

Newsletter

No. 6 – January 2017

EDITORIAL

The main theme of CUPESSE – youth unemployment in Europe – has emerged again on the political agendas all over Europe. During the electoral campaign for his election as President of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen stressed that fighting youth unemployment must become a top priority. In Germany, Martin Schulz, who left his position as the President of the European Parliament to run for German Chancellor, has also announced that he will take measures to overcome youth unemployment. To illustrate the electoral consequences of not addressing youth unemployment, one can look at Italy, where former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi failed to mobilize the youth in late 2016 as policy delivery has fallen short of its promises. These examples show how important the topic is that motivates the joint research efforts by the CUPESSE consortium, which in the past six months has invested significant resources to process and analyse survey data collected throughout 2016. In January 2017, the database was completed by including the data gathered by our Greek partner diaNEOsis. In parallel, in-depth interviews with ten families in each country have been carried out, offering us a rich basis for the preparation of the corresponding edited volume. All partners and members of the advisory boards are now excited to further the project publications and to present our findings to policy-makers and stakeholders in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Jale Tosun – CUPESSE Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHT

New book project underway

The CUPESSE consortium is currently working on a new book project based on the qualitative interviews with three generation families. Already under contract with Palgrave Macmillan, the volume, titled *Intergenerational Transmission and Economic Self-Sufficiency: Family Matters?*, will be edited by Daniela Pauknerová (VSE), Bernhard Kittel (UVIE), and Jale Tosun (UHEI). The publication will address the following research questions: How do young Europeans perceive economic self-sufficiency? Which steps are they willing to take to attain economic self-sufficiency? What are the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of values and attitudes that affect economic self-sufficiency?

The book will draw on the unique data generated through in-depth interviews in the 11 CUPESSE countries and shed light on the question of how work values are passed through the generations and how these processes impact young Europeans' economic outcomes. The country chapters highlight how varying welfare state arrangements and the different roles assigned to families shape the paths young people take towards economic self-sufficiency. Before turning to the individual country chapters, the book first outlines the challenges young Europeans face in transitioning from school to work and elaborate on the crucial role of the family in these transition processes. The patterns of intergenerational transmission in the 11 countries are then discussed and links are made to the findings from the quantitative study based on a large-scale survey of young adults and their parents. The authors draw on multidisciplinary findings from the social sciences to establish a theoretical framework regarding the impact of intergenerational transmission processes in different societies. The 11 country chapters provide concise accounts of the in-depth family interviews as well as discussions of their findings in light of the theoretical model and with respect to national socio-historical specificities. These chapters strive to provide in-depth insights with regard to the country-specific situations while, at the same time, comparatively connecting the findings to patterns in other countries.

EVENTS

6th Progress Meeting of CUPESSE in Catania

Entering the final year of the project, the CUPESSE consortium met for its 6th Progress meeting on 26-27 January, 2017. The meeting was kindly hosted by the CUPESSE partner University of Catania.

This was the first meeting after the consortium managed to secure a contract to publish the results of the in-depth family interviews as an edited volume at end of last year. The agenda on the first day was thus dedicated to presenting the first findings from the data analysis and to agree on the outline of the theoretical framework and the country chapters. The book will present the results of interviews involving family members of three generations across ten countries. The presentation of the country results showed that despite country-specific factors it is possible to identify common patterns in the transmission of resources, values, and attitudes from one generation to the next that influence the self-sufficiency of young people.

The agenda on the second meeting day focused on the quantitative data of the CUPESSE survey on youth unemployment. In this survey, young adults in ten countries were interviewed by the CUPESSE partners. The analysis of this data is still on-going. An analysis focusing on factors predicting youth self-employment reflects, however, significant country differences, while age, gender, parental self-employment, and risk acceptance seem to have universal importance as drivers of youth involvement in self-employment.

With the aim to publish these results in the form of a joint publication as well, the partners lastly discussed the structure and content of the planned publication. The next progress meeting of CUPESSE will take place in Granada on 22-23 June 2017.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IMES 2017

The 5th International Conference on Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability is organised by the Department of Entrepreneurship of the CUPESSE partner University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic. It will take place on May 25 - 26, 2017 at the University of Economics in Prague.

The aims of the conference are to achieve academic excellence in a regional context and to establish a platform for mutual collaboration, exchange, and dissemination of ideas among researchers, professionals, and authorities.

For more information visit: <http://imes.vse.cz/>.

CES 2017

Two CUPESSE Panels at the Council for European Studies

The CUPESSE consortium successfully submitted two panels to the Council of European Studies 24th International Conference of Europeanists to be held in Glasgow, UK, July 12-14, 2017. The first panel, chaired by Monika Mühlböck (UVIE), is titled “Young people and the European labour market: The role of intergenerational transmission” and includes five research papers authored by 12 CUPESSE researchers on the causes and consequences of intergenerational transmission as they relate to topics such as work values, social mobility, gender, and welfare state attitudes. The second panel, chaired by Jennifer Shore (UHEI), features papers covering the topic “Youth Unemployment in Europe: Beyond the Official Statistics”. The five papers by 11 CUPESSE researchers seek to broaden the perspective on youth unemployment by offering insights into the unique situations and stumbling blocks young people face along their paths to adulthood as well examine the ways in which young people themselves perceive of and think about work and employment in Europe. Find more information [online](#).

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY CUPESSE MEMBERS

Fourth Policy Brief released

In October 2016, the fourth policy brief of the CUPESSE project was published. The policy brief series aims to summarise results of the CUPESSE project and to develop policy recommendations for stakeholders and policy makers alike.

The fourth policy brief addresses the transmission of self-employment between generations in Europe. Based on European Social Survey data, it suggests that increasing the social and monetary incentives for self-employment as well as promoting gender equality can significantly push levels of intergenerational transmission. These opportunities for policy interventions are especially applicable to southern European countries, which have relied heavily on self-employment in the past, but are struggling under current conditions.

The full policy brief can be found on the CUPESSE [website](#).

CUPESSE Working Paper No. 5

Julia Weiß, Bettina Schuck

“Working Paper N° 5 – First Findings from Employer Interviews, Country Report: Germany”

Abstract: Task 4.1 of the CUPESSE project is to understand the importance of hard skills and soft skills for employer recruitment decisions – especially when hiring young employees aged 18-35. To this aim, qualitative interviews (i.e., expert interviews with those responsible for hiring new personnel in small, medium-sized, and large firms) were carried out to better understand which and to what extent hard and soft skills matter for employer recruitment strategies and decisions. As the lead partner of this task, we developed an interview guideline (see section 8) and carried out nine interviews in Germany. The interviews were carried out by master students from the University of Heidelberg taking a course in “Corporate Social Responsibility” taught by Prof. Jale Tosun. This working paper presents the central results of this case study.

The full Working Paper can be found on the CUPESSE [website](#).

Further publications

Carolyn Rapp, Jennifer Shore and Jale Tosun

Not so risky business? How social policies shape the perceived feasibility of self-employment

Journal of European Social Policy (accepted for publication Dec. 2016)

Abstract: This paper addresses ongoing debates about whether the welfare state hinders or fosters self-employment. Starting a business can be an inherently risky undertaking and is thus not a feasible option for all people. Policies that have the potential to shoulder some of this risk can be particularly important for the decision of whether to enter into self-employment. Taking individual differences in terms of risk-tolerance into account, we focus on unemployment protection for the self-employed – a type of risk which is particularly difficult to privately insure oneself against – in order to investigate the ways in which policy can shape people's perceptions of self-employment. We combine individual-level data from a 2009 Flash Eurobarometer survey with country-level data on unemployment policies in Europe in a multilevel design, finding that the presence of unemployment protection for the self-employed positively influences individual perceptions of the feasibility of self-employment. Risk-tolerant individuals, moreover, are found to be even more likely to assess self-employment as a feasible option in countries that offer unemployment protection to the self-employed.

Jale Tosun

Promoting youth employment through multi-organizational governance

Public Money & Management, 2017, 37 (1), 39-46, DOI: 10.1080/09540962.2016.1249230

Abstract: Public employment services are the central bodies implementing the Youth Guarantee in most EU member states, but they often act in partnership with other (public) organisations. In which member states are they the lead organisation in the multi-organisational networks responsible for implementing the Youth Guarantee? Under which conditions are governance arrangements led by public employment services likely to produce the intended policy outcomes? These two research questions guide this study.

Mihaela Vancea, Mireia Utzet

How do unemployment and precarious employment affect the health of young people? A scoping study on social determinants

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 2017 Feb, 45 (1), 73-84, DOI: 10.1177/1403494816679555

Abstract: The impact of unemployment and precarious employment on the health of young people is not well understood. However, according to social causation, higher socio-economic positions, and, thus, better working conditions, are beneficial to health in general. We tried to synthesise the results of studies that test this hypothesis in the case of young people by conducting a scoping study mapping all the academic articles published in the period 2006–2016 in Europe. The literature was searched in PubMed/Medline, Science Direct, Web of Science and Scopus. In our results we identified 1770 studies, of which only 46 met the inclusion criteria. There are more studies that focus on the relationship between unemployment and health than between precarious employment and health (28 and 16, respectively). The vast majority of the studies (44) found support for the social causation hypothesis, the most common health outcomes being mental health disorders, health risk behaviour, poor quality of life, and occupational injuries. The causal mechanisms behind this association relied mainly on the life-course perspective, the breadwinner model, and the lack of social and economic benefits provided by standard employment. Hence, there is evidence that young people are especially vulnerable to health problems when they are unemployed or working in precarious conditions. Active labour market and training programmes, inclusive social security measures, improved working conditions, and targeted health programmes are important for addressing this vulnerability. Further research should strive to enhance the causal model by including a gender perspective, longitudinal data, more indicators on precariousness, and third factor explanations.

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

Advisory Board Members



Prof. Dr. Kai Schulze is an assistant professor in political science leading the "Models of Housing and Energy Policy" Research Group at the Institute of Political Science at Technische Universität Darmstadt. The group

focuses on environmental, climate, and energy policy and politics at national, European, and global levels. The group was established in cooperation with the institute for housing and environment (IWU) - a non-profit research institute of the shareholders State of Hesse and the city of Darmstadt. Before becoming an Assistant Professor, Kai was a postdoc at the University of Potsdam. He holds a PhD and Master's degree in Politics and Public Administration from the University of Konstanz.

Kai has been involved with the CUPESSSE project right from the start by having assisted the grant application. His research interests comprise environmental, energy, social, and labour policies at national, regional, and global levels. For this purpose, he focusses on theories of policy analysis, comparative politics, political economy, and Europeanisation. His publications have appeared in various journals and edited volumes. As a member of the CUPESSSE academic advisory board, Kai participated in several meetings. He is particularly interested in social and labour market policies aiming at fostering high levels of self-employment and social welfare.

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PROJECT PARTNER

University of Bern, Switzerland

The CUPESSSE team at the University of Bern consists of **Prof. Markus Freitag, Dr. Carolin Rapp, and Dr. Kerstin Nebel**. They all work at the Institute of Political Science.

Markus is a Professor in Political Sociology and the Director of the Institute of Political Science. In addition to the political and social effects of direct democracy, his research activities focus on aspects of social



relationships and tolerance. Markus is further active in the research field of political and social participation in Switzerland as well as in the international context. He has published extensively in journals such as British Journal of Political Science, Public Opinion Quarterly, Comparative Politics, Comparative

Political Studies, Electoral Studies, European Journal of Political Research, European Political Science Review, European Union Politics, European Sociological Review, Governance, Political Studies, and West European Politics. A central theme in his research is the focus on the concept of social capital. He is also the principal investigator of the largest Swiss survey on volunteering "Freiwilligen-Monitor Schweiz".



Carolin is a postdoctoral researcher in Political Sociology. Her research stands at the intersection of Political Sociology, Political Psychology, Comparative Politics, and questions of Social Policy. Amongst other journals, Carolin's research has appeared in the European Political Science

Review, Social Science Research, Journal of European Social Policy, and Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. Within CUPESSSE, she is particularly interested in issues of value transmission and the influence of personality factors on behaviour.



Kerstin is a study coordinator and advisor at the Institute of Political Science. Her expertise lies in the areas of morality politics and qualitative empirical methods. She has published several articles in the Journal of European Public Policy and West European Politics, as well

as other journals. Her main responsibility is the implementation of the 10 three-generational in-depth interviews.

The Bern team was primarily responsible for work package 2 – the design of the survey questionnaire. After the successful implementation of the survey, the University of Bern team mainly concentrates on the dissemination of the survey findings by working on high-quality international publication as well as presenting the project at international conferences, such as the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

Another step in this direction was taken by the collaborative publication by Carolin Rapp, Jennifer Shore, and Jale Tosun on “Not so Risky Business? How Social Policies Shape the Perceived Feasibility of Self-Employment”, which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of European Social Policy in December 2016. The team is looking forward to another year of interesting collaborations, meetings, and publication projects with all project partners and consortium members.

Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Spain

The UPF's team is composed of three members, all of them working within the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain).



Dr. Mihaela Vancea is an Associate Professor at the Universidad de la Frontera (Temuco, Chile) and a Research Fellow at the Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, Spain). She graduated in Mathematics and Sociology at the Babes-Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and obtained a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the Pompeu Fabra University. She participated in various research projects at both national and international levels on issues such as federalism and cultural pluralism, international migration and network society, population aging and ICTs, graduates' employability, and community energy transition. She has also taught several courses and seminars in the field of political and social sciences, such as Political Theory, Political Science, Comparative Politics, and Qualitative Research Methods. She published various articles in international peer-reviewed journals such as Journal for Cleaner Production, Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, Critical Social Policy, Ageing and Disease, Basic Income Studies, Gender, Technology and Development, Revista Internacional de Sociología, etc.



Dr. Mireia Utzet is a postdoctoral Research Fellow. She completed her PhD in Public Health at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2014 with a thesis on occupational health among workers in Spain before and after

the onset of the economic crisis. Her main research interests are the relationship between employment, working conditions and health, quantitative methodology, and applied social science statistics. She collaborated in various national and international projects in the research area of public health and health inequalities. She published various articles in recognised peer-reviewed journals, such as the Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, Journal of Public Health, American Journal of industrial medicine, International Journal of women's health, etc. She joined the CUPESSE project/team in March 2015 due to her expertise in public health and quantitative data analyses.



Dr. Jacint Jordana is a full professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. He has a PhD in Economics (Universitat de Barcelona, 1992) and has been a visiting fellow at the Copenhagen Business School, Australian National University, Wissenschafts Zentrum Berlin, University of California (San Diego), and Konstanz University. Currently, he is the director of the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), an inter-university research institute devoted to international studies. His main research area is public policies analysis, with a special emphasis on regulatory policy and regulatory governance. Some of his recent publications include articles in recognised peer-reviewed journals as well as (co)-edited books on the diffusion of regulatory institutions, the comparative development of domestic public policies, and policy making in policy networks. Other topics of interest are collective action, policy diffusion, and social capital, on which he has published extensively.

The main research tasks of the UPF team have been the CUPESSE survey implementation in Spain, quantitative data analyses, and the dissemination of the key empirical findings. Additionally, the UPF team has been participating in the assessment of relevant labour market and education policies and the development of new policy recommendations. The UPF team has paid particular attention to the relationship between unemployment/precarious employment and the health status of young people, as well as to the NEET group. In line with these interests, the team has already published two articles, one in Critical Social Policy on immigrants' rights to health and the relationship between work contracts and residence permits in Spain, and the other

one in the Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, a scoping review on the importance of social causation hypothesis when analysing the health of young people.

Currently, the team is working on two other publications. The first one is an empirical analysis of the relationship between young people's employment situation, respective contractual conditions, and their life satisfaction. The second publication explores the main characteristics and profile of the Spanish NEETs and compares them with their non-NEET counterparts. Preliminary results confirm that unemployed young individuals are significantly less satisfied with their life compared to their employed counterparts. For employed young adults, we found no association between contractual condition and life satisfaction. However, this apparent lack of association should be interpreted with caution, as further confirmation would be required from longitudinal studies. Spanish NEETs generally attain lower educational levels and are mainly unemployed and married, except for the age group 18 to 24, who are rather inactive and single. They also experienced previous unemployment and have more unemployed friends in comparison with their non-NEET counterparts. Moreover, the family background of NEET respondents is generally characterised by a higher proportion of unemployed parents, with lower educational levels and poorer economic self-sufficiency.

Research Interns



Max Hermus obtained a Master's degree in international and European law from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) and from the Humboldt University in Berlin. He is currently pursuing an MA in political science at the

University of Heidelberg. His main research interest lies in comparative labour market politics across advanced economies. Within the CUPESSE project, Max Hermus is conducting in-depth interviews with three generations of one entrepreneurial family running an SME based in Germany. This qualitative analysis is expected to reveal an impact of intergenerational transmission of social capital, as well as values and attitudes on self-sufficiency levels of young adults.

CUPESSE consortium partners



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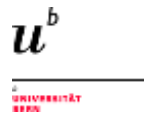
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