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Activity Report 2022



European Social Observatory

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Introduction ⁽¹⁾

As the most recent edition of our annual flagship book ‘Social policy in the EU: state of play’ (*Bilan social*, its short title in French) demonstrates, both the French and Czech Presidencies of the Council of the EU - during the first and second half of 2022, respectively - were able to achieve progress on key social policy initiatives agreed at the Porto Social Summit (May 2021) through the ‘Action Plan’ on the European Pillar of Social Rights (European Commission 2021a).

France’s ‘social’ programme promised to focus on working conditions in digital labour platform work, the social impact of the climate and digital transition on the labour market, lifelong learning and social dialogue, the rights of people with disabilities and gender equality, notably the principle of ‘equal pay for equal work’. In a turbulent geopolitical context, the French Presidency prioritised and effectively reached a ground-breaking agreement on an EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages. It also secured rules to enhance gender equality on corporate boards: 40% of non-executive director posts in large companies should go to the under-represented sex. The agreement was reached ten years after the ‘Women on Boards’ proposal was first made.

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU focused, in the social domain, on minimum income standards and occupational health and safety concerns. While the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to the Czech Presidency prioritising defence, the energy crisis and economic resilience, some progress was made in giving greater prominence to the integration of people with disabilities into the labour market, albeit through soft law measures. Political agreement was also reached on strengthening EU legislation to protect workers from the risks associated with exposure to asbestos. The Czech presidency and the European Parliament also reached a provisional deal on pay transparency rules, while political agreement was reached on a Recommendation on Adequate Minimum Income.

Several new initiatives were launched in 2022, including a proposed directive laying down rules on corporate due diligence obligations and a proposal to eliminate products made using forced labour from the Union market. A new directive aimed at addressing violence against women and domestic violence was proposed in March 2022.

As the first official post-pandemic year, 2022 saw policymakers and social partners addressing conflicts arising from the now permanent features of teleworking and digital workplaces. Considerable attention was played to mental health in the workplace, leading to (ultimately failed) negotiations between the European social partners on the right to disconnect.

1. This section draws on the regular European and International Digests which the OSE (Boris Fronteddu and Denis Bouget) produces for the Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale (RBSS) and which are available online: <https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/fr/publications/revue-belge-de-securite-sociale>

Persisting rule-of-law issues in Hungary and Poland triggered activation of the conditionality regime (which protects the EU budget when Member States violate rule-of-law principles) as well as the Rule-of-Law Conditionality Regulation, which was upheld by the Court of Justice of the EU. The migration crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine became the largest since World War II, with the EU responding with emergency policies to protect borders and integrate refugees. Ukraine, together with Moldova, were granted EU candidate status in June 2022. To address the impact of the high inflation triggered by the war, the EU implemented emergency measures, including a legislative instrument to cap excessively high prices, approved by the Council in December 2022.

This context of renewed social policy ambitions is reflected in the OSE research activity during 2022, which addressed some of the issues at the very heart of the policymaking agenda. All in all, the nine OSE researchers and four administrative staff were involved in no less than 12 research projects in 2021.

We are happy to have kick-started exciting **new research projects** in the course of 2022. The OSE was awarded a new three-year project to provide the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI-INAMI-RIZIV) with expertise on EU policies with a potential impact on national health care systems: in this context, we started the scientific underpinning of health care-related initiatives developed as part of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU (first half of 2024) and continued our quarterly electronic newsletter on recent EU developments with a potential impact on national health care systems. 2022 also saw the start of our involvement in a new EU Horizon Europe project on 'Welfare systems and labour market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe' (WeLaR), coordinated by HIVA (KULeuven). We started new research for the ETUI about the quality of trade union involvement in the implementation of the national Recovery and Resilience plans (RRPs). Importantly, the OSE was awarded a contract with the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security (SPF Sécurité Sociale) to provide the academic underpinning of the 'Social Affairs' side of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU during the first half of 2024. And we edited the 23rd edition of our annual 'Bilan social', which was again produced in close collaboration with the ETUI.

Other key projects **continued from last year**. Thus, the OSE continued its research activities as a partner in a Horizon 2020 European research project named 'Working, Yet Poor' (WorkYP): the OSE activity focused on drawing up policy recommendations. Work also continued on the two-year European Commission-funded project on the 'Impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services' (DIGIQU@LPUB). The OSE also finalised the project for the ETUI aimed at studying the conditions for and added value of setting up an EU Social Imbalances Procedure (SIP). We also concluded the assessment of the socio-ecological dimension of the EU recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, for the EUROsociAL+ cooperation programme between Latin America and the EU.

Similarly, we wrapped up the assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on social protection of non-standard workers and the self-employed in the EU. The International and European Digest of the *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale* (RBSS) continued to reflect the main eco-social policy developments.

The OSE also continued to cultivate its ties with **European networks**, notably through the European Commission-funded European Social Policy Network (ESPN). In 2022, the OSE contributed to no less than three comparative reports, on: a) 'Making access to social protection for workers and the self-employed more transparent through information and simplification'; b) 'Access to social protection for young people'; and c) 'National monitoring frameworks for public social spending'. Other work for ESPN included quality control of the regular Flash Reports, Country Profiles, European Semester Reports and Economic Reform Programme Reports, produced by the 35 ESPN country teams.

The OSE research activity resulted in no less than 32 publications in 2022, while three OSE Working Papers by external authors were published.

Several **in-house tools** further boosted the dissemination of OSE expertise and knowledge to a large audience of researchers, think tanks, EU and national social partner representatives (both trade unions and employers' organisations), and to other social stakeholders such as European non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

- The OSE website: in total, some 10,359 unique visitors accessed our website (on average 1,200/month);
- During this year, our publications were downloaded more than 1,694 times from the OSE website, although this is certainly a very significant underestimation of the actual number of downloads of our scientific papers and reports (see Section 6.3).
- The OSE Flash News (+1,700 subscribers in 2022) and the European Health Care News (+1,200 subscribers) further enlarged our readership in Europe and beyond.
- The OSE Twitter account: we exceeded 2,000 followers.
- Over 2,000 persons followed us through the new OSE LinkedIn page

This Activity Report is organised as follows: Section 1 provides a short presentation of the OSE's goals, resources, and organisational structure. Section 2 presents the OSE team in 2022 (short bios) and describes each staff member's main tasks and activities. Section 3 briefly describes each of the projects carried out by the OSE during 2022. Section 4 presents the events (co-)organised by the OSE during that year. Section 5 provides a taste of the team members' participation in various external activities. Key output data (i.e. the OSE's 'reach') are presented in Section 6, which also provides some examples of the OSE's 'impact' on policy initiatives and debates during 2022. Finally, Section 7 shows the full list of publications to which OSE researchers contributed.

New research in 2023 will include the scientific preparation for the 2024 Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU on a variety of social topics, a new Horizon Europe project on welfare systems and the labour market, and the 24th edition of our annual volume on the state of play of social policy in the EU.

On behalf of the OSE team, I thank you for your interest in our work and wish you happy reading.

Bart Vanhercke,

Director

1. THE OSE IN A NUTSHELL: GOALS, RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION

The European Social Observatory (Observatoire social européen, OSE) is a Brussels-based not-for-profit research centre specialised in the social dimension of the European Union (EU). Its mission is to analyse the impact of European integration on social and employment policies both at EU level and within Member States. It does this by conducting comparative research and formulating policy proposals. With its forward-looking approach, it operates as a think tank, identifying issues as they emerge – from the impact of the internal market on healthcare systems and the social challenges associated with the EMU to the ‘greening’ of EU recovery and the social consequences of digitalisation.

Following a decision of the federal government in 2013, the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office has recognised the OSE as a ‘Scientific Institution’. As a result of its vibrant research activity, the OSE was consistently ranked (by the University of Pennsylvania), between 2016 and 2021, among the top 100 social policy think tanks worldwide (2). Close to 4,000 individuals participated in the think tank rankings process. The think tanks in this category are considered ‘leading social policy institutions of the global community’ that provide ‘superior innovative research and strategic analyses’ and ‘excel in research, analysis and public engagement’, more particularly ‘with the aim of advancing debate and facilitating cooperation between relevant actors’ (ibid)

Founded in 1984, the OSE draws on a broad network of Belgian and European public authorities, think tanks, the scientific community, social partner organisations (notably European and national trade unions) and civil society. Its team of researchers – swelled by research associates and interns from all over Europe and North America – is multidisciplinary and multilingual. The OSE has likewise acted as coordinator or partner in a variety of European projects and is actively involved in major networks of academic excellence funded under Horizon Europe and its predecessors. Since 1999, the OSE has provided substantive input to an annual volume entitled ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of play’ (‘Bilan social’, the short name of the book in French), published in cooperation with the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI). The OSE works closely with the European trade union movement – including in the context of the network of Trade Union related Research Institutes (TURI) – and civil society organisations (including the Social Platform).

2. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania https://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/

1.1 GOALS

The OSE's main goals are to produce independent and state-of-the-art critical analysis of the social dimension of European integration. This implies, more concretely, that we:

- Analyse the impact of European integration on social and employment policies both at EU level and within the Member States, as well as in neighbouring countries.
- Conduct research and formulate policy proposals.
- Provide an ongoing platform for discussion for a wide range of stakeholders, especially trade union organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- Disseminate the results of the projects widely through our in-house resources.

1.2 RESOURCES

The OSE consists of a multidisciplinary and multilingual team of nine researchers and analysts, bolstered by a highly efficient administrative back office (four persons in 2022), as well as research associates and regular interns from all over Europe and North America.

Altogether the OSE researchers and several research associates cover, amongst others, the following policy areas: employment and labour market policies; healthcare; in-work poverty, poverty and social exclusion; job quality and working conditions; social dialogue; the digital and socio-ecological transitions; social protection, including pensions.

Over the years, the OSE has also gathered multidisciplinary expertise in such cross-cutting areas as equality and non-discrimination (including the rights of people with disabilities), the EU's socio-economic governance, the social dimension of the European Green Deal, European pandemic recovery, as well as more recently, the impact of democracy backsliding on social policy.

Taken together, the OSE team is able to:

- Assess the social dimension of European integration through the lenses of a variety of policymaking mechanisms, including the open method of coordination, EU legislation, EU funding and social dialogue.
- Draw upon a broad-based network of public authorities (academic and other), researchers, think tanks, European and domestic social partner representatives and other social stakeholders.
- Activate more than 30 years of expertise in organising both major events (some linked to the Belgian Presidencies of the Council of the EU in 2001 and 2010) and smaller events (including national workshops in several EU Member States).

The OSE provides a unique forum for dialogue on the future of social Europe, engaging with a variety of national and EU stakeholders, decisionmakers and scholars. OSE research reaches a large audience through various communication tools which further boost the dissemination of OSE expertise and knowledge.

These in-house resources include:

- The revamped website (www.ose.be, in English and French): a valuable source of up-to-date information on OSE projects, publications, events and staff.
- The regular OSE Flash [News](#), providing a quick update on our key events and publications.
- The [Health Care Newsletter](#) (in English, French and Dutch, funded by the Belgian INAMI/RIZIV), providing regular summaries of current EU developments that may affect national health care systems.
- The OSE Paper [Series](#), encompassing three different publications – ‘Research’, ‘Briefing’ and ‘Opinion’ papers – written by the research team as well as by our research associates and external scholars.
- External events, during which leading academics, policymakers and stakeholders shed light on issues topping the EU agenda, in the presence of an audience of OSE researchers and their guests; more info: <https://www.ose.be/events>
- Our [LinkedIn](#) page (+2,000 followers), institutional [Twitter](#) account (+2,000 followers), our researchers’ profiles on ResearchGate, short videos, podcasts and livestreaming of debates.

1.3 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

During 2022, the day-to-day management of the OSE was again in the hands of Bart Vanhercke, who has been director since 2010: he was responsible for the coordination of the team as well as the broad research strategy (including calls for tenders) and communication. He was supported in these tasks by Françoise Verri, the OSE’s administrative and financial manager. She managed the administrative team as well as organisational, budgetary and financial issues and supported the director with regard to the calls for tenders.

A paragraph on each staff member can be found in Section 2, while more detailed profiles of all team members (scientific and administrative) can be found on the [Team](#) page of the website.

The elected Board of Directors ⁽³⁾ jointly oversees the activities of the OSE, while the General Assembly ⁽⁴⁾ brings together the broader group of stakeholders linked to the OSE. These include representatives from national and European trade union organisations, trade union-related research institutes, academic institutions and the International Labour Organisation.

The Scientific Advisory Board ⁽⁵⁾ provides independent scientific advice from renowned scholars, for example in the context of the peer review of the OSE Paper Series or the chapters of the annual 'Bilan social'.

1.4 FUNDING

The diversity of the projects described in Section 3 below demonstrates that the OSE continues to be funded from a variety of sources, which guarantee its independence and include:

- Research contracts and subsidies from *Belgian federal and regional authorities*, including notably (a) the longstanding collaboration with the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI/INAMI/RIZIV) and the Federal Public Service Social Security (SPF *Sécurité Sociale*); (b) wage subsidies, since the creation of the institute, from the Brussels regional employment office (Actiris ⁽⁶⁾); and (c) the partial withholding tax exemption for research from the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (*La Politique scientifique fédérale*, [BELSPO](#)). Altogether these national resources made up 57.00 % of our funding (consolidated budget) in 2022.
- Contracts with European and international institutions: notably the European Commission. These resources provided 29.34 % of our 2022 funding.
- Subsidies, since the creation of the institute, from the Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (CSC/ACV) and contracts with the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI). This trade union-related funding accounted for 13.20 % of our budget in 2022.
- Other resources, including various academic collaborations, training and consultancy represented 0.45 % of our 2022 budget.

3. See <https://www.ose.be/board-of-directors>

4. See <https://www.ose.be/general-assembly>

5. See <https://www.ose.be/scientific-committee>

6. Actiris provides specialised services to employers and jobseekers in the Brussels-Capital Region.

2. THE OSE STAFF: GOLDEN PARAGRAPHS

The OSE was made up of a growing team of 13 staff members during 2022: nine (full-time as well as part-time) researchers (including the director) and four full-time administrative staff. Several important staff changes occurred this year: we were happy to welcome Jessica Martini (March) and Korina Kominou (July) to the research team, as well as Deborah Lehane (March) to the administrative team. The end of the pandemic situation meant that we were again able to open our doors to external collaborators in our offices: no less than six visiting researchers and interns joined our ranks in 2022, providing important additional human resources to help with our research.

2.1 THE SCIENTIFIC TEAM

Dr Angelina Atanasova – Researcher – Social policy and inclusion, gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities, rule of law

Dr Angelina Atanasova (PhD in EU law) is a multidisciplinary researcher, with strong methodological quantitative and qualitative research skills, and with more than 10 years of experience in EU social and equality policies. She has been a researcher at the OSE since September 2021. Previously, Angelina gained solid experience both in academia as well as in the private sector as a research manager in social policy projects conducted for the European Commission, as well as in her role as a consultant on equality and non-discrimination at the Open Society European Policy Institute.

Her current work at the OSE covers the areas of gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities, social inclusion as well as legal integration of EU social policies (more specifically, the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the social policy domain). More recently, she has expanded her work to cover the rule of law, democracy backsliding and its impact on the state of social policy. She obtained her PhD at the Public Law Department of KULeuven (Belgium), with which she is currently associated as a voluntary researcher. Her doctoral thesis focuses on the key role of civic actors (especially trade unions) and lawyers in triggering the preliminary ruling procedure in EU legal disputes regarding social policy, in the cases of Belgium and Denmark.

During 2022, Angelina started leading a thematic group on disability rights as part of the academic support for the Belgian Presidency project. Together with the OSE director, Angelina has been working towards introducing and developing a new strand of research for the OSE, focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2022, she also continued her work on the DIGIQU@LPUB project, together with Ramón Peña-Casas, notably to

conduct the project online survey and analysis and broad dissemination of its results (7). Angelina furthermore led two co-authored chapters for the ‘Bilan social’. One of them dealt with the impact of the rule of law on social policy in the cases of Hungary and Poland (co-authored with Zane Rasnača). The other chapter listed the key events of the European Union in 2021 (‘Chronology’), co-authored with Federico Moja.

Angelina has further contributed to several projects at the OSE, including the various deliverables of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). She co-authored the Synthesis Report on ‘Making access to social protection for workers and the self-employed more transparent through information and simplification’ (8). She also coordinated the work on and co-authored the European Digest/International Digest of the *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale*. Angelina took part in the project led by Sebastiano Sabato exploring the trade unions’ role in implementing the Recovery and Resilience Plans, developing several case studies, and co-authored the final report and a policy brief (both to be published in 2023). Angelina further contributed to an ETUI and an SPF Sécurité Sociale call for tenders, and to the OSE’s overall research dissemination and publication strategy.

Rita Baeten – Senior policy analyst – Health care and European integration

Rita Baeten, Master of Social Sciences, focuses her research activities (since 1999) on the impact of European integration on national health care systems and on their social character. Her research topics include inequalities in access to health care; EU economic governance and health systems; patient mobility; health care services in the internal market; and EU-level co-operation in the field of health care. Rita Baeten advises NIHDI on EU policy developments with a potential impact on health care in Belgium, and has coordinated the scientific preparation and follow-up of several international and ministerial conferences on EU integration and health systems. She has been the leader for the OSE contribution to several projects financed by the European Commission under its framework programmes for research.

During 2022, Rita transferred her responsibilities for the NIHDI project on EU-level developments with an impact on health systems to our new researcher, Jessica Martini. Rita was an active member of the Scientific Committee ‘Towards a multi-annual health care budget with health care objectives’. In that capacity she co-authored the report ‘Naar een meerjarenbegroting voor de gezondheidszorg met gezondheidszorgdoelstellingen’ (9). In the run up to the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2024, she prepared a

7. The survey was very successful, with 7,621 responses from the eight EU Member States covered.

8. Led by Slavina Spasova and co-authored by Sebastiano Sabato and Federico Moja.

9. https://www.riziv.fgov.be/SiteCollectionDocuments/rapport_wetenschappelijk_comite_meerjaren_begroting.pdf

working document containing an inventory of policy proposals to improve access to health care in the EU, formulated by European institutions and stakeholders (September 2022), and a working document with an inventory of policy proposals to improve the affordability of (expensive) medicines in the EU, formulated by European institutions and stakeholders (September 2022). Furthermore, she actively participated, together with Jessica Martini, in meetings with the various federal government agencies involved in the preparation of the Belgian 2024 Presidency and provided extensive feedback on documents prepared by these government bodies.

Rita provided Jessica Martini with guidance and feedback to ensure a smooth transition of the drafting of the health newsletter 'European Health Care News', with electronic links to the most important decisions, opinions, judgments, and other official documents related to developments at European level that may have an impact on national health care systems. Together with Jessica, she developed the research design for the comparative case study on the setting of health and health care targets in European countries, and provided feedback and guidance throughout the different phases of the development of this research. At the request of WHO Europe, Rita Baeten also reviewed the report on Belgium in the series 'Can people afford to pay for health care? New evidence on financial protection'.

Dalila Ghailani – Senior researcher – European Law, employment and work, social protection, gender equality

Dalila Ghailani, with a master's in law and advanced master's in European business law, has 22 years of experience in monitoring a range of issues related to the social dimension of the EU, including quality of employment and work, in-work poverty, social protection, poverty and social exclusion, social assistance and minimum income, digitalisation of work and digital transition, and gender issues. She has conducted several studies for EU institutions (including the European Commission; the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee) and European trade unions. A member of the European network TURI (Trade Union related Research Institutes), she is also actively engaged with European stakeholder networks. She is a regular contributor to the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) reports.

During 2022, Dalila Ghailani continued her involvement in the research and activities of ESPN. In that context, she co-reviewed the updated Country Profiles. She also presented the Synthesis Report on 'Access to social protection for young people' at the MISSOC meeting in June. At the request of the European Commission, she presented this report again at the Youth Guarantee Coordinators' Informal Meeting in September. Dalila also contributed to the Horizon 2020 research project 'Working, Yet Poor' (WorkYP), with Ramón Peña-Casas: she took part in the project meetings, reviewed several deliverables, and co-authored a

cross-cutting policy brief summing up the findings of the project and proposing EU-level recommendations to tackle in-work poverty among vulnerable groups of workers.

Dalila continued to co-manage (with Bart Vanhercke) the European research project on 'The impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services' (DIGIQU@LPUB). In 2022, the project continued, with the coordination of eight national case studies and the integration of the several sources of information collected during the first stage of the project. Dalila co-organised and participated in the first national workshop in Madrid in June. She also co-organised (and acted as a speaker during) the midterm conference of the project, which took place in November. A new EU research project in which the OSE is involved formally started in 2022: the EU Horizon Europe project on 'Welfare systems and labour market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe' (WeLaR). In this project, Dalila is involved in the work package on 'Preferences, policy and social innovation', which is tasked with formulating overall policy conclusions and recommendations and proposing opportunities for capacity building.

Dr Jessica Martini – Researcher – Health care and European integration

Jessica Martini, PhD in public health sciences (from Université libre de Bruxelles, ULB), joined the OSE in March 2022 to conduct research on EU-level developments with an impact on national health systems. Her prior experience at the ULB's School of Public Health involved extensive participation (from 2010 to 2018) in policy-supporting research in the field of international assistance to the health sector of low-income countries, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa. This research work involved the use of qualitative methods and of constructivist approaches to public policy analysis, drawing on Jessica's multidisciplinary background in political science, development studies and public health. From 2018 to 2022, she was also a lecturer for an advanced course on the analysis of health systems in different contexts (high, middle, and low-income countries). Since October 2022, she has continued to work with the ULB, supervising and assessing students' Master's and PhD theses, and as a research assistant at the Research Center on Social Approaches to Health(care).

During 2022, Jessica was particularly involved in the policy support project funded by NIHDI. As part of this work, she performed regular monitoring of key EU policy developments with a potential impact on Belgian (and other European) health system(s) and contributed to the drafting of three issues of the European Health Care News. This online quarterly newsletter, published in three languages (French, Dutch and English) by OSE and NIHDI, summarises the key developments in EU policy and law directly or indirectly related to health care, including electronic links to decisions, opinions, judgments, and other official documents related to the various news items.

On the research side, Jessica coordinated a comparative case study whose aim was to examine how health and health care targets are set in other European countries, with a particular focus on the governance processes through which these targets are set, monitored and funded. This study provided food for thought to the Belgian health authorities, regarding the launch of national health and health care targets as an instrument to guide health policies (Ministry of Health) and the budgetary process (NIHDI). Jessica developed the research design in collaboration with Rita Baeten, performed the literature review on the overall topic and the specific cases of Austria and Germany, and coordinated the study on Sweden conducted by a research fellow ⁽¹⁰⁾ who stayed at the OSE between October and December 2022. Finally, she took part in several meetings of the working group ‘EU Health Union’, in charge of preparing the Belgian presidency of the European Union (for half of 2024) on the topic of health.

Korina Kominou – Researcher – Employment social policies – Vulnerable workers – Flexible employment relations – Labour inequalities

Korina Kominou is a social policy researcher with a multidisciplinary educational background, combining a theoretical basis of social policy and labour market theories (BSc and Research MSc) with specific knowledge of EU Labour Law (LL.M). She joined the OSE in July 2022. Her scientific work covers the fields of employment and social policies, comparative employment relations, inequalities and vulnerable workers in the labour market. On behalf of the OSE, she is a member of the Network Core Team of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). She has worked for several years in the Greek public sector in national-level social policy organisations, as a social policy officer. Korina also coordinated various projects with a range of stakeholders in the Greek public employment service (PES), the gender equality secretariat of the Greek Ministry of Labour, and consulting companies. She has been a member of research teams and has led research groups working on EU and ILO research projects concerning labour market inequalities and early job insecurity, changes in the institutional framework in the labour markets in the EU and relevant determinants, and transnational digital networks affecting migration and gender.

During 2022, Korina worked on the ‘Working, Yet Poor’ (WORKYP) Horizon 2020 project and co-authored a book chapter on ‘Policy Proposals at EU level to better address in-work poverty while implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights’, published by Hart Publishing. She also co-drafted two WORKYP reports: ‘Policy proposals to enhance the social content of the EU social citizenship’ and ‘Policy Recommendations for European

10. Alban Davesne, from OsloMet University.

Union stakeholders to tackle In-Work Poverty’. Korina has also helped to implement the OSE communications and publication strategy.

Ramón Peña-Casas – Senior researcher – Employment and work, poverty, social inclusion, digitalisation, industrial relations

Ramón Peña-Casas, with a master’s in social sciences obtained in 1987 and several years of experience in applied research, joined the OSE team in 2000. His diverse areas of expertise in the field of socio-economic analysis cover, in particular, the diagnosis and comparative analysis of cross-cutting socio-economic issues affecting the various aspects of the European Union’s social dimension: poverty and social exclusion, social assistance and minimum income, digitalisation of work and digital transition, quality of employment and work, in-work poverty, insecure employment, working conditions, active labour market policies and activation, flexicurity, active ageing as well as youth policy, restructuring and social dialogue. Ramón has coordinated many European and national projects on a range of subjects and is well versed in the development, quality and political use of statistical indicators. Ramón Peña-Casas is a permanent member of several expert groups, including the ‘Belgian federal group on social indicators’ and the ‘Belgian Interdisciplinary Research Network on Poverty’ (GIREP). He is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the ‘Observatoire Girondin de la Pauvreté et Précarité’ (Bordeaux – France) and of the ‘Belgian Platform on social inclusion’.

During 2022, Ramón Peña-Casas co-authored an ESPN report on ‘Access to social protection for young people’ ⁽¹¹⁾. As project leader, he also co-authored the report for Formation Education Culture (FEC) on ‘Covid-19: EU mapping of economic and social protection measures for the SMEs and role of social dialogue’ ⁽¹²⁾. Ramón also continued the scientific coordination of the European research project on the impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services (DIGIQU@LPUB), while leading the work package carrying out a cross-cutting analysis of the impact of digitalisation on job quality of public services in eight EU countries.

Ramón is also leading the OSE team working on the EU Horizon 2020 research project ‘Working, Yet Poor’ (WorkYP 2020-2023). In 2022, he took part in the project meetings, reviewed several deliverables and co-authored a cross-cutting policy brief summing up the findings of the project and proposing EU-level recommendations to tackle in-work poverty among vulnerable groups of workers ⁽¹³⁾. A new EU research project in which the OSE is involved started in 2022: the EU Horizon Europe project on ‘Welfare systems and labour

11. With Dalila Ghailani, Stéphanie Coster and Pietro Regazzoni.

12. With Dalila Ghailani, Boris Fronteddu and Stéphanie Coster.

13. With Dalila Ghailani and Korina Kominou.

market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe' (WeLaR). In this project, Ramón leads the OSE team ⁽¹⁴⁾ as front-runner of a work package on 'Preferences, policy and social innovation', which is tasked with formulating overall policy conclusions and recommendations and proposing opportunities for capacity building.

Dr Sebastiano Sabato – Senior researcher – European integration, EU social policies and governance, socio-ecological transition

Sebastiano Sabato holds a PhD in Political Sciences from the *Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane* (SUM) in Florence (2013) and a master's degree in economics and politics of European integration from the University of Bologna, Faculty of Political Sciences (Forlì). Since February 2014 he has been working as a researcher on European integration, and since February 2019 as a senior researcher at the OSE, also responsible for monitoring funding opportunities (with Bart Vanhercke). In 2013, he worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Social and Political Science of the University of Milan and, in 2014-2015, he worked at the Department of Sociology at Antwerp University. Since January 2019, he has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the journal '*Politiche Sociali/Social Policies*'. His current research interests include EU socio-economic governance (including in the context of the EU's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic), EU and national social protection and social inclusion policies, social innovation, social dialogue, and the socio-ecological transition.

During 2022, Sebastiano Sabato's core research activity revolved around two main topics: strengthening the social dimension of the EU; and EU policies for the socio-ecological transition, including in relation to the recovery from the pandemic. Regarding the first of these topics, Sebastiano conducted research on the setting up of a Social Imbalances Procedure (SIP), notably as lead researcher for a report commissioned by the ETUI (with Bart Vanhercke) and working on an OSE Opinion Paper on the same topic. Furthermore, Sebastiano led research monitoring the quality of trade union involvement in the implementation of the national Recovery and Resilience plans. As for EU policies for the socio-ecological transition, Sebastiano conducted research on the 'socio-ecological' dimension of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans. He also worked on the gradual development of an EU framework for a just transition, notably as part of a project funded by the Belgian Federal Public Service – Social Security aimed at providing scientific expertise to prepare for the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2024.

14. Dalila Ghailani, Korina Kominou and Bart Vanhercke.

For the ESPN project, Sebastiano contributed to research for the report on ‘Making access to social protection for workers and the self-employed more transparent through information and simplification’ (published in 2023). He was also involved in reviewing national ‘Country Profiles’. Sebastiano was also among the editors (with Bart Vanhercke and Slavina Spasova) of the 2022 edition of ‘Social Policy in the European Union’, beside co-authoring a chapter (with Sotiria Theodoropoulou, ETUI) and the Conclusions of the volume (with the editors). In addition to this, he continued scanning potential funding opportunities for future OSE research projects. In 2022, Sebastiano also published a ‘Think piece’ entitled ‘Transition-proofing welfare states – how should the EU go about it?’ for the UNESCO Inclusive PolicyLab, and was invited to speak at a number of seminars, webinars, and (policy-oriented and academic) conferences (see Section 5).

Dr Slavina Spasova – Senior researcher – Social protection, pension reforms, trade unions and social dialogue

Slavina Spasova, PhD in Political Science (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB), has been a researcher in the area of social protection at the OSE since January 2016, and a senior researcher since 2021. She is both OSE coordinator and overall pension leader in the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). Her research agenda focuses on various social policy issues linked to social protection, including pension reforms, work-life balance, health care, long-term care, sickness benefits etc. Slavina is also a research associate at the Centre d’étude de la vie politique (CEVIPOL), ULB. Since September 2020, she has also been working as an assessor (experte invitée) of Master’s theses at the Département des Sciences sociales et des Sciences du travail (ULB). In October 2021, Slavina joined the editorial board of the Journal of European Social Security. In October 2021, she also joined the editorial team of the Society and Politics section of the open access journal Heliyon (Elsevier publishing). Her previous work has explored the process of transformation of the Bulgarian trade unions since 1989 and their involvement in building social institutions through the mechanisms of international socialisation and ‘usages of Europe’.

During 2022, Slavina Spasova coordinated two ESPN deliverables. The first one provides an analysis of how 35 European countries monitor public social spending: governance frameworks for levels of spending and outcomes. The second deliverable analysed the transparency aspect of access to social protection, i.e. access to personalised and general information and simplification of rules and application processes. For the Bilan social, Slavina also led a chapter on the politics behind the proposal for a directive on working conditions in the platform work economy (co-authored with Matteo Marengo). Finally, she coordinated the team (OSE, KUL and University of Antwerp researchers) and co-led the contents (with Paul Schoukens) of a report providing expertise to the future Belgian Presidency on possible social protection initiatives. She also co-edited, together with Bart

Vanhercke (lead editor) and Sebastiano Sabato, the book 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022'.

Slavina presented her research and views at several events, including conferences on sickness benefits in the European Union (International Social Security Association – ISSA); the state of social security in Europe (Journée d'étude Europe ACV-CSC); and social protection of the self-employed during Covid-19 (ESPANET). She also helped with the dissemination of both the 'Bilan social 2020' and 'Bilan social 2021' edited volumes, and actively participated in the bi-annual ESPN network meetings and dissemination events. Slavina gave a lecture on the state of the European social dialogue 2014-2021 (Sciences Po Lyon) and was invited to speak at various events (see Section 5 for details).

Dr Bart Vanhercke – Director and senior researcher – European integration, social protection and social inclusion, governance

Bart Vanhercke, PhD in social science (Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, AISSR), has been director and senior researcher at the OSE since 2010. He is therefore in charge of the broad research strategy, the internal organisation of the team, managing the budget (with Françoise Verri), and implementing the OSE tendering and communication strategies. His current research focuses on the social dimension of the new European economic governance, including in the context of the EU recovery. For the academic year 2013-2014, Bart Vanhercke was appointed Associate Professor at the Institute for European Studies of Saint-Louis University (FUSL) and in November 2015, he became a Policy Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA Berlin). He was appointed associate member of the academic staff at the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA, KULeuven) in June 2016 and was a visiting professor at the College of Europe during the academic year 2020-2021. He is the author of around 130 articles, chapters, edited volumes and reports.

During 2022, Bart Vanhercke was again the lead editor, together with Sebastiano Sabato and Slavina Spasova, of the OSE's flagship book 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022' (EN-FR). Bart was also the lead author of the book's conclusions ('Policymaking in a state of permacrisis: can the EU uphold its social ambitions?'), signed by the editors. Bart continued his work as social protection leader of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), in close coordination with Slavina Spasova. Bart Vanhercke's core research activity in 2022 again revolved around the side-lining of the social actors in the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which led to a variety of research outputs co-authored with Prof. Amy Verdun (University of Victoria). These include the theory-driven conclusions of a Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS) special issue; and a concise opinion paper, which summarises the key findings (AK EUROPA Policy Brief).

During 2022, Bart Vanhercke also continued to conduct research, with Sebastiano Sabato and Anne-Catherine Guio, on the strengthening of the social dimension of the EU, by means of a proposal to operationalise an ‘EU Social Imbalances Procedure’: this resulted in various publications with ETUI and in the OSE Working Paper Series. Bart also co-managed (with Dalila Ghailani and Ramón Peña-Casas) the EU-funded project on the impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue (DIGIQU@LPUB). He actively contributed to the writing and coordination of several competitive tenders. Bart also presented his research and views at several (online) events, as can be seen in Section 5. He managed, together with Slavina Spasova, the OSE Paper Series (five OSE Working papers were published in 2022) and contributed to the International Digest of the Belgian Review for Social Security (with Angelina Atanasova). He co-authored (with Philippe Pochet) a book chapter on ‘The Open Method of Coordination: a contested public policy instrument still going “soft”’, published by Oxford University Press.

2.2 THE OSE BACK OFFICE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Deborah Lehane – Administrative assistant

Deborah Lehane began working at the OSE in March 2022. She is in charge of copy-editing the OSE Paper Series and the annual ‘Bilan social’, for which she also cross-checks references and harmonises the bibliographies. She is also responsible for proofreading the regular European Health Care News and contributes to all aspects of organising OSE events. Deborah also assists with interview transcriptions and the layout of documents. Her tasks also include answering telephone calls, drafting reports of team meetings and sending and receiving institutional emails (internal and external communication).

Benoît Malice – Web Assistant

Benoît Malice provides logistics support for conferences (preparing files of documents, reception – publication displays). He performs various secretarial tasks: document-binding, photocopies, transcribing texts, etc. He handles the layout of the OSE Paper Series. He performs several support tasks for the website: input to the various sections of the site, HTML layout of the newsletter ‘European Health Care News’ (French, Dutch and English); corrections and addition of various sections (French and English); checking web pages, uploading new content, updating bibliographical references in the publications pages as well as the posting of registration forms. During 2022, he was involved, together with Renaud Smoes, in the finalisation of the new OSE website.

Renaud Smoes – Webmaster

Renaud Smoes manages the IT equipment and security, manages and updates the OSE site, project webpages and contact database. During 2022, Renaud managed the updates of infrastructure and security solutions for the OSE website with the support of Lab360. He administered the Microsoft 365 platform, which is used to manage the OSE shared agenda and the flow of documents in collaborative research projects such as ESPN. He manages the OSE Flash News and the 'European Health Care News' newsletter (HTML layout, sending out the letter, mailing list) for the NIHDI contract. He has also managed the websites for one-off projects. He is in charge of the IT aspects of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). His other tasks include events organisation (invitations, management of the subscriptions, welcoming, technical support) and generating graphic material for researchers, slides and visual aids for OSE events.

Françoise Verri – Financial and administrative manager

Françoise Verri, with the OSE Director, manages the calls for tenders (drafting budgets, planning tables, checking and proofreading of the OSE offers and online registration), manages the finances of the institution, produces financial reports for all projects (both European and national), draws up the budgets, checks all OSE's contracts and is responsible for the administrative management (staff, relations with outside bodies, supplies, etc.). She manages the accounting of the institution and prepares the documents for the OSE governing bodies. She also drafts the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the annual General Assembly. She makes payments, is responsible for invoicing and VAT as well as for the organisation and practical coordination of books, papers, programmes and invitations, the final revision of notes and reports and managing translations for the various publications. She also coordinates the national and international OSE events (with the administrative team).

2.3 INTERNSHIPS

The OSE has concluded an internship agreement with the University of Milan, which selects one student every year for a 4-month stay at the OSE. The University of Amsterdam, the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Brigham Young University (Utah, United States) have also been sending students on a regular basis, while we regularly receive direct applications from individuals. As a result, bachelor and master students in political science, sociology, economics, and law make ongoing contributions to the OSE research activities. For most OSE interns, their stay at the OSE is a mandatory part of their curriculum, for which they receive a bursary from the sending institution.

The OSE provides these students with opportunities to network with top researchers and politicians in various fields, as well as (in case of an outstanding internship) giving them letters of recommendation that they can take to future job interviews. For many interns at the OSE, it is the first time that they get to experience work in research, which often proves to be invaluable in their future career decisions and opportunities. Interns are involved at different levels in a variety of research projects covering all employment and social fields. They help by drafting minutes of events, conducting qualitative research, editing work, interview transcriptions and translations. Interns' written pieces regularly appear in OSE publications, and are acknowledged as such: in several cases, interns have been recognised as co-authors. An overview of the 2022 interns can be found in the table below.

Table 1. Interns and visiting researchers during 2022

Name of intern	Period of OSE internship	Sending institution
Maristella Cacciapaglia	14 December 2021 - 31 February 2022	University of Bari "Aldo Moro" (remote)
Borys Biedron	1 February 2022 - 29 April 2022	KULeuven
Federico Moja	1 April 2022 - 29 July 2022	Milan University
Ludovico Fiorucci	6 July 2022 - 31 October 2022	Collège d'Europe (Bruges)
Alban Davesne (visiting researcher)	5 October 2022 - 22 December 2022	OsloMet (Oslo Metropolitan University)
Matteo Marengo (visiting researcher)	5 October 2022 – 20 December 2022	Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS)

3. NUTS AND BOLTS: RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2022

This section provides a brief overview of the 12 projects managed by the OSE team in 2022. More details on each of them can be found on the project page of the OSE website.

A. EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK (ESPN) II (2022-2023)

Since 2014, the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) has been supporting the European Commission with independent information, analysis and expertise on social policies, to foster the development of evidence-based social policy initiatives at European level. In particular, the ESPN supports the Commission in monitoring progress towards the EU's social protection and social inclusion objectives as set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Semester. The ESPN2 currently covers 35 countries: the 28 EU countries as well as seven candidate and potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. It also provides ad hoc social policy analysis for an additional set of countries inside and outside Europe. Finally, the ESPN acts as the secretariat to MISSOC (Mutual Information Systems on Social Protection). At the heart of the ESPN are 35 Country Teams of independent experts on social policies who are supported and coordinated by a central team of international experts. The ESPN is managed jointly by the LISER Research Institute (lead partner, based in Luxembourg), the independent research company APPLICA (Belgium) and the OSE (Social Protection Leader). OSE researchers involved: Slavina Spasova (lead researcher), Rita Baeten, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Angelina Atanasova, Korina Kominou, Jessica Martini, Sebastiano Sabato, and Bart Vanhercke.

B. FOLLOW UP OF EU-LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (NIHDI-RIZIV-INAMI) (2022-2024)

The OSE was awarded a three-year project to provide the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI-INAMI-RIZIV) and the Belgian health authorities with expertise and analysis on EU policies with a potential impact on national health care systems. This project is the continuation of a longstanding collaboration between the OSE and the NIHDI in this field. OSE researchers involved: Rita Baeten and Jessica Martini.

The 2022 activity included:

- The scientific underpinning of health care-related initiatives developed as part of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, which will take place in the first half of 2024.
- A study on the use of health (care) targets in EU countries and the extent to which these practices could be relevant in the Belgian context.

- An exploratory analysis of the experiences of Belgian experts participating in the European Reference Networks (ERNs) of expert centres for highly specialised care and rare diseases.
- Expert advice on EU policies with a potential impact on health care systems in general and the Belgian health care system in particular.
- The publication of a quarterly electronic newsletter on recent EU developments with a potential impact on national health care systems.

C. WORKING, YET POOR – WORKYP (2020-2023)

The OSE continued its activities as a partner in a Horizon 2020 European research project entitled ‘Working, Yet Poor’ (WorkYP). The project (2020-2023) is being coordinated by the University of Luxembourg and involves eight European universities as well as three social rights institutions, including the OSE and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). The consortium explores the drivers of the recurrent phenomenon of in-work poverty (IWP) in the EU in the light of the social rights of EU workers and citizens, notably those proclaimed in the EPSR. The project will make recommendations to the EU and Member States to strengthen the objectives of the EPSR.

WorkYP covers seven countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden and the Netherlands. In each country, four clusters of particularly Vulnerable and Underrepresented Persons (VUP) have been identified. WorkYP uses a multifaceted and multidisciplinary methodology that combines legal and socio-economic analysis. In addition to being involved in various analytical work packages (WPs), the OSE is leader of a WP aiming to draw up recommendations and policy proposals to tackle IWP by improving the social rights of the VUP. OSE researchers involved: Ramón Peña-Casas (project leader), Dalila Ghailani, Korina Kominou and Bart Vanhercke.

D. DIGITALISATION AND JOB QUALITY (2021-2023)

The OSE successfully secured the two-year (2021-2023) European research project on the ‘Impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services’ (DIGIQU@LPUB). The project is funded through the European Commission budget line ‘Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations’ (VP/2020/004). In recent years, public service workers are increasingly using connected tools and methods that shape the way their job tasks are implemented, scheduled, controlled, and ultimately benefit public service users. The research project, led by the OSE, aims at improving understanding of the impact of digitalisation on job quality in the public services, by highlighting the perceptions that workers themselves have of the changes generated by digitalisation in the

performance of their daily tasks. It also aims at raising awareness among trade unions and decisionmakers of the consequences of the digital transition of work for the public services.

At the core of the project are eight case studies in as many countries: Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain. The focus is on three public service sectors: electricity suppliers, public administrations (national/regional/local governments) and hospitals (healthcare services). The DIGIQU@LPUB partnership brings together twelve institutions across the EU: the European Social Observatory (BE), European Public Services Union (EU); Fondazione Giuseppe di Vittorio (IT); Scuola Universitaria superior Pisa (IT); Aalborg University (DK); Secafi – Groupe Alpha (FR); Institut Arbeit und Technik (DE); Institute of Public Affairs (PL); IRES Emilia Romagna (IT); Fundación 1^o de Mayo (ES); ÉTOSZ (HU); University of Turku (FI). OSE researchers involved: Dalila Ghailani (co-manager), Ramón Peña-Casas (scientific coordinator), Angelina Atanasova and Bart Vanhercke (co-manager).

E. ACADEMIC SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATION OF THE BELGIAN EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY 2024 (2022-2023)

The Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleeck (CSB, University of Antwerp) and the OSE have secured a contract with the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security (SPF Sécurité Sociale) to provide the academic underpinning of the ‘Social Affairs’ side of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU during the first half of 2024. In the first phase, the OSE has been tasked with writing three background papers (during 2022 and 2023) on a) ‘improving access to social protection’; b) ‘just transition towards climate neutrality’; and c) ‘advancing disability rights in the context of the Union of equality’. These background papers have been authored by CSB and OSE researchers, as well as external academic experts. Other papers in the contract pertain to the European Pillar of Social Rights, pensions and the European Labour Authority. They will be discussed in dedicated workshops during spring 2023, with Belgian administrations and political ‘cabinets’, as well as with a variety of Belgian and EU stakeholders. The paper and discussions will feed directly into the policymaking process. OSE researchers involved: Angelina Atanasova, Sebastiano Sabato, Slavina Spasova.

F. NON-STANDARD WORKERS AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED IN THE EU: SOCIAL PROTECTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (2020-2022)

The OSE continued its research for the European Trade Union Institute, examining the social protection measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic related to sickness, unemployment and leave benefits in the EU27. The deliverables of the project consist in an overall mapping report of the national measures, eight in-depth national case studies and a

final analytical report. The mapping report described the key social protection measures taken during the pandemic from the perspective of fragmentation of labour market statuses, notably focusing on non-standard workers and the self-employed, as well as taking into account the gender dimension of these social protection measures. The analysis focused on the 27 EU Member States, covering the period of the first wave of the pandemic: from the beginning of the lockdown measures (for most countries at the beginning of March 2020) until 31 December 2020.

This study was among the first to focus exclusively on the social protection measures taken by Member States to support non-standard workers and the self-employed in the context of the pandemic. It contributed to the monitoring and evaluation of the 2019 Council Recommendation on access to social protection. OSE researchers involved: Slavina Spasova (project leader), Dalila Ghailani, Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke.

G. SOCIAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: STATE OF PLAY 2022

The OSE was contracted by the European Trade Union Institute to conduct research which resulted in the 23rd edition of the 'Bilan social' (the short name of the book in French), which was edited this year by Bart Vanhercke, Sebastiano Sabato and Slavina Spasova. Other contributors to the book include Angelina Atanasova, David Bokhorst, Petra Debusscher, Federico Fabbrini, Matteo Marengo, Zane Rasnača and Sotiria Theodoropoulou.

Chapter 1 of the book provides a broad discussion of the impact of the war in Ukraine on the future of the EU, including the prospects of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Chapter 2 describes similarities and differences between the steering of social reforms under the European Semester and under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Chapter 3 then seeks to understand whether and how the RRF promotes the integration of policies for the green transition and social policies. The second part of the book provides an in-depth analysis of some of the key initiatives taken in the social domain in the past year. Chapter 4 analyses how the issue of regulating the labour status and social protection of platform work has been addressed at the EU level and which actors defend/oppose this agenda. Turning to the key issue of gender equality, Chapter 5 provides a critical assessment of the 'Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025'. The rule of law conditionality mechanism and its potential impact on social policy are at the heart of Chapter 6. The concluding chapter provides an analytical reading of the main developments in the EU's social dimension during the past year, while the Chronology summarises the key events of 2021 in social, economic and environmental policies.

H. SOCIAL IMBALANCES PROCEDURE (2022)

In view of the formidable challenges ahead related to recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and to the green and digital transitions, the ETUI asked the OSE, following a competitive tender, to reflect on how the EU social governance toolbox could be further strengthened. The first aim of the project is to assess and critically evaluate existing social benchmarking or ‘scoreboards’ (or proposals for possible ‘scoreboards’) aimed at identifying or correcting social imbalances within the EU, including by means of a literature review. Second, the OSE has explored the possibility of setting up an EU instrument aimed at identifying and correcting social imbalances in the Member States, thus helping to address the structural asymmetry between the economic and the social dimension of the European integration process. Thirdly, the OSE has delineated the main features and the functioning of such an instrument. Finally, the OSE team has discussed both the added value and possible limitations and shortcomings of a possible Social Imbalances Procedure (from both a technical and political point of view). The preliminary results of this research were debated during an experts’ workshop, to discuss and test the findings before finalizing them. The project culminated, in 2022, in a report for ETUI. OSE researchers involved: Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher) and Bart Vanhercke.

I. INTERNATIONAL DIGEST (BELGIAN REVIEW FOR SOCIAL SECURITY) (2019-2022)

The OSE was awarded a contract with the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security in 2019 with a view to writing the ‘European and International Digest’ for the quarterly *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale* (RBSS/BTSZ). The Digest will continue to provide a regular overview of international developments (EU, OECD, ILO etc.) that have a direct or indirect impact on social protection and social inclusion policies and debates. As of 2019, this Digest includes information on environmental decisions taken by these institutions with a direct impact on public health and welfare. The goal is to emphasise the increasingly close link between the environment (water quality, air quality, soil quality, etc.) and our daily lives.

Since 2021, the Digest has further expanded to include highly discussed topics closely related to the state of social policy, such as equality and non-discrimination, as well as those aspects of democracy backsliding which impact social policy. These new topics point to the need to include a wider group of elements in a new, broader understanding of the concept of ‘social protection’. The RBSS/BTSZ is available online, in French and Dutch. OSE researchers involved during 2022: Angelina Atanasova (lead researcher), Denis Bouget, Bart Vanhercke.

J. MONITORING QUALITY OF TRADE UNION INVOLVEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RRPS (2022-2023)

The ETUI asked the OSE, following a competitive tender, to investigate the quality of trade union involvement in the implementation of the national Recovery and Resilience plans. To do so, the OSE has, first, elaborated an analytical framework suitable for identifying and investigating the main features of the involvement process. Second, empirical analysis was conducted on seven EU Member States: Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia and Spain. Finally, an empirically grounded analytical framework and a survey tool (questionnaire) were developed for regular assessment of the quality of trade union consultation and involvement. This research has resulted in a report and a policy brief for ETUI (to be published in 2023). OSE researchers involved: Angelina Atanasova, Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher), Slavina Spasova, and Bart Vanhercke.

K. HORIZON EUROPE - WELFARE SYSTEMS AND LABOUR MARKET POLICIES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE IN EUROPE (WELAR) (2022-2025)

The OSE is a partner in a new Horizon Europe-funded research project (2022-2025) looking at ‘Welfare systems and Labour market policies for economic and social resilience in Europe’ (‘WeLaR’). The project is coordinated by the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA, KU Leuven) and brings together research institutes from six European Union countries: Austria (ZSI-WIIW), Belgium (OSE), Germany (ZEW), Italy (UNIPG), Luxembourg (LISER), Poland (ALDGATE-IBS) – as well as Serbia (EKOF). It investigates the impact of four megatrends – namely the technological revolution, globalisation, climate, and demographic changes – on European labour markets and welfare states. The project aims to provide a comparative diagnosis and to develop policy recommendations. The OSE is the leader of the work package on ‘Preferences, policy and social innovation’, which is tasked with formulating policy conclusions and recommendations and proposing opportunities for capacity building. OSE researchers involved in this project: Ramón Peña-Casas, Dalila Ghailani, Korina Kominou and Bart Vanhercke.

L. THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF EU RECOVERY: A MAPPING EXERCISE (2021-2022)

The European Commission-funded programme for cooperation between the EU and Latin America on social and employment policies ‘EUROsociAL+’ asked the OSE to conduct a study on the socio-ecological dimension of the EU recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The objective of this research is twofold. Firstly, it seeks to identify and discuss relevant initiatives taken at the EU level aimed at linking and making environmental and social objectives compatible in the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. These include the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the most relevant EU policy documents/strategies on which the

latter is based (including the European Green Deal and the European Pillar of Social Rights). Second, it provides a preliminary assessment of the socio-ecological dimension of the EU recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, including its potential and limitations.

The OSE was also asked by EUROsociAL+ to assist with the scientific preparation of a seminar on ‘Green transition, just transition. Euro-Latin American dialogue on the social challenges to ensure a just green transition’. The seminar took place on 20 May 2022 in a hybrid form (online and at the Alberto Hurtado University of Santiago de Chile). Speakers included European and Latin-American academics, policymakers and civil society representatives. On that occasion, Sebastiano Sabato presented (together with Matteo Mandelli) the key findings of the study ‘The Socio-Ecological Dimension of the EU Recovery. From the European Green Deal to the Recovery and Resilience Facility’. Researchers involved in this project were Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher) and Bart Vanhercke.

4. THE PLACES TO BE: OSE EVENTS IN SHORT

This section describes the six events (co-)organised by the OSE throughout 2022: these events were mostly online or hybrid (webinars), as a result of which they attracted a record number of participants. More details can be found on the OSE website. An overview of the participation of OSE researchers in events organised by other institutions is provided in Section 5 (‘Up close and Personal’).

25/01/2022 – The EU response to Covid-19: winners and losers – OSE/ETUI (Webinar)

Keynote speakers: Philippe Pochet, Bart Vanhercke, Michael Dauderstädt, Francesco Corti, Thibaud Deruelle, Amy Verdun, Bea Cantillon, Marco Cilento, Maria Teresa Fabregas, Scott Greer, Slavina Spasova

10/03/2022 – From the European Semester to the COVID-19 crisis: Macro-economic policy coordination and its implications for social and regional partners – University of Victoria (Canada)/OSE (Webinar)

Keynote speakers: Rob Jonkman, Kajus Hagelstam, Luc Tholoniati, Alison Weston, Sebastiano Sabato, Alexandra Maatsch and Wolfgang Petzold

16/03/2022 – The green and digital transitions: how can the EU deliver its promise?
– OSE/European Environment Agency (EAA)/ETUI (Webinar)

Keynote speakers: Nicola Countouris, Bart Vanhercke, Hans Bruyninckx, Aida Ponce Del Castillo, Félix Maillieux, Catelijne Muller, Sebastiano Sabato and Slavina Spasova

04/05/2022 – Bilan social de l'Union européenne – Focus sur le Green Deal (Seminar)

Keynote speakers: Pascale Vielle, Philippe Pochet, Frédéric Le Blay, Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke

03/06/2022 – The impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the Spanish public services – Roundtable discussion

Keynote speakers: Pedro J. Linares, Bart Vanhercke, Dalila Ghailani, Richard Pond, Ricardo Contreras, Jesús Cruces, Alicia Martínez and Raquel Boto

25/11/22 ‘The impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services across the EU’ - Roundtable discussion

The roundtable discussion primarily addressed the impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services in Belgium and Europe. The event was a key opportunity for an exchange of views between researchers, national and European stakeholders. Dalila gave a presentation of the DIGIQU@PUB project while Ramón presented the main intermediate findings.

Keynote speakers: Ilse Heylen, Pauline Martin, Salvo Leonardi, Eckard Voss and Richard Pond

5. UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL: TEAM MEMBER ACTIVITIES

OSE researchers participated in nearly 30 external events, as speakers, panellists, or moderators, during 2022.

16/02/2022 – Social protection for non-standard workers and the self-employed in the EU

Slavina Spasova was a keynote speaker in this seminar (Transatlantic Expert Group on the Future of Work - Social Protection Working Group) comparing access to social protection in the EU and the USA. The focus was on lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. The seminar was organized jointly by Breugel and the German Marshall Fund for Europe

17-18 February 2022 – The European Semester 2022: Exchange of views with civil society (European Commission)

Bart Vanhercke gave a keynote speech during this stakeholder consultation: ‘From the Semester to the Recovery and Resilience Facility – Which role for civil society?’.

03/03/2022 – Seminar: ‘The socio-ecological dimension of the Recovery and Resilience Facility’

Sebastiano Sabato was a keynote speaker in this seminar, discussing if and to what extent the RRF has a socio-ecological dimension, and what are its added value and limitations. This seminar was part of a seminar series on ‘Exploring the eco-social debate: theory and practice’, jointly organised by the Universities of Venice and Padua.

10/03/2022 – Macro-economic policy coordination and its implications for social and regional partners (JCMS)

Bart Vanhercke shared his views on the role of social players in the European Semester during this JCMS Outreach Event.

22/03/2022 – Podcast on the conclusions of the 2021 Social Policy in Europe volume

Bart Vanhercke and Slavina Spasova presented the conclusions of the Bilan Social 2021 volume in a podcast by ETUI.

23/03/2022 – Debate on ‘possible actions to end health inequity in Europe’

Rita Baeten participated in a panel debate on ‘possible actions to end health inequity in Europe’, during a webinar organized by Dokters van de Wereld/ Médecins du Monde following the publication of their European Observatory report ‘Unheard, unseen and untreated: health inequalities in Europe today’.

23/04/2022 – High-level seminar ‘Green Transition, just transition. Euro-Latin-American dialogue on the social challenges to ensure a just green transition’

Sebastiano Sabato was invited to give a speech at this hybrid seminar (Santiago de Chile/virtual) organised by the EUROsociAL+ programme, which brought together

politicians, policymakers, stakeholders' representatives and researchers from European and Latin-American countries. Sebastiano presented (together with Matteo Mandelli) the report on 'The socio-ecological dimension of EU recovery' commissioned from the OSE by the Eurosocial+ programme.

22/05/2022 – Lecture 'Social Europe in times of crisis: 2000-2022', University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria (online)

Slavina Spasova gave a lecture on the social dimension of Europe during the Juncker and von der Leyen Commissions, with an emphasis on the crisis measures taken by the EU.

02/06/2022 – DIGIQU@LPUB project, national workshop in Madrid with project partners

Angelina Atanasova presented the DIGIQU@LPUB preliminary web survey results and led the discussion with the present project partners on the way forward. The workshop aimed to discuss the preliminary results of the DIGIQU@LPUB project and highlight some national developments on the topic of work quality and digitalisation in Spain.

03/06/22 – Seminar on the impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the Spanish public services

The Seminar addressed the impact of digitalisation on job quality and social dialogue in the public services, with a focus on Spain. The event was a key opportunity for an exchange of views between researchers, national and European stakeholders. Dalila presented the DIGIQU@PUB project as an introduction to the seminar.

06/06/2022 – European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Brussels

Slavina Spasova presented the report 'National monitoring frameworks for public social spending. Evidence from 35 European countries'.

06/07/2022 – For A Stronger Social Europe (ETUC)

Bart Vanhercke presented his view on stakeholder involvement in the European Semester, during this event aimed at assessing the European Pillar of Social Rights.

11/07/2022- 29th edition of the CoE's 'Intensive Seminar on the EU'

Bart Vanhercke gave a lecture about 'A fairer Europe: the development of the EU's social and health policy' during this Summer School of the College of Europe.

14/07/2022 – Experts focus group on 'Assessing the European Green Deal on the basis of the European Pillar of Social Rights'

Sebastiano Sabato participated in the discussions of this expert group (organized by SOLIDAR), sharing his views on ongoing research on the linkages between the European Green Deal and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

01/09/ 2022 – XV ESPAnet Italia Conference (University of Bari)

Sebastiano Sabato participated (remotely) in the XV ESPAnet Italia Conference, discussing the paper 'EU eco-social policies for a "just transition": comparing the Just Transition Fund and the Social Climate Fund' (written with Matteo Mandelli and Maristella Cacciapaglia).

08-09/09/2022 – Distance & Convergence: re:constituting Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe, Berlin

Angelina Atanasova was invited as a re:constitution Fellow alumna to participate in the final re: constitution conference on the rule-of-law crisis and democracy, together with other collaborators from the network, scholars of law and political science, judges and lawyers from various EU Member States.

16/09/2022 – Wetenschappelijke Ondersteuning EU24: Toelichting van de pre-finale versie van de kritische nota

Angelina Atanasova presented the forthcoming actions on the topic of disability rights for the academic preparation of the Belgian Presidency project, during a collaborative meeting organised by the FPS Social Security, with the involvement of the project partners.

28/09/22 – Youth Guarantee Coordinators' Informal Meeting, Brussels

Dalila Ghailani presented the report on 'Access to social protection for young people' to a group of officials, mainly from labour ministries, some from the national PES, who act as contact points between the Commission and their respective authorities on issues dealing with youth employment. The meeting aimed to engage the YG coordinators in a discussion on the ways to improve social protection for young people.

06/10/ 2022 – Roundtable discussion: ‘Can Europe lead a Just Transition?’

Sebastiano Sabato was among the participants in this roundtable – organized by SOLIDAR – explaining his views on how to better integrate the European Green Deal and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

08/10/2022 – Symposium on accessibility of care

Rita Baeten presented the research results of the study ‘Inequalities in access to health care in Belgium’ during a Symposium on accessibility of care, organized by AZ Klina, Brasschaat.

18/10/ 2022 – Seminar ‘Populism and Environment’

Sebastiano Sabato shared his views on ‘The initiatives of the EU for a “just transition”: an appropriate answer to the challenges raised by populism?’ during this academic seminar organised by the University of Bari ‘Aldo Moro’.

18-21 October 2022 - Winter School, Social Europe: rights and policies

Bart Vanhercke presented the ‘Bilan social’ edited volume during this winter school organized by the University of Milan.

10/11/2022 – MISSOC bi-annual meeting

Slavina Spasova presented the ESPN report ‘National monitoring frameworks for public social spending. Evidence from 35 European countries’.

13-15/11/2022 - Transatlantic Working Group on the Future of Work (EU/USA)

Slavina Spasova participated in the two-day final event of this project and acted as a discussant. The event was organized by Breugel and the German Marshall Fund for Europe

28/11/2022 – EU Social Protection Committee meeting (EU-SPC)

Slavina Spasova presented the report ‘National monitoring frameworks for public social spending. Evidence from 35 European countries’. This was followed by a discussion with representatives of the Member States.

30/11/ 2022 Workshop ‘Eco-social Research Pathways’

Sebastiano Sabato presented his views on the emerging EU framework for a just transition and on the functions that welfare states could play in the green transition. Organised by the University of Padua, this workshop brought together a number of European scholars dealing with the socio-ecological transition, allowing them to present and discuss ongoing and future research on this topic.

06/12/2022 - Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee meeting (EU ISG- SPC)

Slavina Spasova presented the ESPN report ‘National monitoring frameworks for public social spending. Evidence from 35 European countries’, in a discussion with representatives of the Member States, Brussels.

07/12/2022 - Global Affairs in Dialogue, University College Freiburg (Germany)

Angelina Atanasova was one of the two speakers giving presentations in an online seminar on legal activism, organized for MA students in law at the University College Freiburg. She discussed her research work on legal activism in the areas of social law, and on equality and non-discrimination.

6. OUTPUT DATA: THE OSE'S REACH

6.1 PUBLICATIONS

As illustrated in Table 1, the OSE researchers have authored no less than **32 publications** during 2022 – as compared to 13 in 2020, and 28 in 2021. The details of the publications produced by OSE researchers are given in Section 7 below.

Table 2. Type and number of OSE publications in 2022

<i>Type of publication</i>	<i>Number</i>
Articles	2
Papers	4
Reports	2
Book chapters	18
Digests and opinions	2
Edited volumes/books	4
Total	32

One Research paper and two Opinion papers were produced by external authors in the OSE Paper Series in 2022 (in addition to two working papers by OSE authors, listed in Section 7):

- Hooker J. and Antonucci L. (2022) Improving the EU Platform Work Directive proposal, A contribution from emerging research findings, OSE Paper Series, Opinion Paper No. 28, Brussels: European Social Observatory, 23 p.
- Raucent E. (2022) Quel statut social pour les travailleurs de plateforme ? Les (potentielles) avancées en droit social européen et belge, OSE Paper Series, Research Paper N° 50, Novembre 2022, 23 p.
- Vanhuyse P., Medgyesi M. and Gál R. (2022) Welfare states as lifecycle redistribution machines, Why the piggy bank dwarfs Robin Hood in Europe, OSE Paper Series, Opinion Paper No. 27, Brussels: European Social Observatory, 17 p.

Publications by OSE researchers have been cited over 9,954 times in scholarly literature, across an array of publishing formats and disciplines (Source: Google Scholar). The web search engine reports 6,529 citations of publications by OSE researchers since 2018; and 1,612 citations in 2022 alone. Google Scholar harvests publications of all types across the

internet, giving students and researchers easy access to the OSE's work through the familiar format of Google. However, it should be noted that Google Scholar is largely limited to English language publications, while some OSE publications are in French and (occasionally) in Dutch. Not all OSE researchers have a profile on Google Scholar.

6.2 THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION: 'IMPACT'

The number of publications or citations obviously obscures the fact that some OSE publications, irrespective of whether they are quoted, may be actively used as background material (e.g. for stakeholders and policymakers) and as food for thought for internal discussions (e.g. in European institutions), while other reports (typically deliverables written for the European institutions) are cited without the authors' names, but rather as 'European Commission' or 'European Economic and Social Committee'.

The following examples provide some insights into the impact of OSE publications and activities during 2022.

- The OSE actively participated in meetings with various federal government agencies involved in the preparation of the health workstream for the 2024 Belgian Presidency. In this context, OSE researchers provided extensive feedback and drafted two working documents containing an inventory of policy proposals related to key health topics to be addressed during the Belgian presidency. Still for the health sector, the OSE actively fed into the NIHDI reflection on the multiannual health care budgetary process, participating in the Scientific committee and co-authoring a report on this topic, and providing NIHDI with written feedback on a concept note drafted on this reform at federal level.
- The OSE report on the Social Imbalances Procedure, published by ETUI, was discussed during a closed expert meeting, under Chatham House rules, with experts from national Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs (EMCO/SPC members), the European Commission, the European Trade Union Confederation and ETUI. The report was widely disseminated among national delegations in the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) and was quoted in some of the institutional working documents on the SIP.
- The OSE provided a Synthesis Report with a factual overview of the access for young people to social protection schemes providing five categories of cash benefits: this report fed into the discussions on the rights of young people during the 2022 European Year of Youth.
- The report on the sidelining of the social actors in the Recovery and Resilience Facility for ETUI was used as background material by the European Commission to

prepare a stakeholder consultation (organised by ICF) with non-governmental organisations on the 2022 European Semester cycle.

- The Bilan 2022 chapters on ‘The rule of law crisis and social policy: the EU response in the cases of Hungary and Poland’ has been referred to in the proposed programme of the 2023 ETUC congress, pointing to the need to define the rule-of-law crisis in broader terms, to take the social aspect into consideration.
- The ESPN report on Transparency of access to social protection (published in 2022) was used by Slavina Spasova and Paul Schoukens to produce a report providing expertise to the future Belgian Presidency on access to social protection. This report fed into two seminars organised by the future Belgian presidency and inspired an EU Mutual Learning event (see the 2023 OSE Activity Report).

6.3 THE OSE WEBSITE: STRUCTURE AND VISITORS

The OSE website is available in English and French, and is structured as follows.

- The welcome page highlights the latest news, events, publications, activities, and appearances in the media of the OSE.
- The ‘Team’ page provides information (incl. recent publications) on most team members.
- The ‘Events’ section displays upcoming events hosted by the OSE (and affiliates), giving details of the event’s content, date, location, and contact information, as well as various network activities. Information about past events is also available through this page.
- Many OSE publications can be accessed through the [‘Publications’](#) page, which provides a chronological list of published works by present and past OSE researchers, including the OSE Paper Series. Sorted by year, the prolific ‘Publications’ section displays the commitment shown by the OSE researchers to their subjects.
- On the [‘Projects’](#) page, interested readers can find current and past projects in which the OSE team were involved, with links to key documents and partners in OSE research.

As illustrated in Table 2, the total number of *unique visitors* – which are counted only once no matter how many times they visit the site – ranged between 131 and 1,863 per month in 2022 (Matomo Web Stat). In total, some 10,359 unique visitors accessed our website (on average 1,200/month).

The new website, using the Drupal *Open Source* content management system, was launched during 2022, to make it easier to include multimedia content and sharing functions and to manage the content, and in order to have an attractive layout on a range of devices (PC, tablet, smartphone). The OSE website is given a light update on a two-weekly basis and is fully updated at the time of every OSE Flash publication or new OSE event.

Table 3. Unique visitors, page views and downloads from the OSE website in 2022

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Page views</i>	<i>Downloads</i>
Jan 2022	1,294	2,627	287
Feb 2022	468	1,268	99
Mar 2022	262	806	83
Apr 2022	131	457	114
May 2022	538	1,020	18
Jun 2022	1,863	3,390	160
Jul 2022	833	2,379	90
Aug 2022	505	1,293	82
Sep 2022	1,132	2,579	134
Oct 2022	1171	2,760	91
Nov 2022	1,325	3,486	339
Dec 2022	837	2,126	197
Total	10,359	24,191	1,694

6.4 OSE PUBLICATIONS: DOWNLOADS

There have been 1,694 downloads from the OSE website in 2022. This relatively low number can be explained by the fact that the vast majority of the OSE publications are nowadays hosted on the websites of the clients for whom the research is produced, or on websites of academic publishers. Thus, all ESPN reports are hosted on the European Commission website, while the respective volumes of ‘Social policy in the EU’ (Bilan social) are hosted on the ETUI website (ETUI also provided free physical copies of the book to interested readers). In many cases, publications can also be downloaded directly from ResearchGate. In some cases, research output is published on the OSE website, as well as on the clients’ website (e.g. reports produced for INAMI/NIHDI). In other words: the figures provided in table 2 are certainly a significant underestimation of the actual number of downloads of OSE publications.

6.5 OSE NEWSLETTERS

The OSE newsletter (OSE Flash News) was launched in September 2009, and the ‘European Health Care News’ in 2006.

The healthcare newsletter is sent by the NIHDI/RIZIV/INAMI to the NIHDI’s General Council and Insurance Committee, which includes the key stakeholders of the Belgian national health insurance system. Additionally, it is published on the NIHDI and OSE website and disseminated by the OSE to its registered readership.

Both newsletters have kept their readership, with more than 1,200 effective subscribers to the Health Newsletter (published in three languages) and more than 1,700 receiving the ‘OSE Flash News’ (see Table 4). In full compliance with the GDPR rules, we work with an ‘opt-in registration system’ for both newsletters. This means that the newsletter and Flash News are only sent to persons who decide to subscribe after they received an invitation to do so by e-mail.

Table 4. OSE Newsletters: 2022 readership

	Number of subscribers (opt-in)
OSE Flash News	1,790
European Health Care News	1,271

7. FOOD FOR THOUGHT: OSE PUBLICATIONS IN 2022

Atanasova A., Fronteddu B., and Bouget D. (2022) The European Union in 2020: key events, in Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2021, ETUI and OSE, 171-188.

Atanasova A., Fronteddu B., et Bouget D. (2022) Atanasova A., Fronteddu B. et Bouget D. (2022) L'Union européenne en 2020: les faits marquants, in Vanhercke B. et Spasova S. (dir.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2021. Les ambitions sociales renaissantes par temps de redressement de l'Union, Bruxelles, ETUI et OSE.

Atanasova A. and Moja F. (2022) The European Union in 2021: key events, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, ETUI and OSE, pp. 157-174.

Atanasova A. et Moja F. (2022) L'Union européenne en 2021: les faits marquants, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (dir.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2022, Élaborer des politiques publiques en temps de crise permanente, ETUI et OSE, pp. 173-191.

Atanasova A. and Rasnača Z. (2022) The rule of law crisis and social policy: the EU response in the cases of Hungary and Poland, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.), Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, ETUI and OSE, pp. 111-135.

Atanasova A. and Rasnača Z. (2022) La crise de l'État de droit et la politique sociale : la réponse de l'UE dans les cas de la Hongrie et de la Pologne, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (dir.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2022, Élaborer des politiques publiques en temps de crise permanente, ETUI et OSE, pp. 123-150.

Baeten R. (2022) Financiële ongelijkheid in toegang tot gezondheidszorg, Geron, Volume 24, Issue 1.

Ghailani D., Peña-Casas R., Coster S. and Regazzoni P. (2022) Access to social protection for young people, An analysis of policies in 35 countries, European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Peña-Casas R., Ghailani D., Coster S. et Fronteddu B. (2022) Crise de la COVID-19 dans l'Union européenne : les dispositifs nationaux de soutien aux PME et leurs travailleurs et le rôle du dialogue social, OSE Paper Series, Briefing paper, No. 14, OSE.

Sabato, S. (2022), Transition-proofing welfare states – how should the EU go about it?, UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, 15 December 2022.

Sabato, S., Mandelli, M. and Jessoula, M. (2022), 'Towards an EU eco-social agenda? From Europe 2020 to the European Green Deal', in Schoyen, M., Hvinden, B. and Dotterud Leiren, M. (eds.) Towards Sustainable Welfare States in Europe, Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 199-219.

Sabato S. and Theodoropoulou S. (2022) The socio-ecological dimension of the EU's recovery: further traction for the European Green Deal?, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, ETUI and OSE, pp. 43-67.

Sabato S. and Theodoropoulou S. (2022) La dimension socio-écologique de la relance de l'UE: une nouvelle impulsion pour le Green Deal européen ?, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. et Spasova S. (eds.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2022, Élaborer des politiques publiques en temps de crise permanente, ETUI et OSE, pp. 47-74.

Sabato S. with Vanhercke B. and Guio A.C. (2022) A 'Social Imbalances Procedure' for the EU, Towards operationalisation, WP 2002.09, Brussels: ETUI, 59 p.

Spasova, S. and Marenco, M., (2022), The politics behind EU legislation on platform work: institutional synergies and a novel constellation of players, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.), Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, Brussels: ETUI and OSE, pp. 69-89.

Spasova, S., Atanasova A., Sabato S; and Moja, F., (2022), Making access to social protection for workers and the self-employed more transparent through information and simplification, European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Spasova, S and Marenco, M., (2022), Future-proof resilient welfare states in the European Union through social investments? Book review of Hemerijck, A. and Huguenot-Noël, R. Resilient Welfare States in the European Union. Agenda Publishing in The Progressive Post, FEPS N° 20

Spasova, S., Atanasova A, and Regazzoni, P. (2022), National monitoring frameworks for public social spending. Evidence from 35 European countries, European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Spasova, S. and Regazzoni, P. (2022), Income protection for self-employed and non-standard workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, International Social Security Review, Volume 75.2

Spasova, S., Ghailani, D., Sabato, S. and Vanhercke, B. (2022), Social protection for atypical workers during the pandemic. Measures, policy debates and trade union involvement in eight member states, Working Paper 2022.10, Brussels, ETUI.

Vanhercke B. and Pochet P. (2022) The Open Method of Coordination: a contested public policy instrument still going 'soft', in Graziano P. and Tosun J. (eds.) Elgar Encyclopedia of European Union Public Policy, Chapter 47, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 454-463.

Vanhercke B. and Sabato S. (2022) Institutional and societal players should raise their voice: the time for an ambitious Social Imbalances Procedure is now, OSE Paper Series, Opinion Paper No. 29, Brussels: European Social Observatory, 12 p.

Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.) (2022) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, ETUI and OSE.

Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.) (2022) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2022, Élaborer des politiques publiques en temps de crise permanente, ETUI et OSE.

Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (2022) Conclusions – Policymaking in a state of permacrisis: can the EU uphold its social ambitions?, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2022, Policymaking in a permacrisis, ETUI and OSE, pp. 137-155.

Vanhercke B., Sabato S. and Spasova S. (2022) Conclusions – L'élaboration des politiques dans un état de crise permanente : l'Union européenne est-elle en mesure de maintenir ses ambitions sociales?, in Vanhercke B., Sabato S. et Spasova S. (dir.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2022, Élaborer des politiques publiques en temps de crise permanente, ETUI et OSE, pp. 151-171.

Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (eds.) (2022) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2021, Re-emerging social ambitions as the EU recovers from the pandemic, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 194 p.

Vanhercke B. et Spasova S. (dir.) (2022) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2021, Les ambitions sociales renaissantes par temps de redressement de l'Union, 22^{ème} rapport annuel, Bruxelles, Institut syndical européen (ETUI) et Observatoire social européen, 218 p.

Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (2022) Dealing with the pandemic: re-emerging social ambitions as the EU recovers, Conclusions, in Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2021. Re-emerging social ambitions as the EU recovers from the pandemic, Brussels: ETUI and OSE, 145-170.

Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (2022) Faire face à la pandémie : les ambitions sociales renaissantes par temps de redressement de l'Union, Conclusions, in Vanhercke B. et Spasova S. (dir.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2021. Les ambitions sociales renaissantes par temps de redressement de l'Union, Bruxelles, Institut syndical européen (ETUI) et Observatoire social européen, 163-192.

Vanhercke, B., and Verdun, A. (2022) The European Semester as Goldilocks: Macroeconomic Policy Coordination and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies, 60: 204–223.

Vanhercke B. and Verdun A. (2022) The Recovery and Resilience Facility: Have social actors been sidelined?, Policy brief 08/2021, AK Europa.

Verdun A. and Vanhercke B. (2022) Are (some) social players entering European recovery through the Semester back door?, in Vanhercke B. and Spasova S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2021. Re-emerging social ambitions as the EU recovers from the pandemic, Brussels: ETUI and OSE, 103-124.

Verdun A. and Vanhercke B. (2022) Le Semestre permet-il à certains acteurs sociaux d'entrer subrepticement dans la relance européenne ? in Vanhercke B. et Spasova S. (eds.) Bilan social de l'Union européenne 2021. Les ambitions sociales renaissantes par temps de redressement de l'Union, Bruxelles, Institut syndical européen (ETUI) et Observatoire social européen (OSE), 115-142.