversial issues in the implementation and functioning of the directive on the single permit. One example lies in the procedures for obtaining an entry visa[3]. On top of that, we observed citizens' complaints and infringement procedures. These problems can be classified as "regulatory failures", as the existing directive failed to solve some of the problems it should have solved at the time of adoption.

The problems highlighted by the European Commission are, however, even more severe at national level. The Directive was implemented with the legislative decree 4 March 2014, no. 40[4], which has made changes to the consolidated text of the provisions concerning the discipline of immigration and rules on the condition of the foreigner referred to in Legislative Decree 25 July 1998, no. 286[5], and subsequent amendments.

In particular, the law did not prescribe any changes in relation to either article 41 of the same Immigration Law, entitled "Social assistance", or to the pre-existing sector regulations that exclude workers from third countries who do not have an EU residence permit for long-term residents, from certain social assistance benefits.

[1]<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0098&qid=1658153216988&from=IT>

[2] Brussels, 29.3.2019 SWD(2019) 1055 final PART ½ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT FITNESS CHECK on EU Legislation on legal migration {SWD(2019) 1056 final}

[3] Brussels, 29.3.2019 SWD(2019) 1055 final PART ½ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT FITNESS CHECK on EU Legislation on legal migration {SWD(2019) 1056 final}, p. 100.

[4]<https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2014-03-04;40!vig>

[5] <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:1998-07-25;286>.

The debate on Socio-economic integration of third-country nationals has become more relevant in a setup characterized by negative demographic trends in Italy, as recently highlighted by Italian National Statistics Institute (ISTAT)[6]. The forecasts on the demographic future in Italy show a potential picture of crisis. The resident population is decreasing: from 59.6 million as of January 1, 2020 to 58 million in 2030, to 54.1 million in 2050 and to 47.6 million in 2070. To face the country's demographic winter, it is necessary to develop policies to attract foreign workers that can offset the negative demographic trend affecting the Italian population, to make sustainable GDP economic growth. Furthermore, in 2020, the employment rate of immigrants decreased by 2.9% in Italy, while in the average of European countries the reduction was lower (about 2.1%).[7]

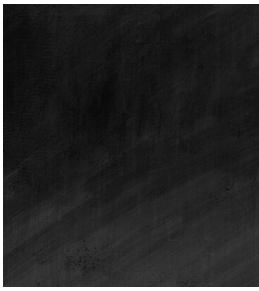
This demonstrates how it is necessary to implement policies to improve the conditions of access for immigrants to the European and Italian labour market in order to recover employment, in relation to the demographic aging of the working-age population. For these reasons, the European Commission has proposed a new directive proposal[8] to the European legislator to tackle the problems relating to access to the labour market of third-country nationals to receive socio-economic benefits.

The purpose of this work is to try to identify solutions to the problems identified, in order to create faster conditions of access to the world of work for non-EU citizens, with particular relevance for the economic sectors in which their contribution can entail a high added value, in relation to the characteristics of the Italian labour market.

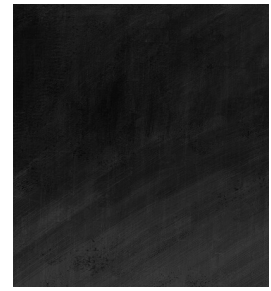
[6] <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2021/11/REPORT-PREVISIONI-DEMOGRAFICHE.pdf> - p. 1.

[7] <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Undicesimo%20Rapporto%20Annuale%20-%20Gli%20stranieri%20nel%20mercato%20del%20lavoro%20in%20Italia%202021/XI-Rapporto-MdL-stranieri-REV-22072021.pdf> - p. 23.

[8] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:cbf5fadf-c702-11ec-b6f4-01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF



Antonio Hidalgo



Samuel Gabaly

TITLE:

Digital skills as a driver to improve the results of policies on social inclusion. A dual level approach (micro and macro).

BIO:

BIO



ABSTRACT:

Antonio Hidalgo and Samuel Gabaly

One of the key elements to develop and implement successful social inclusion policies is to achieve an adequate level of participation of all the social groups in the digital economy and its economic and social benefits. The advantages of digital inclusion for social integration are diverse and have impact on aspects such as increased household income, greater levels of education and job opportunities, better information or increased use of Internet services, such as e-health, e-banking and e-commerce, among many others. In order to reduce poverty and foster social equality among all the population groups, this research analyses the main socioeconomic drivers behind the digital divide, for the Spanish population (micro level approach), and its main consequences related to social digital integration and income level. To achieve this goal, the research implements a pioneering predictive machine learning approach based on classification and regression trees. Additionally, and using the same approach, but at the international level (macro level approach), the research shows that the levels of digital human capital and digital skills among the population and labor force of countries, can accurately predict the GDP per capita and social equality levels in a country. The study results indicate that aggregated digital skills are a very accurate predictor of economic and social development degree in the analyzed countries. Using these results, the research suggests that, in order to ensure the success of policies on social inclusion, it would be necessary for the policymakers to take into account, also, the digital divide and digital skills levels among population groups. Based on these results, effective social inclusion policies could consider fostering digital skills among excluded social groups, based on factors such as age, study level and occupation. Also, the improvement of digital skills levels could reduce social inequalities and poverty, offering new and better integration opportunities for population groups at risk of social exclusion. Finally, it is recommended that these aspects would be incorporated into the evaluation processes of policies on social inclusion.



Diego Muñoz-Higueras



Rafael Granell Pérez



Amadeo Fuenmayor Fernández

TITLE:

New perspectives of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits in Spain

BIO:

Diego Muñoz Higueras is currently working at the Applied Economics Department of the University of Valencia, as a Research Assistant. He is currently researching a Ph.D. focused on the problem of non-take-up in the minimum income system in Spain, both at regional and national levels; at this point, he is assessing the change that the implementation of the Minimum Living Income has brought about. In his research, he uses microsimulation and statistical data analysis tools, as well as impact evaluation techniques. He also collaborates with the research group Public Economic Evaluation (EvalPub) and the Chair of Autonomic Taxation. He has been a researcher on projects and contracts with the Generalitat Valenciana.

Amadeo Fuenmayor has a Ph.D. in Economics. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics and director of the Autonomous Taxation Chair at the University of Valencia. He is a member of the Public Economic Evaluation research group (EvalPub), of the Commission for the Study of Tax Reform in the Valencian Community, and a researcher at RIFDE. He has participated in various contracts and research projects in: Generalitat Valenciana; M. Labour and Social Affairs; Ins. Estudios Fiscales; U. de Valencia; LARES CV; La Caixa Foundation, Berklee College of Music. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals, such as ICE, Estudios Economía Aplicada, Revista de Educación, Impuestos, Revista Estudios Regionales, Service Industries Journal, International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development, Revista Española Geriatria y Gerontología, Review of Economics of the Household; Hacienda Pública Española. Book chapters at McGraw-Hill, Institute de Estudios Fiscales, Civitas-Thomson Reuters, Edward Elgar; books in Ariel and Tirant lo Blanch. He is currently directing three doctoral theses. He has been a member of the Scientific Committee (2006-2010; 2014-2019) and President (2019-2022) of the Public Economy Meetings; Scientific Committee of the Project 'Review of the minimum income systems in Spain', D.G. Services for the Family and Children (M. of Health, Social Services, and Equality). His area of research focuses on public economics, highlighting the following lines: economics of taxation, microsimulation of taxes and benefits, regional economics, fiscal federalism, poverty and inequality, the economics of education, and public economic evaluation.

BIO:

Rafael Granell has a Ph.D. in Economics and is an Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Economics of the University of Valencia. He is the Director of the Public Economic Evaluation research group (EvalPub), a member of the Chair of Regional Taxation and of the Commission for the Study of Tax Reform in the Valencian Region, and a researcher at RIFDE. His area of research focuses on Public Economics, highlighting the following lines: economics of taxation, regional economics, fiscal federalism, poverty and inequality, the economics of education, and public economic evaluation. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals, such as Review of Economics of the Household, Service Industries Journal, Ageing & Society, Education Economics, Journal of Regional Research and Review of Public Economics. He has been a researcher on projects and contracts with several entities such as Spanish Social Security, Spanish Institute of Fiscal Studies, Generalitat Valenciana, IVIE, and La Caixa Foundation.

ABSTRACT:

Diego Muñoz-Higueras, Rafael Granell Pérez and Amadeo Fuenmayor Fernández

The Minimum Vital Income (Ingreso Mínimo Vital in Spanish) has been in force in Spain since May 2020. It seeks to ensure that all citizens enjoy a minimum income that allows them to survive, to avoid falling into situations of poverty or social exclusion. It has been implemented within the non-contributory system, financed through taxes, and can be complemented by the regional GMIs. It is configured as a subjective right of indefinite duration. The objective of the MVI is to be configured as a minimum income protection net guaranteed by the Spanish Social Security, common among the Spanish Regions and Cities (i.e. Ceuta and Melilla), and which allows the transition from a situation of social exclusion to an active participation in society (RDL 20/2020, of May 29). Among its objectives, it stands out the direct reference to the problem of coverage of the current system, and the need to improve it by homogenizing and involving applicants in the procedures to be carried out and increasing the institutional publicity of the benefit. One of its main objectives, therefore, is to increase the take-up of the guaranteed minimum income (GMI) system.

The relevance is such. The that non-take-up in a benefit can affect both the efficiency (adjustment between costs and benefits) and the effectiveness (in terms of reduction or increase in the expected indicators) of the policy implemented. Non-take-up is defined as the set of individuals or households entitled to receive a benefit who do not receive it because they do not apply for it (Hernanz, et al., 2004). Despite this problem, the literature has traditionally given more relevance to overpayment in benefits since this implies an additional cost for public administrations. The design of targeted public policies for specific groups, together with means- testing instruments, has captured the interest of policy makers (Korpi and Palme, 1998; Matsaganis et al., 2010). However, the phenomenon known as non-take-up has generated a growing interest within public institutions (Eurofound, 2015; European Commission, 2013; Barcelona City Council, 2018). This interest arises due to the effects that non-take-up has on the design of public policies, since the low coverage distorts the objective for which they had been designed. In addition, knowing the elements involving an individual who is likely to receive a benefit does not receive it in the end can improve the design of the benefit (Hernanz et al., 2004).

There are different studies that quantify the percentage of people who are likely to receive a benefit but do not apply for it. In social assistance programs within the OECD it ranges between 40-80% (Hernanz, 2004) and between 20%-60% in the EU28 (Euromod, 2007). More localized studies show similar percentages. Among them, Bargain, et al. (2010), show non-take-up ratios between 40%-50% for social assistance policies in Finland; Fuchs, et al. (2020), for a program analogous to a GMI in Austria, estimate a non-take-up of between 39%-51%; and Bruckmeier et al. (2013), 67% in Germany.

In reference to the Spanish case, the evidence is smaller, highlighting the studies by Levy (2008) and Matsaganis et al. (2010), who estimate a non-take-up of 60% in the minimum complement of contributory pensions and 20% in the non-contributory retirement pension. Khalifi et al. (2016), calculate a non-take-up, for homeless people, of 67% in the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) and the Barcelona City Council (2018), estimates a non-take-up of 22.5% in its pilot project BMINCOME.

However, in the aforementioned literature, there are discrepancies as to which factors are most relevant in explaining why potential beneficiaries do not apply for a benefit, and the relationships between these factors.

This paper has three objectives, first, to quantify the size of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits in Spain and secondly, to provide new evidence about the non-take-up drivers. With these two analysis, we can assess whether the recent change of the GMI system is a success.

In order to complete both analysis, we analyse the minimum income benefits system in Spain to the 2017 and 2020 year. Using the EU-SILC data, we carry out both analyses. First, using the EUROMOD Tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union, we can estimate the number of people entitled, then, comparing our estimations of entitled people with the official register of beneficiaries provide by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration. We can calculate the non-take-up size of the minimum income benefits.

The results show that the non-take-up level is decreasing in Spain, it decreases from 50%-52% rates to 35%, so, in this sense, the new policy is working, but it not matches yet the government previsions.

Secondly, using the two-steps Heckman selection model, we analyse the drivers of non-take-up, in both systems. By this way, it's possible to know if the new benefit changes the non-take-up determinants.

We use a large variety of variables, structure depending on the influence: i) economic, ii) sociological, iii) physiological and stigma and iv) supply side.

The variables used are:

Economic drivers:

- i) Economic status of the household head
- ii) Income gap
- iii) Housing tenure

Sociological drivers:

- i) Education level achieved by the household head.
- ii) Citizenship
- iii) Composition of the household
- iv) Gender of the household head
- v) Number of children in the household.

Psychological and stigma:

- i) The size of the municipality.
- ii) Geographical location
- iii) The household receives another benefits
- iv) % of people receiving a benefit in each Region

Administrative side "supply side"

- i) Subjective Right
- ii) Duration of the benefit
- iii) Amount

Related to the non-take-up drivers, as the literature says, it is a multidimensional phenomenon because it is influenced by economic, sociological, psychological and administrative variables. For example, as the necessity of a benefit increases, the non-take-up decreases. The higher the level of education, the higher the probability of non-take-up. Differences according to an applicant's citizenship. Cultural proximity could reduce non-take-up. Bringing social services and population together could reduce the stigma associated with a benefit or It is essential to design public policies correctly in order to reduce non-take-up. The MVI is focusing on the child poverty and the single parent family unit, and it is reflecting in the result. Now, the presence of child into the household is a more important factor.

In conclusion, the MVI is reducing the level of non-take-up in the minimum income benefits system. However, the government's projections have not yet been met. Probably it is happening because there are still difficulties in the application for the benefit and there is a need to simplify the administrative process and increase publicity of the MVI.

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Serghei Sprincean

TITLE:

Sustainability Of Public Policies For Strengthening Personal Safety And Human Security In Conditions On Political Instability In The East-European Region

BIO:

Serghei Sprincean is the scientific secretary of the Institute of Legal, Political and Sociological Research and a leading researcher in the Centre of Strategic Research of ILPSR. He is the author of over 250 scientific publications in the last 25 years, including 8 monographs and 8 textbooks. He participated in over 200 international conferences, symposiums, and round tables, being involved in research of various issues of humanities and social sciences, such as the specific of assuring human security in transitional and post-soviet societies, the correlation of morality with politics as well as of politics with bioethics and human rights, the role of the interests and pressure groups and of the civil society in the decision-making process. He actively participated in a significant number of national and international projects since 2005.

Being doctor habilitat in political sciences (2018), he participated in such projects as 20.70086.13/COV "Mitigation of the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of state power institutions in the Republic of Moldova (FUNCOV)" (2020-2021: as coordinator), 20.80009.1606.05 "Quality of justice and respect for human rights in the Republic of Moldova: interdisciplinary research in the context of the implementation of the Association Agreement Republic of Moldova - European Union" (2020-2023), "The development of legal framework of Republic of Moldova in the context of the necessities in security and in assuring European path" (2015-2019), "Interaction between state and civil society in Republic of Moldova in the context of deepening of democratic reforms" (2011-2014), "Management of the problems related to transnistrian conflict and withdrawal of foreign troops" (2013 as coordinator), "Resources, mechanisms and effects of realization of political power in Republic of Moldova" (2009-2010), "Functionality and impact of NGOs from Ukraine and Republic of Moldova on decision making factor" (2010-2011), "Environmental Ethics in Teaching Social Sciences and Humanities", OSI Budapest, HESP, Institute of Philosophy of Russian Academy of Sciences (2007-2010). Also, he is UNESCO expert in Ethics and Bioethics, according GEOBs database, since 2008.

ABSTRACT:

Diego Muñoz-Higueras, Rafael Granell Pérez and Amadeo Fuenmayor Fernández

In the last decades there were appeared several new security challenges specific for East-European region such as: the expansionist policy of Russian Federation, aggravated in the context of the war in Ukraine from 24.02.2022, increasing emigration and refugees rates, increasing dissatisfaction, panic and social movements among ethnic groups living in different East-European states, adaptation EU cultural policies to new conditions of cooperation with neighboring countries in the East-European region and unfreezing the EU enlargement process etc. In these conditions become important to enhance research on the evaluation of public policies on mentioned phenomena among social, political and academic East-European communities for a realistic evaluation of the evolution of the situation, for securing and achieving sustainable development in the region, including in the Republic of Moldova, in Ukraine and others - East-European countries, seriously affected by the expansionist policy of Russian Federation, especially in last 30 years.

Human security and personal safety approaches to the contemporary East-European security challenges have to be grounded on the necessity to bring social welfare in conditions of changing the accents from military to nonmilitary aspects in assuring security, axed on the security of the human being and citizen.

However, the interests of the human individual as well as of the community cannot be defended otherwise than by the involvement of the state. In condition of emergent military threats only national states, in a strong cooperation for building a common security and defense system can assure human security and personal safety of the East-European citizens.

The issues of human security and person's safety involve not only the defense of social equity, of human rights, but also the elimination or significant reduction of human risks in the context of global changes referring to immediate and latent hazards. Scientists and researchers in various fields of science, have to design together a new type of policies destined for the sustainable and effective survival of the human community on Earth and to overcome the threat of global hazards. In this way, a clear and transparent settlement of the priorities regarding security threats in the East-European region becomes a basic condition and a premise for East-European states to make them able to bring their valuable contribution to overcoming the global crisis.

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José Caramelo Gomes

TITLE:

TITLE (check):

EU law and the rights of minorities

BIO:

osé Caramelo Gomes is Chair of European and Comparative Law at the Law Department of Universidade Portucalense, in Porto and Visiting Professor at the Universities of Salford-Manchester (UK), Maribor (Slovenia) and Camilo José Cela (Spain). He was Vice-rector for Research and International relations at UPT, Head of Research at IJP - Portucalense Institute for Legal Research. He serves as Director of the American Society of Comparative Law and Editor of the American Journal of Comparative Law, member of the Society of Legal Scholars of England and Wales and on several international Scientific Committees, Editorial Boards, and Research Assessment Committees.

His research has ranged from various aspects of International, European and Comparative Law. José Caramelo Gomes has published over 60 titles (books, book chapters, peer-reviewed articles in English, Spanish and Portuguese) in Europe (Germany, Netherlands, Austria, UK, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia and Belgium), the United States, Brazil, and the Peoples Republic of China.



Zvi Weinstein

TITLE:

TITLE (check):

Sustainable Cities: Overview Actions and Local Policies

BIO:

Dr. Zvi Weinstein is a multidisciplinary academic. He holds 8 (eight) academic degrees among them: Urban Regeneration (PhD.), Town and Regional Planning (MSc.), Environment and Urban Sustainability (MA), Public Policy (MA), and Law (MA).

He was a former National Coordinator for Project Renewal of Disadvantaged Neighborhoods at the Ministry of Construction & Housing in the State of Israel during the years 1977-2015. He is the co-founder of the Israeli Smart Cities Institute; a Long period member of the EU-COST Actions. He offers tutoring on a voluntary basis, to students who are writing their thesis about urbanism and social aspects topics, he participates in international conferences related to his fields of interest and he has published more than 50 articles, researches, and books.

ABSTRACT:

Zvi Weinstein

At Rio+20 Conference assembled in 2012, cities were revealed as the pivot players in the arena of sustainability policy. They have presented successful planning and sustained urban management and succeeded in establishing complex partnerships. The local government level is undoubtable the main front of being organized coping with the environmental and social crisis.

Climate crisis which is impacted of producing emissions and was found connected to human activity became the most central challenge of the 21st century. Cities around the globe are standing in front of the struggle to prevent deterioration and change of the world climate. In Israel, 93% of the total population lives in urban settlements. The city is the biggest producer of emission although it composes only 0.4% of Earth surface. Therefore, its economy suffered and its residents are exposed to health risks.

The eighteen big cities in Israel have joined the international treaty aimed at decreasing greenhouse emission. Surveys found out that the source of most of the emissions come from local citizens. It became the present challenge to create and produce processes enabling the resident to step ahead for transformation and adoption of sustainable living.

In response to that dilemma, the solution was directed to the neighborhood community level. The road map to an innovative model became a strong connection between the city, the civil society and the business activities. It presents ten channels for sustainable neighborhood based on continuing partnership among the public urban institutions and the residents. It is the vision of "One Planet Living" translated into a neighborhood action shown by the formula:

Community Capital + Environmental Capital = Economic Capital



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