



## Querdenkerplattform: Wien - Europa Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe

# NEWSLETTER April 2018

We are happy to present the next Newsletter of the Policy Crossover Center!

In it, we announce the forthcoming events until summer, report progress referring to our current Research Topic on the **"Role of Education in Increasing Welfare in Europe and its Neighbouring Countries"** and present the latest articles, comments, outputs and activities.

Have fun reading! In the name of the whole team:

*Karl Aiginger, Heinz Handler, Anna Kanduth, Vanessa Koch and Alina Pohl*

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## 1. Upcoming Events 2018

### Economic Dynamics and Civil Society in Wider Europe

The Competence Center for Emerging Markets & CEE, the Competence Center for NPO and Social Entrepreneurship in cooperation with the Policy Crossover Center: Vienna-Europe



**19 April 2018 / 17.30-19.00 / WU Vienna, LC Gallery**  
(1020, Welthandelsplatz 1)

- Prof. Dr. **Karl Aiginger**, Policy Crossover Center Vienna-Europe, Professor WU Vienna
- Dr. **Peter Vador**, Senior Researcher, Competence Center for NPO and SE at WU
- **Bistra Kumbaroska**, Social Impact Award International
- **Zoltán Árokszállási**, Chief Macroeconomic Analyst CEE, Erste Bank
- Moderated by **Teresa-Antonia Spari**, Wirtschaftsressort Kronenzeitung



If you plan to attend, please register via email at [emcee@wu.ac.at](mailto:emcee@wu.ac.at). [Download invitation](#)

## European Neighbourhood: Big Risks, even Bigger Opportunities

Award ceremony for **best academic papers** on "**European Partnership Policy**" and discussion with the intention of raising awareness of the topic during **Austria's EU presidency**



**9 May 2018 (Europe Day) / 18.00 / Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Festsaal**

(1040, Favoritenstraße 15a)

In a call for papers on the European Neighbourhood Policy, the PCC has invited students to submit bachelor or master theses for an award. Contextual topics to be covered encompass good governance, education, endogenous technologies, cultural diversity, circular migration, or examples of pilot projects. An assessment committee will select the best papers in April. The laudation will be given by Professor **Adams Bodomo** (Professor of African Studies at the University of Vienna). The award ceremony will be framed by a panel discussion on the risks and opportunities in the European Neighbourhood, with experts on the European Policy, North Africa, the MENA region and high-level experts involved in the planning of the Austrian EU presidency.



The Award as well as the research topics of the PCC are supported by the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria (ZukunftsFonds der Republik Österreich).

## 2. Research Topic 2018

### Role of Education in Increasing Welfare in Europe and its Neighbouring Countries

Following the suggestions of the previous topics, our current Research Topic elaborates the role of education for increasing welfare in Europe and its neighbouring countries. The topic will, on the one hand, cover the consequences of education and innovation for a new Partnership Policy and, on the other hand, view it as an essential element for increasing well-being, connecting Europe with its citizens and taking the lead in globalization and the digital world.

#### Final Presentation and discussion

#### Role of Education in Increasing Welfare in Europe and its Neighbouring Countries



**11 June 2018 / 18.30 / House of the European Union Vienna**

(1010, Wipplingerstraße 35)

The schedule of the presentation and the following discussion will be announced a month ahead of the event. Commissioner **Johannes Hahn** confirmed his participation.

For registration please email [info@querdenkereuropa.at](mailto:info@querdenkereuropa.at)



The Project is supported by the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria (ZukunftsFonds der Republik Österreich).

## Previous Event

### Expert Brainstorming on the "Role of Education in Increasing Welfare in Europe and its Neighbouring Countries"

In preparation for our current Research Topic, the PCC hosted a round table for brainstorming with experts, to find the main aspects, discussing points and insides for our new topic, on 14 February 2018 at Café Museum (Vienna). The participants in the meeting were scientists and education experts from universities and scientific institutions, policy experts and economists with international experience, teachers, representatives of youth organizations and students working on the topic. Experiences and ideas as well as outlines and directions of the role of education for Europe and its neighbouring countries were discussed. The findings will be substantially integrated into the development of the topic.

## New Flash Papers

We proudly present two Flash Papers, already published on the current Research Topic Education and European Partnership Policy:

**PCC-Flash 1/2018: Katharina Hammler, "It's the Implementation, stupid!"** is a short version of her PhD thesis "Evidence on Improving Learning Outcomes from the Colombian Escuela Nueva School Model" in International Development from Tulane University (USA). Escuela Nueva (New School), a school model designed to improve the learning outcomes of disadvantaged children, has officially been widely used in Colombia for years. This study finds that the model indeed improves learning outcomes, but that its effectiveness depends strongly on proper program implementation, which is found to be lacking.



**PCC-Flash 2/2018: Laura Wurm & Judith Kohlenberger, "Migration and Education – Building on common Grounds"** This paper aims to shed light on the multifaceted and interrelated processes of education and migration, assessing how investment in and improvement of education can contribute towards more effective migration management and mobility, a partial prevention of emigration in countries of origin, selection and support of migrants in countries of transit and destination and a better integration.

More to come soon – stay tuned!

### About our Flash Paper Series

Our Flash Paper Series has been designed to give individual authors of the Research Topics the opportunity to highlight their opinions, views and ideas as well as to complement the final output of our Research Topic (Policy Brief, Working Paper).

## 3. Outputs & Activities

### Regular Reading Recommendations

This **Read of the Quarter** concentrates on education as the key for the development and stability of the European Neighbourhood, and adds two papers on the western Balkans which is a top priority of Bulgaria's EU presidency. The articles are on the following topics:

- Colonial powers did little to promote basic education, sending them into interdependency, with illiteracy rates above 90%.
- A report on cooperation for development, peace and stability between Europe, Japan and Africa partly in response to China's new strategy.
- A proposal to concentrate active labour market policy in programs for young people in vulnerable households.
- The Global Partnership for Education Conference, stressing that teacher training is still insufficient, school enrolment of girls is still very low in many countries, and in Sub-Saharan Africa the access to and quality of schools is specifically insufficient.

We round off this all-important topic by recommending the latest **World Development Report** on education in which access and quality of education is the central topic (including the lack of teachers). Furthermore, the PhD dissertation by Katharina Hammler, which investigates the Columbian School model of Escuela Nueva, reporting that new principles of education are important (also see the **PCC Flash Paper 1/2018: Hammler, K. (2018)**).

Other excellent papers cluster around European enlargement and partnership policy with neighbours; the relation to the reengagement of Europe with the Western Balkans, since this will be one of the most important topics in the first half of 2018, given the planned EU-Western Balkan Summit in Sofia on 17-18 May 2018.

### About our Reading Recommendations

We periodically provide our **Regular Reading Recommendations** (articles, papers, analysis) for members on policy-oriented analyses of European problems, the future of the European integration process and the role of Europe in the globalizing world. Please note that these Reading Recommendations with access to full title and text are only provided to PCC-members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please refer to the information at the end of this newsletter.

Twice a year, for Christmas holidays and summer vacations, we provide our **Reads of the Year**, a list of best books published on European topics. The next Reading List will be published before Summer 2018 – all Reads of the Year can be **downloaded on our homepage**.

## Press & Media

**Karl Aiginger** published an op-ed on [„Osteuropa hat ein Problem, Populismus verhindert Lösung / Eastern european countries have a problem, populism is preventing its solution“](#) in Die Presse (2 March 2018). Refugee distribution could counteract population decline. Eastern European countries have closed their borders. Hungary and Poland are rejecting quotas proposed by the European Commission. Since all refugees want to go to the centers, even the smaller streams generate political resistance. Elections currently win on the national level, the party which promises resistance. The European Commission reluctantly accepts resistance. The better solution would be to delegate the answer to regions. In Poland as well as Hungary there exist regions and districts in which the labor force has shrunk up to 40 %, schools and shops are closed and young people are leaving. Districts which want to oppose further decline could take up migrants and get money for investment and the creation of new firms.

Brexit-induced financial problems and the refugee crisis could be welfare-enhancing. In the first case, by reducing the enormous high share of subsidies for agricultural products (specifically those not related to environmental standards), and by cutting the subsidies for fossil energy, which are still higher than those for renewable energy. Only after implementing solutions to those problems can Europe start to reform governance and boost innovation, writes Karl Aiginger. These weeks, EU policy looks hopeless. In discussing the financial consequences of Brexit, such as €14 bn lower net contributions, member countries quickly split into a group favouring higher taxes (on top of the highest rates in any region) and another calling for the reduction of expenditures even for regions with a need for catching up), writes **Karl Aiginger** in ["Two conflicts with the potential to increase European welfare"](#) in Euractiv (1 March 2018).

Europe needs money for EU external protection; some against IS terrorists, more against refugees. Populist parties always call for higher military expenditures, even if these are already as high in Europe as in China and Russia together. Additionally they often propose to force refugees to live in new refugee camps on the outskirts, instead of decentralized homes, which as well provides recruiting camps for radicalization and prevents integration. The better solution is to create jobs in the country the migrants come from, and to integrate those coming by job and education. Europe needs, as an ageing society, inward migration and Europe can prosper by a high growing and politically stable neighbourhood. **Karl Aiginger** in [„Der billigste Zaun ist eine aktive Politik / The cheapest fences are an active partnership policy“](#), Wiener Zeitung (24 January 2018).

Every company needs something it can do better than others. Politics too, if it does not want to leave populism to the field. What can make Europe unique in globalization? For decades, we have been trying in vain to drive away technology leadership in the USA. And it will not succeed with the low European research rate and the lack of top universities. China is now overtaking Europe in its research efforts, building the new transport networks in the growth regions, developing cars without gasoline and diesel, writes **Karl Aiginger** in [„Bildung ist Europas einzige Chance / Education is Europe's only Chance“](#), Wiener Zeitung (2 January 2018).

## Previous Events with discussion inputs of PCC

### The Chief Executive Commentator of the Financial Times, Martin Wolf, at WU Vienna

On 19 December 2017, **Martin Wolf** (Chief Executive Commentator, The Financial Times) gave a presentation at Vienna University of Economics and Business on **"The Crisis of Democratic Capitalism"**. The central role of populism in the political arena of Western society raises some questions regarding the interaction of the economic and political system, as well as the sustainability of the prevailing liberal democratic structures. Wolf also gave a hint on his new book that is in the making.



Presentation of the **World Development Report 2018** on 2 March 2018 at the Federal Ministry of Finance, with **Deon Filmer** (World Bank), **Margarita Langthaler** (ÖFSE), Robert Stehrer (wiiw), **Thomas Vogel** (Horizont3000), moderated by **Kurt Bayer** (Economist): The World Development Report (WDR) has been published annually since 1978 by the World Bank. Each year it provides in-depth analysis and policy recommendations on a specific and important aspect of development. This year's WDR is the first ever devoted entirely to education. And the timing is excellent: education has long been critical to human welfare, but it is even more so in a time of rapid economic and social change. The best way to equip children and youth for the future is to place their learning at the center. The WDR 2018 explores four main themes: 1) education's promise; 2) the need to shine a light on learning; 3) how to make schools work for learners; and 4) how to make systems work for learning.

Book Presentation **"Mitteleuropa revisited"** by **Emil Brix** and Erhard Busek on 7 March 2018 in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, with the publisher **Martin Scheriau**, moderated by **Corinna Milborn**: Today, there are two major views on Central Europe. For some, it is the biggest European success story of the last decades, because a peaceful complete transformation to democracy and market economy and the

integration into the Western European economic and security structures have succeeded. For the others, Central Europe has become a fragmented and partially marginalized region from which there are no proposals for Europe's future, which is unsolid in the migration crisis and where political stability can only be achieved at the cost of strong national populist policies.

ÖFSE Development Lecture No. 13 "**Braucht Afrika einen Marshall-Plan, und wenn ja, welchen?**" on March 8th, 2018 at the Centre for International Development, with **Robert Kappel** (University Leipzig), **Elisabeth Gruber** (BMF), **Karin Küblböck** (ÖFSE) and **Werner Raza** (ÖFSE): In Austria, in the context of the African refugee and migration debate, there has recently been a demand for a "Marshall Plan" in order to rapidly and fundamentally improve the economic situation in African countries, so that young Africans can also benefit from good economic prospects in their home countries. Against the background of the ongoing discussion in Germany for a good year and the proposals made by the German government ("Compact for Africa" of the Federal Ministry of Finance, "Marshall Plan" – proposal of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation) and the implementation proposals in the new German CDU / CSU-SPD government program, reality content, conditions and possible meaningful measures to strengthen economic development in Africa should be discussed.

## 4. New Board Members

We are happy to announce that

**Adams Bodomo**, Professor of African Studies at the University of Vienna, joined our PCC team as member of the Scientific Board, and that

**Heinz Zourek**, until 2016 director general of DG TAXUD of the European Commission and member of the Ad hoc Ethical Committee of the European Commission, joined our PCC team as member of the Policy Board.

## 5. PCC Membership

The increasing number of members and cooperation partners, hundreds of visitors at our panel discussions and overwhelming feedback on our activities show us that our work addresses the pulse of time: A need to discuss the future of Europe, stimulate reforms, develop a new narrative for Europe and reconnect Europe with its citizens!

If you are interested in contributing to our work and would like to actively participate in designing Europe's future, we look forward to welcoming you on board as a new "lateral thinker"!

For further information on membership, visit [www.querdenkereuropa.at/membership](http://www.querdenkereuropa.at/membership)  
Contact: [vanessa.koch@querdenkereuropa.at](mailto:vanessa.koch@querdenkereuropa.at)

## 6. Cooperations & Partners

Cooperations with other organizations and platforms exist and are highly welcome. A special concern of the Policy Crossover Center is the involvement of youth. The younger generation will decide Europe's future in the long run and hence decide upon nationalist versus open solutions.

If you are interested in cooperating with us, please contact us.  
For further information, visit: [www.querdenkereuropa.at/cooperations-partners](http://www.querdenkereuropa.at/cooperations-partners)  
Contact: [alina.pohl@querdenkereuropa.at](mailto:alina.pohl@querdenkereuropa.at)



We are happy to further increase the number of persons interested in the future of Europe and in working with us by engaging in our PCC via membership. Thank you for forwarding this newsletter!

[www.querdenkereuropa.at](http://www.querdenkereuropa.at)

If you are not interested in receiving the Newsletter or other information from the Policy Crossover Center: Vienna-Europe, please send an email to [info@querdenkereuropa.at](mailto:info@querdenkereuropa.at).