

## **Dead Letter or Living Rights? The Practice of EU Social Law in Central and Eastern Europe**

The first stage of the project is successfully accomplished. The project team gained valuable insights on the implementation of European Social Policy in the 'new' member states. The focus groups that took place in the participating countries and the strategy workshop in Vienna were lively events and provided opportunities for scientists and practitioners to exchange their thoughts and ideas on the topic. A central insight about the overall implementation performance of the 'new' member states in the field of social policy is that the legal adaptation ('transposition') by and large worked out adequately during the pre-accession phase. On the other hand, the application and enforcement of the new rights and entitlements remains deficient in many areas. For example, labour inspectorates often lack enough resources to guarantee a proper supervision of the application of labour law standards. Civil procedures last exceptionally long in some countries, which diminishes the willingness of the persons concerned to go to court. These shortcomings in application and enforcement seriously impact the overall effectiveness of European Social Policy within the new member states. The academic outcome of the project will be a book. It will be published by a leading international academic publisher.

In the prolongation phase, the transdisciplinary aspects of the project are recently explored in detail. Eight more events took place in the 'new' member states, where we reached out to a wider public. A workshop in Vienna with experts and practitioners from 'old' and 'new' member states as well as EU level actors shed light on the question: How can the application and enforcement of the European social policy be improved? The feedback on our results from practitioners from the four countries researched in the first project stage was of high importance for us. Furthermore, we established sustainable contacts among experts and practitioners from 'old' and 'new' member states and EU level actors.

An extensive collection of the relevant literature on topics like implementation, the enlargement process, the CEECs and European social policy is now also available:

[PDF](#)

**For further information and contact please visit the website of the [TRAFO-Project](#)**