

# Overview of activities of the European Centre linked to the Agenda 2030

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For the Management Team



# Agenda 2030 & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

To achieve a **better** and **more sustainable** future for all.

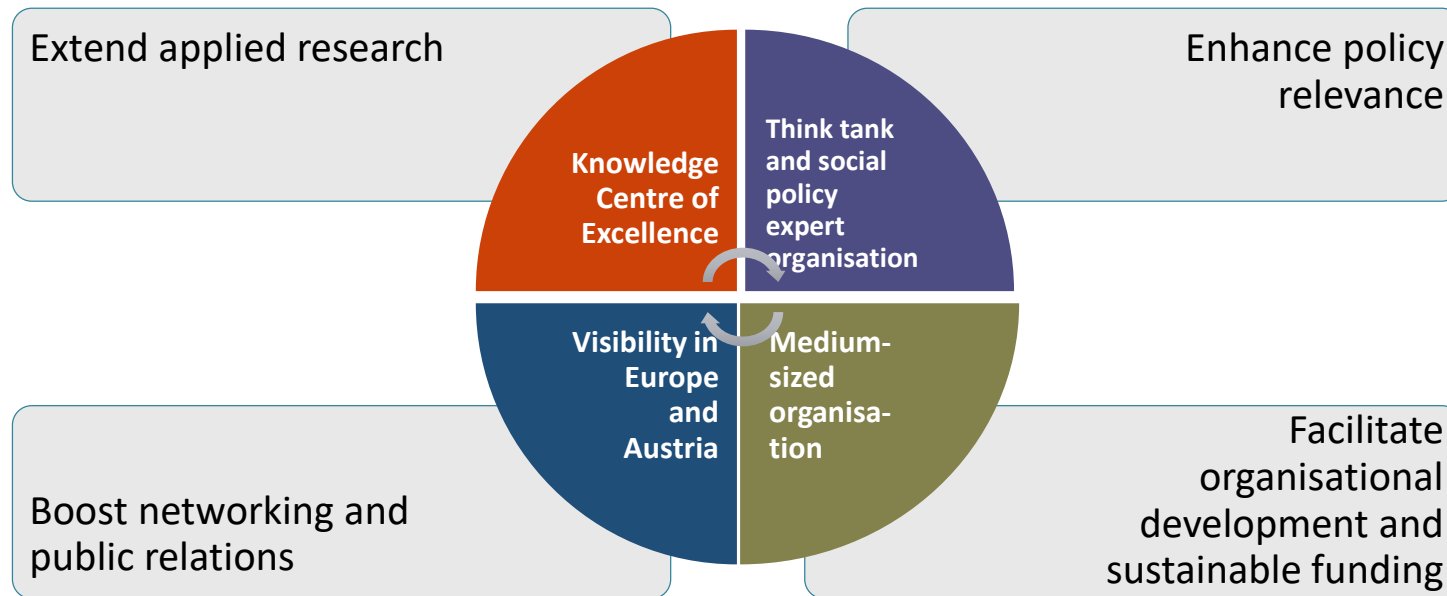
Agenda 2030 and its 17 SDGs is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. There are **three pillars** of 2030 global goals:

- ❖ The **economic** pillar
- ❖ The **social** pillar and
- ❖ The **environmental** pillar.

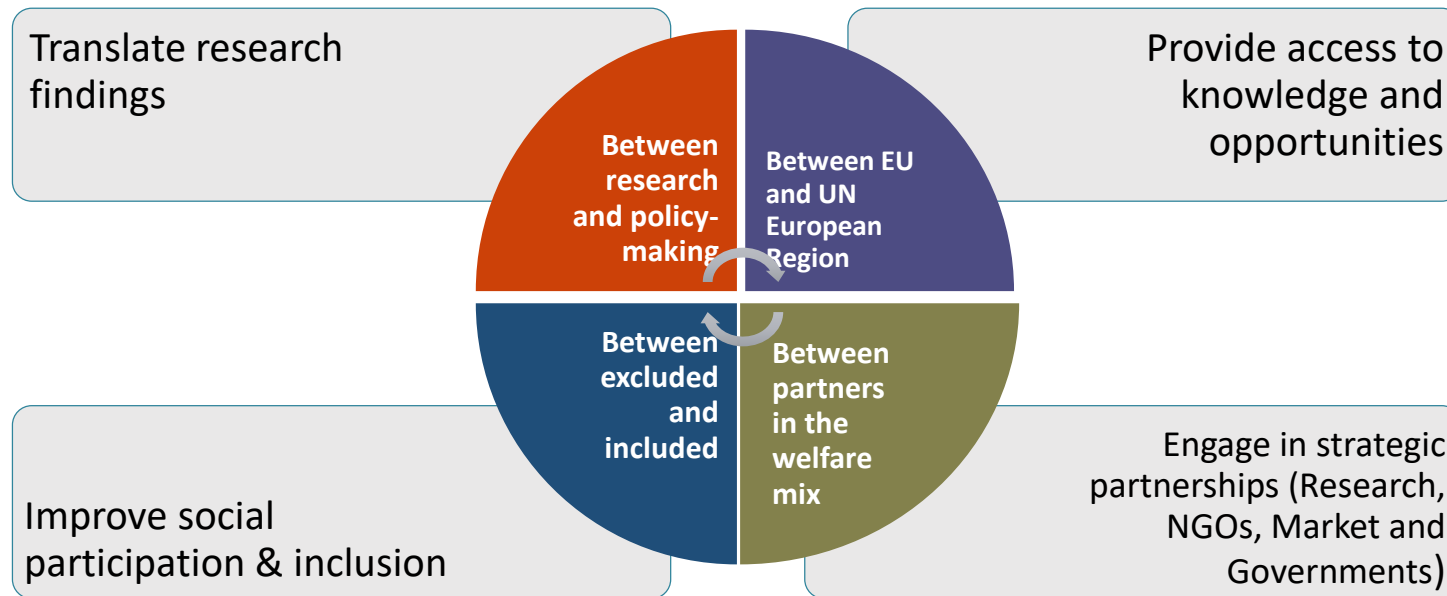
 The three SD pillars **cross-cut** and **intertwine**



# Our Vision



# Our Mission: Bridge-building



# 'Bridge Building' function & SDGs

For instance,

- ❖ 17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through *policy coordination and policy coherence*
- ❖ 17.14: *Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development*
- ❖ 17.15: *Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development*



**Multi-stakeholder partnerships**



**Leaving no one behind**



# 'Bridge Building' function - Aim

- ❖ To **improve European cohesion**, the European Centre provides governments, international institutions, research institutes and civil society organisations of the **Europe of 56** and of EU (potential) candidate countries and the countries of the Eastern partnership with relevant **know-how and advice** for establishing or improving structures in the **social welfare field**.
- ❖ We **bridge the knowledge and policy evidence** between these countries and other countries of the UN European region (e.g. EU Member States). Specifically, the bridging function is based on three main pillars:
  - ❖ *Comparative social policy and welfare research*
  - ❖ *Knowledge transfer and public forum function*
  - ❖ *Policy consultancy*



# ‘Bridge Building’ function

- ❖ Countries in focus: **Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine**
- ❖ Investment priority 2019+: **EaP-countries**
- ❖ Our **Partners:**
  - ❖ **Ministries in charge of social affairs, labour and/or social protection**
  - ❖ **Researchers and research institutions** in the field of social policy analysis
  - ❖ **Providers of services and facilities**, including professionals working in public and private enterprises, NGOs and associations or representing relevant stakeholder groups
  - ❖ **And others more**



# Our NLOs in the BB countries

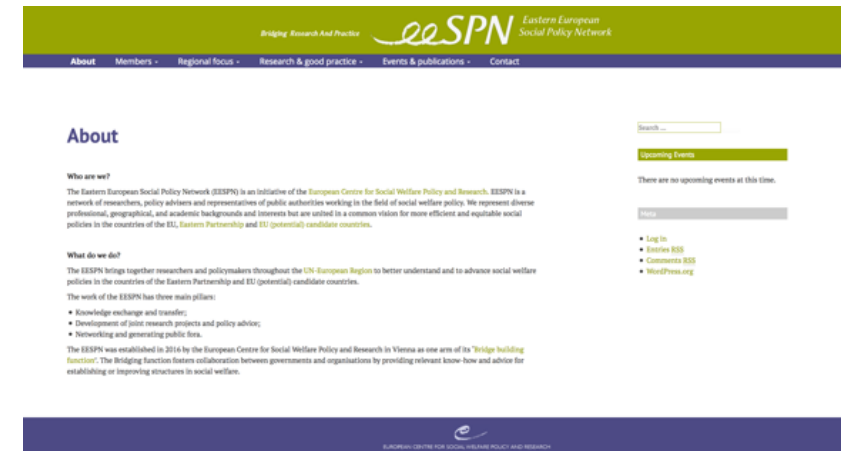
Country	NLO	MoU
<b>Albania</b>	Ms. Denada Seferi	Signed 1 August 2016 (3 years duration); in the process of renewing
<b>Armenia</b>	Ms. Anahit Martirosyan	Signed 21 September 2017 (3 years duration)
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Ms. Irada Usubova	Signed January 2017 (3 years duration)
<b>B&amp;H/Federation</b>	Ms. Lejla Mujkić	Signed 10 November 2017 (3 years duration)
<b>Georgia</b>	Not yet	Not yet
<b>Kosovo</b>	Mr. Mentor Tershnjaku Mr. Muhamet Klinaku	Signed 7 November 2016 (3 years duration)
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Ms. Aleksandra Slavkoska	Signed 26 September 2016 (3 years duration)
<b>Moldova</b>	Not yet	Not yet
<b>Montenegro</b>	Not yet	Not yet
<b>Serbia</b>	Ms. Danka Čančarević	Signed 2 June 2019 (5 years duration); renewed from 2016
<b>Ukraine</b>	Ms. Olena Tarasiuk	Signed 5 July 2016 (3 years duration); in the process of renewing





# BB Activities

- ❖ Missions to countries (ongoing with a peak in 2015-17)
- ❖ 8 Memoranda of Understanding/Letters of Intent signed; and 8 National Liaison Officials (NLOs) nominated
- ❖ 2016: Launch event 'Building Bridges in Social Welfare Policy in Eastern Europe'
- 2017: Bridge Building Summer School (10-14 July 2017)
- 2018: NLO-Workshop (19-20 April 2018)
- 2019: BB SDG event (14-15 October 2019)
- ❖ 'Eastern European Social Policy Network' established since 2017
- ❖ **13 projects** implemented/running together with/for NLOs; Development of project proposals (ongoing)



# Past and current projects in the BB region

- ✓ **EPPOW** (POOSH follow-up in the Western Balkans): 2018-2019
- ✓ **Integrated Case management** for Employment and Social Welfare Users in the **Western Balkans**: 2017-2018
- ✓ Support for **better social services** for the most vulnerable in **Kosovo**: 2017-2019
- ✓ BACID\* Fund – **North Macedonia: Innovating health and social care in rural areas**: 2016
- ✓ BACID\* Fund- **North Macedonia: Social enterprises in active labour market policies in Macedonia**: 2016 - 2017
- ✓ **Albania working life country profile** (AWLCP): 2018
- ✓ **SAVE – Serbia: Social Protection Assessment for Values and Effectiveness**: 2014 – 2016
- ✓ **Posting of third country nationals** - Mapping the trend in the construction sector (Con3Post); incl. **Ukraine**: 2019-2020
- ✓ Public attitudes to welfare, climate change and energy in the **EU and Russia** – PAWCER: 2016-2018
- ✓ **Bridge Building Summer School** on social welfare - Building capacities to overcome societal challenges: 2017
- ✓ Country reviews: Performance of **EU candidate countries** regarding **European Pillar of Social Rights**: 2018/2019

\*BACID = Building Administrative Capacities in the Danube Region



# Prospects: future activities in the BB region

In 2019/2020 we will continue working closer with the **EaP countries**:

- ✓ **Two workshops** in the EaP countries, namely one on **long-term care** and one on **social security systems**
- ✓ Our Bridge Building activities will focus on the following **key areas**:
  - 1) Long-term care;
  - 2) Labour market inclusion for vulnerable groups;
  - 3) Social protection systems; and
  - 4) Active and healthy ageing.

**Two** (internally funded) **BB projects** have been approved:

- ✓ **Armenia**: 'Social Protection of older population, de-institutionalization and alternative care support'
- ✓ **Armenia**: 'Social services provision in the context of the domestic violence phenomenon'



# Project example to “copy”: Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder Workshops in Austria

In 2019/2020 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection together with the European Centre organises **five multi-stakeholder workshops** on specific topics relevant for achieving the SDGs.



The project aims to raise awareness for the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and to bring stakeholders and policy makers together to facilitate information exchange, networking and the development of solutions.

- ✓ Workshop “**A Society for People of All Ages**”: 6 November 2019 in Vienna
- ✓ Workshop: SDGs in the field of **decent work for young people**: 17 June 2019 in Graz
  - ✓ Workshop: SDGs and **people with disabilities**: 27 March 2019 in Linz



# Key Questions of the International Workshop

- ❖ What are the **common** and **country-specific challenges** faced across UNECE countries in the area of social welfare?
- ❖ What **priorities** have been set in the area of social policies towards achieving the SDGs of the social pillar in the Eastern Partnership Countries?
- ❖ What **needs to be done** by national and international stakeholders to achieve the SDGs of the social pillar by 2030?
- ❖ What can the European Centre and Eastern Partnership Countries do **jointly** to address the challenges in the area of social welfare and achieve the SDGs of the social pillar?



# Aims of the International Workshop

- ❖ Establishing **group discussions** on the activities linked to the SDG Agenda 2030 in each of the five countries and beyond
- ❖ **Reflecting** the challenges and priorities presented in the keynote in **each of the 5 EaP countries** and beyond
- ❖ Enabling **learning** between countries (e.g. 'reflecting friends', i.e. experts from other UNECE countries will bring in their expertise)
- ❖ **Identifying common challenges** and reflecting potential actions to be taken in transforming social policy systems with the general aim of increasing their efficiency, sustainability and accessibility for all in need
- ❖ Identifying areas for a **need for support** in their transition
- ❖ **Matching needs** and possibilities of the European Centre and its partner organisation



Thank you!



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