

The summer school is co-funded by the Central European Initiative.



## Short report

Eleven participants from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine attended the Building Bridges Summer School on Social Welfare (BB Summer School) at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 14 July 2017. Researchers, practitioners and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) representatives from the EU, non-EU CEI Member States and countries of the Eastern Partnership gathered to foster channels of communication and working partnerships. The main outputs of the BB Summer School were:

- **The learning of best practices and the exchange of knowledge and experiences** among researchers, practitioners and CSO representatives from the EU, non-EU CEI Member States, and Eastern Partnership countries. Throughout one week, the BB Summer School participants received inputs in key thematic areas, such as societal challenges, labour market, health & social services, social protection, social innovation & social entrepreneurship, wellbeing, and ageing. They also received training on project development, namely EU-funded programmes, proposal writing, proposal development, and budgeting. Furthermore, they participated at the EESPN Public Forum with keynote speakers from the Central European University in Budapest and the European Policy Centre in Belgrade hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.
- **The development of collaborative work:** The participants were assigned into four working groups based on their areas of interest, namely 'Employment Policies in transition', 'Migration & Social Policies', 'Social enterprises & Start-ups for vulnerable groups' and 'Social & health services'. The groups developed project ideas during the BB Summer School and were interested to build multilateral relationships for future collaborations through the EESPN network.
- **The strengthening of the Eastern European Social Policy Network (EESPN):** The participants expressed interest in joining the EESPN network looking forward to collaborations among them and other members of the EESPN as well as the European Centre.
- **Positive forward-thinking feedback:** The participants expressed their appreciation of the learning environment of the summer school, the curricula, and the interaction with the lecturers. They showed their enthusiasm on attending and participating in the EESPN Public Forum. The acquired knowledge and skills during the Summer School were considered valuable for their future research and project development work in their home institutions. They also encouraged the continuation of the summer school and offered suggestions on future themes of interest within the domain of social policy.



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## Bridge Building Summer School on Social Welfare 10 – 14 July 2017

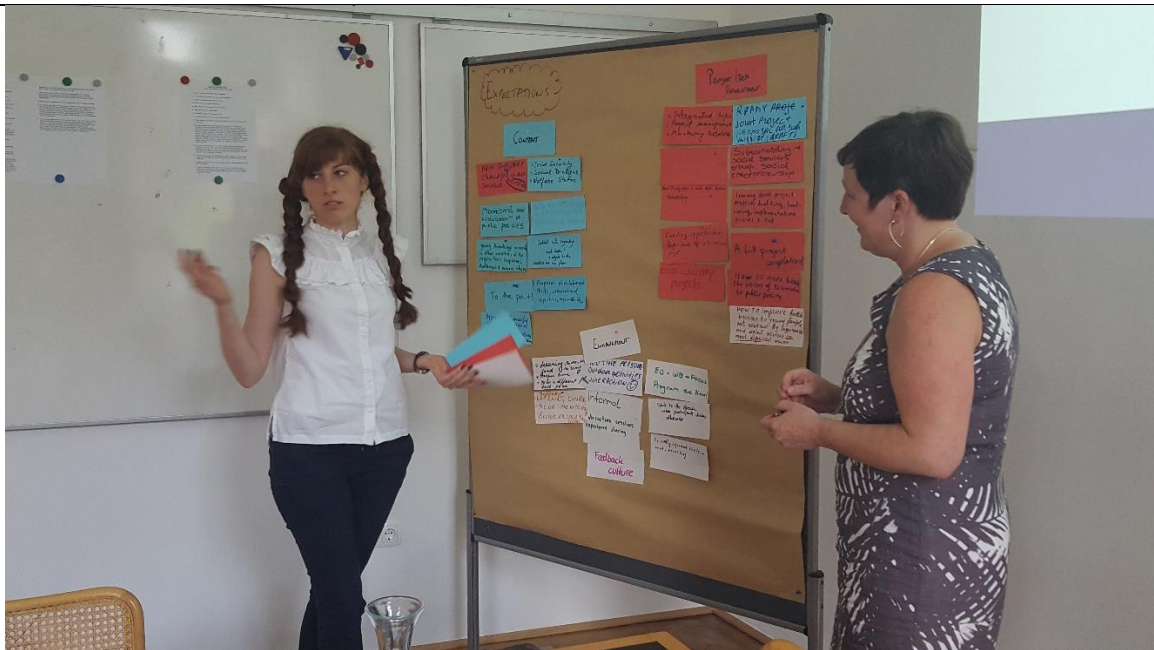


10 July 2017: Welcoming participants for the BB Summer School at the European Centre





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10 July 2017: Asking for expectations for the the BB Summer School



11 July 2017: Working in groups at the 'Marketplace' to enhance project ideas



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12 July 2017: Asking on 'How important is social protection?' during the input session of social protection



12 July 2017: Participation at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

