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Table of contents

Introduction	4
1. THE OSE IN A NUTSHELL: GOALS, RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION.....	7
1.1 GOALS.....	7
1.2 RESOURCES.....	8
1.3 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	8
1.4 FUNDING	9
2. THE OSE STAFF: BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS.....	10
2.1 THE SCIENTIFIC TEAM.....	10
2.2 THE OSE BACK OFFICE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM	17
2.3 INTERNSHIPS	18
3. NUTS AND BOLTS: RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2018	20
3.1 FOLLOW UP OF EU LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS: NIHDI (2018-2019).....	20
3.2 THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: ESPN1 (2014 – 2018).....	20
3.3 THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK 2, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: ESPN2 (2018-2019)	21
3.4 SOCIAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2018, EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE: ETUI (2018)	21
3.5 ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION IN BELGIUM, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIAL SECURITY: FPS/SS (2014-2018)	22
3.6 REBUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, VALUE-BASED EUROPE OF SOLIDARITY AND TRUST THROUGH SOCIAL INVESTMENTS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: RE-INVEST (2015 - 2019)	22
3.7 INTERNATIONAL DIGEST: BELGIAN REVIEW FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIAL SECURITY: FPS/SS (2017 -2020)	23
3.8 THE IMPACT OF DIGITALISATION ON THE CONTENT AND QUALITY OF JOBS IN PUBLIC SERVICES, THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES: EPSU (2017-2018).....	23
3.9 PUBLIC SERVICE TRADE UNIONS: EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, EUROPEAN PUBLIC SECTOR UNION: EFISTU (2018-2019).....	23
3.10 EUROPEAN SEMESTER REVIEW: WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR A SOCIAL EUROPE? : ESN (2018)	24

3.11	NATIONAL TRADE UNION INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: INVOTUNES (2018-2019)	24
3.12	STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS: EESC I (2017-2018)	25
3.13	REPORT 'INTEGRATING THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS INTO THE ROADMAP FOR DEEPENING EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION': EESC II (2018-2019).....	25
3.14	OVERVIEW OF MEASURES RELATED TO WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: ETUI/ETUC (2017-2018).....	25
3.15	THE 'GENEROSITY' OF PENSIONS FOR WORKERS IN HARD JOBS: ETUI (2017-2018).....	26
3.16	SOCIAL INNOVATION: PPMI (2018).....	26
3.17	JOB QUALITY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES SECTOR: AIAS (2018).....	26
3.18	SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN WELFARE SOCIETIES: ASSESSING LINKAGES BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY: NOVA (2018).....	26
4.	THE PLACES TO BE: OSE EVENTS IN SHORT	28
5.	UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL: TEAM MEMBER ACTIVITIES	31
6.	OUTPUT DATA: THE OSE'S REACH	36
6.1	PUBLICATIONS [TO BE UPDATED]	36
6.2	THE OSE WEBSITE: STRUCTURE AND VISITORS.....	37
6.3	OSE PUBLICATIONS: DOWNLOADS.....	39
6.4	OSE NEWSLETTERS	40
7.	FOOD FOR THOUGHT: OSE PUBLICATIONS IN 2018.....	41

Introduction

2018 was a year when extreme right or ‘populist’ parties and leaders rose to, or remained in, power in Europe; election results showed that the public was increasingly rejecting the larger centre-right or centre-left parties, which had lost credibility. There was a risk that the results of these national elections would negatively affect the progress of European social policy ambitions. During the second half of 2018, the political Brexit negotiations accelerated, while on the European mainland, the legal proceedings in Poland and Hungary, concerning non-respect of the rule of law, continued.

Following the formal endorsement of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) by the European institutions and the Council in November 2017, important progress was made regarding several legal instruments to further enhance the EU’s social dimension. These instruments included an agreement in the EPSCO Council on a new work-life balance directive; initial positions on a directive on transparent and predictable working conditions; the important agreement on the revision of the posting of workers directive; interinstitutional agreements on a) revision of the directive on exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work and b) the directive on accessibility requirements for products and services. The EPSCO Council also adopted a (watered-down version of the Commission proposal for a) recommendation on access to social protection for people in all forms of employment. The Commission and the Member States furthermore agreed to tighten the link between the European Semester and EU funding. There was also the Commission’s proposal to create a European Labour Authority (ELA), and, finally, the proposal to revise the European Social Fund (ESF), as part of the discussions on the EU’s multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 (MFF).

In other words, it would seem that the EPSR, within a short time span, relaunched a rather ambitious EU ‘Social Agenda’. And yet, despite these important steps forward, we should not forget that the texts ultimately adopted by the Council were significantly less ambitious than the European Commission’s initial ambitions. Negotiations were tough for several reasons. The dialogue between the social partners – between the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and BusinessEurope – were mostly broken off or non-existent; discussions between the Member States revealed an increasingly frequent East/West split, and the traditional differences of view remained between the political parties in the European Parliament. These differences also explain why, during 2018, the revision of the regulation on the coordination of social security systems, launched by the European Commission in December 2016, continued, but no agreement was reached between the European institutions and the Member States.

This new European context is reflected in the European Social Observatory (OSE) research activity during 2018, which addressed some of the issues at the very heart of the current policymaking agenda. All in all, the eight OSE researchers were involved in no less than 18

(bigger and smaller) research projects in 2018. Sophie Cès joined the research team during 2018 to work on access to health care and quality assurance for long-term care. As a result of this vibrant activity, the OSE maintained its position among the top 100 social policy think tanks worldwide ⁽¹⁾, together with renowned institutions such as the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Brookings Institution.

We are happy to have kick-started several exciting **new research** projects in the course of 2018, investigating, in the context of two European Commission-funded projects, the extent to which (public sector) trade unions have been involved in the European Semester (INVOTUNES and EFISTU projects). We also edited, for the 19th time, the annual review of social policy in the European Union (the ‘Bilan Social’ in French): the 2018 edition focused on the way in which the EPSR has started to influence EU policymaking. Smaller contracts dealt with social innovation and local ecosystems; job quality and industrial relations in the personal and household services sector; and the links between social and ecological policies.

Other projects that **continued** from last year included the follow-up to EU level developments with an impact on health care systems (NIHDI), by means of, among other things, a quarterly electronic newsletter. The International Digest for the *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale* (RBSS) has had a new feature since 2018: it reflects the main environmental policy developments with direct links to social policy. We also continued our analysis of the social situation in Belgium (FPS Social Security); studying the impact of digitalisation on the content and quality of jobs in public services (EPSU); monitoring the effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EESC and ESN); and mapping the work-life balance measures taken by EU Member States (ETUI and ETUC).

We continued to cultivate our ties with **European networks**, notably through the Commission-funded European Social Policy Network (ESPN): the ‘ESPN1’ consortium successfully secured the continuation of this Commission-funded network for the next four years. The OSE input in 2018 focused on inequalities in access to healthcare and challenges in long-term care, while work began on in-work poverty in Europe and a paper was published on pension provision for workers in arduous and hazardous jobs. Research into social investment in human rights and capabilities continued in the context of the RE-InVest (Horizon 2020) project.

As a result, the OSE’s publication record in the past year is again impressive: the eight OSE researchers produced no less than 24 publications (including eight book chapters, six reports and five articles). A single working paper in the OSE Working Paper Series was issued in 2018 (which was downloaded more than 1,000 times during the year); the series will be revamped in 2019, with 10 papers scheduled so far. Taken together, the 67 OSE Working Papers have

1. Ranking developed by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), University of Pennsylvania.

been downloaded more than 20,000 times during 2018. The download figures for the ESPN Synthesis reports are equally impressive: +10,000 downloads/year.

A number of in-house tools further boosted the dissemination of OSE expertise and knowledge to a large audience of researchers, think-tanks, EU and national social partner representatives (both trade unions and employers' organisations) and other social stakeholders such as European non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

- The organisation of conferences and seminars: seven events throughout 2018;
- The OSE website: on average 6,000 unique visitors every month throughout 2018;
- The OSE Flash News (+1,500 subscribers in 2018) and the European Health Care News (+1,250 subscribers) further enlarged our readership in Europe and beyond;
- The OSE Twitter account has over 1,700 followers; +1,000 persons followed us through LinkedIn.

This 2018 Activity report is organised as follows: **Section 1** provides a short presentation of the OSE's goals, resources and organisational structure. **Section 2** presents the OSE team in 2018 and describes each staff member's main tasks and activities. **Section 3** briefly describes each of the projects carried out by the OSE during the past year. **Section 4** presents a list of events (co)organised by the OSE during 2018. **Section 5** provides a taste of the team members' participation in various external activities. **Section 6** provides key output data (i.e. the OSE's 'reach'). Finally, **Section 7** shows the full list of publications to which OSE researchers contributed in 2018.

We have considerably strengthened the OSE's institutional capacity during the past year, through geographical extension and institutional embedding of its governing bodies. Thus, we were happy to welcome Linde de Corte to our Board of Directors.

New research in 2019 will include the 20th edition of our annual volume on the state of play of social Europe (Bilan Social), social protection expenditure and its financing, in-work poverty, sickness benefits (ESPN), the impact of digitalisation on the quality of work and employment of public service workers as well as the links between social and ecological (in particular, climate change) policies.

On behalf of the OSE team, I thank you for your interest in our work and wish you happy reading.

Bart Vanhercke,
Director

1. THE OSE IN A NUTSHELL: GOALS, RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION

The European Social Observatory (OSE) was founded in 1984 and is nowadays a leading centre for research, information and training, specialised in the social dimension of the European Union. It has a forward-looking approach and operates as a think-tank, identifying issues as they emerge. Following a decision of the federal government in 2013, the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office has recognised the OSE as a ‘Scientific Institution’, thereby acknowledging the quality of its independent research. As was the case last year, the OSE was again ranked among the top 100 social policy think-tanks worldwide by the Think-Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania in 2018 ⁽²⁾, together with renowned institutions such as the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Brookings Institution. The think-tanks in this category provide ‘superior innovative research and strategic analyses’ on topics pertaining to social issues and challenges.

The OSE is a partner organisation in several European Research Programmes and is actively involved in some major networks of academic excellence in Europe and North America. The OSE works closely with the Belgian and European public authorities, as well as with trade unions — including in TURI, a network of research institutes close to the trade union movement — and civil society organisations (including the Platform of European Social NGOs and the European Social Network). As a result, it has acquired specialist, in-depth knowledge on the social dimension of European integration and a profound understanding of the European context.

1.1 GOALS

The OSE’s main goals are to produce independent and state-of-the-art critical analysis of the social dimension of European integration. This implies, more concretely, that we:

- Analyse the impact of European integration on social and employment policies both at EU level and within the Member States, as well as neighbouring countries;
- Conduct research and formulate policy proposals;
- Provide an ongoing platform for discussion for a wide range of stakeholders, especially trade union organisations;
- Widely disseminate the results of our reflections through the website, Newsletters, publications (incl. the annual ‘Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play’ edited volume and the OSE Working Paper Series), events, social media and short videos.

2. McGann (2019) 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.
https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks

1.2 RESOURCES

The OSE consists of a pluralist, multidisciplinary and multilingual team of eight researchers and analysts, bolstered by a highly efficient administrative back office (four persons), six research associates and by interns from all over Europe and North America. Together they:

- Have a variety of expertise in cross-cutting areas such as Economic and Monetary Union and its impact on the social dimension of European integration, institutional issues and the EU's social policy-making mechanisms (including policy coordination, EU legislation, social dialogue and EU funding);
- Are able to draw upon a broad-based network of public authorities, (academic and other) researchers, think-tanks, European and national social partner representatives and other social stakeholders (especially members of the Social Platform);
- Have more than 20 years of expertise in organising both major conferences and smaller events – including in the framework of European Framework Programmes (FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020) and other EU-funded research such as PROWELFARE and INVOTUNES.
- Can draw on in-house resources, which include:
 - o the website (in [English](#) and [French](#)): a valuable source of up-to-date information on OSE projects, publications, events and staff, also reflected in the [OSE Flash News](#);
 - o the Health Care [Newsletter](#) (in English, French and Dutch) provides regular summaries of current EU developments that might affect national health care systems;
 - o the Working Paper [Series](#) encompasses three different publications – ‘Research’, ‘Briefing’ and ‘Opinion’ papers – written by external scholars and OSE researchers;
 - o the Lunchtime [Sessions](#), at which leading academics, policymakers and stakeholders regularly shed light on issues topping the EU agenda before an audience of OSE researchers and their guests;
 - o the LinkedIn page ([OSE Group](#), 1,000 members) and [Twitter](#) account (@OSE_be, +1,700 followers).

1.3 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The day-to-day management of the OSE lies in the hands of Bart Vanhercke and Françoise Verri. Bart Vanhercke has been Director since 2010: he manages the team as well as the broad research strategy (including calls for tenders) and communication. Françoise Verri, the Financial and Administrative Manager, manages the administrative team as well as

organisational, budgetary and financial issues and supports the Director with regard to the calls for tenders.

Altogether the eight OSE researchers cover the following policy areas: employment and labour markets, restructuring and industrial change; education and training; gender and diversity; institutional matters; health care; poverty and social exclusion; social dialogue; welfare systems and pensions; and governance (European Semester, European Pillar of Social Rights etc.). A paragraph on each staff member can be found in Section 2, while more detailed profiles of all team members (scientific and administrative) can be found on the Team page of the website.

The elected Board of Directors jointly oversees the activities of the OSE, while the General Assembly brings together the broader group of stakeholders linked to the OSE. These include representatives from national and European trade union organisations, trade union-related research institutes, academic institutions, the European Parliament and the International Labour Organisation.

The Scientific Advisory Board provides independent scientific advice from renowned scholars, for example in the context of the peer review of the OSE Working Paper Series or the chapters of the annual 'Bilan Social' book.

1.4 FUNDING

The diversity of the projects described in Section 3 below demonstrates that the OSE continues to be funded from a variety of sources, which include, in order of importance:

- Research contracts from Belgian federal and regional authorities, including notably (a) the longstanding collaboration with the Belgian national health insurance institute (NIHDI/INAMI/RIZIV) and the Federal Public Service Social Security; (b) wage subsidies from the Brussels regional employment office (ACTIRIS); and (c) the partial withholding tax exemption for research from the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO). Altogether these national resources made up 54.43% of our funding in 2018;
- Contracts with European and international institutions: notably the European Commission, but also the European Economic and Social Committee. These resources provided 29.63% of our 2018 funding;
- Contracts (especially with the European Trade Union Institute (ETUC) and the European Federation of Public Services, EPSU) and subsidies from the Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (CSC/ACV); these amounts accounted for 13.36% of our budget in 2018;

- Other resources, including various academic collaborations, training and consultancy represented 2.58% of our 2018 budget.

2. THE OSE STAFF: BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

The OSE was made up of 12 staff members during 2018: eight (full-time as well as part-time) researchers (including the Director) and four administrative staff. Six research interns and a visiting PhD researcher provided important additional human resources in terms of research assistance.

2.1 THE SCIENTIFIC TEAM

Rita Baeten – Senior Policy Analyst – Health Care and European Integration

Rita Baeten, Master in Social Sciences, focuses her OSE research activities (since 1999) on the impact of European integration on national healthcare systems and on their social character. Her research topics include themes such as EU economic governance and health systems; patient mobility in the EU; healthcare services in the internal market; and EU-level co-operation in the field of healthcare. Rita Baeten advises the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI) on EU policy developments with a potential impact on healthcare in Belgium, and has coordinated the scientific preparation and follow-up of several international and ministerial conferences on EU integration and health systems. She has been work leader for the OSE contribution to several projects financed by the European Commission under its Framework Programmes for Research. These include Re-Invest (2015-2019), ECAB (2010-2013) and 'Europe for patients' (2004-2007).

During 2018 Rita Baeten worked, inter alia, on 'cross-border telemedicine: the involvement of Belgian actors' (NIHDI contract) and the RE-InVEST project (with Sebastiano Sabato). She co-authored the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) Synthesis Report on long-term care for the elderly ⁽³⁾ and was the lead author for the Synthesis Report on inequalities in access to healthcare ⁽⁴⁾. She also worked, with Dalila Ghailani, on the regular European Health Care News. Rita and Dalila co-authored an article in *La Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale* on '*Et si les soins hospitaliers pouvaient être administrés dans de meilleures conditions médicales à l'étranger*'. She gave a variety of presentations, amongst others at the Belgian commission for medical supply planning, RE-Invest meetings, the ESPN Network Meetings, UCL, the SPC and MISSOC.

3. Lead author Slavina Spasova, co-authors: Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke.

4. Co-authors: Slavina Spasova, Bart Vanhercke and Stéphanie Coster.

Cécile Barbier – Senior Researcher – Institutional Developments, Citizenship, Immigration

Cécile Barbier holds a Master's in Political Science. Her research activities include institutional developments, citizenship and immigration. Since 1992, she has followed the institutional debates and the consequences of European integration from the federal point of view, including the revision of the European treaties and immigration policies. She is a keen observer of the EU's economic governance and the democratic legitimacy of the newly established framework, which includes a new yet somewhat controversial role played by the European Central Bank in containing the euro crisis. She has been teaching an introduction to politics (European issues) course at the Trade Union School, Centrale *nationale des employés* (CNE) since 2008. She has also done some work at UCL's Open Faculty for Economic and Social Sciences (FOPES). Since 1st January 2017, she has been an associate researcher at the University of Saint-Louis-Bruxelles, attached to the Institute for European Studies (IES).

During 2018 Cécile Barbier worked, inter alia, on the 'European Digest — International Digest' for the quarterly Belgian Review for Social Security (*Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale*, RBSS). She contributed the 'key events' (chronology) chapter in the OSE/ETUI edited volume on 'Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2018' and taught a course entitled 'A Critical History of European Integration' for the executive Master's programme on European Communication and Policy at the IHECS Academy.

Dr. Stéphanie Coster – Researcher – Unemployment, social exclusion, job quality

Stéphanie Coster has been a researcher at the OSE since November 2017. She holds a PhD in Economics and Management Sciences and has been a Eurofound National Correspondent since September 2017. She is also a lecturer at the *Université Saint Louis Bruxelles* (FUSL) and at the *Université Catholique de Louvain* (UCL). Her expertise is in the fields of industrial relations and human resource management. Her research interests are mainly related to social exclusion, precariousness, job quality, inequalities and unemployment.

During 2018, Stéphanie Coster was involved in the project on the impact of digitalisation on job quality in the sectors of home care and public employment services in Europe for the European Public Service Union (EPSU), in collaboration with Ramón Peña-Casas and Dalila Ghailani, with whom she co-authored a chapter on this topic for the edited volume 'Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2018'. She worked with the ESPN team during 2018, contributing to the reports on inequalities in access to healthcare ⁽⁵⁾ and challenges in long-term care in Europe ⁽⁶⁾. She also conducted a series of interviews, on behalf of the University of Amsterdam

5. Lead author Rita Baeten, co-authors: Slavina Spasova, Bart Vanhercke and Stéphanie Coster.

6. Lead author Slavina Spasova, co-authors: Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke.

(AIAS), on job quality and industrial relations in the personal and household services sector. She also worked with Ramón Peña-Casas on income inequalities in Belgium for the Federal Public Service – Social Security project.

Dalila Ghailani – Senior Researcher – European Law, Employment and Work, Social protection, Gender Equality

Dalila Ghailani, with a Master's in Law and Advanced Master's in European Business Law, has 17 years of experience in monitoring a range of issues related to the social dimension of the EU, including employment policies, social protection, fundamental rights, gender issues, and the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU. She has conducted several studies for EU institutions, including the European Commission (PROWELFARE projects; assessment of the capacity of welfare systems and private enterprises to encourage older workers to stay in the labour market; assessment of the EU legal framework for the coordination of social security schemes and the portability of supplementary pension rights); the European Parliament (assessment of French and Belgian political parties' policies and strategies for gender balance in the European Parliament, 2015; assessment of the impact of the crisis on Fundamental Rights in Belgium, 2015) and the European Economic and Social Committee (assessing the feasibility of introducing a European instrument relating to non-contributory minimum income schemes).

During 2018, Dalila Ghailani co-authored the ESPN Synthesis Report on 'Challenges in long-term care in Europe' (7) and started to work on a Synthesis report on in-work poverty in the context of the ESPN2 project (8). She has been involved in the project on the impact of digitalisation on job quality in the sectors of home care and public employment services in Europe for EPSU (led by Ramón Peña-Casas), and in research on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EESC) led by Sebastiano Sabato (9).

She was a co-editor of the OSE annual flagship book 'Social Policy in the European Union: state of play 2018', for which she also co-authored a chapter on digital transition in the EU as well as the Conclusions (signed by the editors). Dalila was also involved in the INVOTUNES project, for which she drafted the Belgian case study with Ramon Peña Casas. She also worked with Ramón Peña-Casas on the project 'Public service trade unions: effective intervention in the European Semester (EFISTU)', for which they wrote the case study on France. She also contributed a book chapter, with Ramón Peña-Casas, on 'Occupational Welfare in Belgium: wide coverage, low benefits' for the PROWELFARE edited volume and finalised the overview of measures related to work-life balance in the European Union for ETUI. Dalila published, with Rita Baeten, on '*Et si les soins hospitaliers pouvaient être administrés dans de meilleures conditions médicales à*

7. Lead author Slavina Spasova, co-authors: Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke.

8. Lead author Ramón Peña-Casas, co-authors: Dalia Ghailani, Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke.

9. With Ramón Peña-Casas, Slavina Spasova, Francesco Corti and Bart Vanhercke.

l'étranger' (*Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale*, RBSS). She worked with Rita Baeten on the NIHDI contract (including the European Health Care News). She presented her work on various occasions, including at ETUI, Eurofound and the annual 'Social policy in the EU: state of play' conferences.

Ramón Peña-Casas – Senior Researcher –Employment and work, Poverty, Social Inclusion, industrial relations

Ramón Peña-Casas, with a Master's in Social Sciences, joined the OSE team in 2000. He has a background in sociology and extensive expertise in the field of socio-economic analysis gained during previous employment as a researcher at the ULB's Institute of Sociology as well as the Brussels regional employment office. Since 2000, he has coordinated many European and national projects on a range of different subjects. His diverse areas of expertise cover, in particular, the diagnosis and comparative analysis of cross-cutting socio-economic issues affecting the various aspects of the European Union's social dimension: poverty and social exclusion, social assistance and minimum income, quality of employment and work, in-work poverty, insecure employment, working conditions, active labour market policies and activation, flexicurity, restructuring, active ageing and corporate social responsibility. Ramón Peña-Casas is also well-versed in the development, quality and political use of statistical indicators in OMCs (including employment, social inclusion and pensions). Ramón Peña-Casas is a permanent member of several expert groups, including the 'Belgian federal group on social indicators' and the 'Belgian Interdisciplinary Research Network on Poverty' (GIREP). He is also part of the Scientific Committee of the 'Observatoire Girondin de la Pauvreté et Précarité' (Bordeaux – France) and of the 'Belgian Platform on social inclusion'.

During 2018, Ramón Peña-Casas worked amongst other things on the ESPN Synthesis Report on 'Challenges in long-term care in Europe' ⁽¹⁰⁾ and coordinated the project on the impact of digitalisation on job quality in the sectors of home care and public employment services in Europe for EPSU. He also co-authored (with Dalila Ghailani and Stéphanie Coster) a chapter on digital transition in the EU for the edited volume 'Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2018'. He gave several presentations on digitalisation, at EPSU, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Verdi and the Federation of European Social Employers. Ramón was also involved in the INVOTUNES project, for which he drafted the Belgian case study (with Dalila Ghailani). He also worked with Dalila Ghailani on the project 'Public service trade unions: effective intervention in the European Semester (EFISTU)', for which they drafted the case study on France. He also contributed to the project on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EESC I), led by Sebastiano Sabato ⁽¹¹⁾, with a chapter on monitoring indicators in the EPSR. He wrote a

10. Lead author Slavina Spasova, co-authors: Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke.

11. With Dalila Ghailani, Slavina Spasova, Francesco Corti and Bart Vanhercke.

book chapter, with Dalila Ghailani, on ‘Occupational Welfare in Belgium: wide coverage, low benefits’ for the PROWELFARE edited volume. Ramón led the research on income inequalities in Belgium as part of the Federal Public Service – Social Security project. He started working (as lead author ⁽¹²⁾) on a Synthesis report on in-work poverty for the ESPN2 project (published in 2019).

Dr. Sebastiano Sabato – Researcher – European Integration, Policy Learning, Governance

Sebastiano Sabato holds a PhD in Political Science at the *Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane* (SUM) in Florence, with a doctoral thesis (2013) on ‘The Impact of the Open Method of Coordination on National Policies: an Analysis of the Peer Review meetings in the Open Method of Coordination for Social Protection and Social Inclusion’. He holds a Master's Degree in Economics and Politics of European Integration from the University of Bologna, Faculty of Political Sciences (*Forlì*). In 2013, he worked as a part-time post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Social and Political Science of the University of Milan and, in 2014-2015, he worked at the Department of Sociology at Antwerp University. Since February 2014 he has been working as a researcher on European Integration at the OSE and is responsible for monitoring funding opportunities. Currently, his research interests include EU socio-economic governance, comparative social policy, social innovation, policy learning and transfer in EU social policy and interest groups.

During 2018 Sebastiano Sabato was the scientific coordinator of the new project on ‘National Trade Union Involvement in The European Semester – INVOTUNES’ and worked in the new project on ‘Public service trade unions: effective intervention in the European Semester (EFISTU)’ in which he started work on the case study on Italy. He also worked on the involvement of local public services in the European Semester (with the European Social Network, ESN) and social investment. He was the lead author of the report on the effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights for the Workers’ Group of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹³⁾. He worked on the links between social and ecological (in particular, climate change) policies in the context of the ecological transition (NOVA project). He also contributed to the RE-Invest project (with Rita Baeten) and worked on social innovation (feedback on the overall analytical framework of the project and drafting of a case study for PPMI). He was a co-editor of the OSE annual flagship book ‘Social Policy in the European Union: state of play 2018’, for which he also co-authored a chapter (with Francesco Corti) on ‘The European pillar of social rights, from debates to reality check’ as well as the Conclusions with the editors. He gave several presentations, including at the annual ‘Social

12. With Dalila Ghailani, Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke.

13. Co-authors: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Slavina Spasova, Francesco Corti and Bart Vanhercke.

policy in the European Union: state of Play' conferences, EPSU, RE-Invest, European Social network, ACCESS Europe.

Dr. Slavina Spasova – Researcher – Social Protection, Social dialogue, Trade Unions, Pension reforms

Slavina Spasova, PhD in Political Science (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB 2015), has been a researcher in the area of social protection at the OSE since January 2016. She is both Pension leader and OSE coordinator in the European Commission-funded European Social Policy network (ESPN). Her research agenda focuses on various social policy issues such as social dialogue and social protection, including pension reforms, work-life balance, healthcare, long-term care, sickness benefits and, most recently, unemployment benefits. Slavina is also a Research Associate at the Centre d'étude de la vie politique (CEVIPOL), Université Libre de Bruxelles. Her previous work has explored the transformation process of the Bulgarian trade unions since 1989 and their involvement in building social institutions through the mechanisms of international socialisation and 'usages of Europe', as well as investigating systemic pension reforms in Central and Eastern European countries and social dialogue.

During 2018, Slavina Spasova worked on a variety of issues – including on challenges in long-term care (as lead researcher ⁽¹⁴⁾) and on inequalities in access to healthcare ⁽¹⁵⁾ – in the context of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN). In this context, she also managed the regular ESPN Flash reports, Country Profiles and European Semester reports. She also co-contributed a chapter to the edited volume 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018', on the social situation of the self-employed in Europe: labour market issues and social protection. She contributed to the report on the effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights for the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁶⁾. Slavina was also involved in the INVOTUNES' project (OSE horizontal work package on National trade union strategies for involvement in the European Semester). Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke co-authored an ETUI Policy Brief: 'The 'generosity' of pensions for workers in hard jobs: in need of a nuanced debate'. She presented her work, amongst others, at Eurofound, the SPRINT final conference, the ESPN Network Meetings, the OECD (Paris), MISSOC (Sofia), Eurocarers, the Social Protection Committee, the European Policy Center and the SPF Sécurité sociale.

14. Co-authors: Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke.

15. Lead author: Rita Baeten, co-authors: Bart Vanhercke and Stéphanie Coster.

16. Lead author: Sebastiano Sabato, co-authors: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Francesco Corti and Bart Vanhercke.

Dr Bart Vanhercke – Director and Senior Researcher - European Integration, Social Protection and Social Inclusion, Governance

Bart Vanhercke, PhD in Social Science, has been Director at the European Social Observatory since 2010. He is therefore in charge of the broad research strategy, the internal organisation of the team, managing the budget with Françoise Verri, and overseeing the OSE communication strategy. His current research focuses on the social dimension of European economic governance (including the EU's economic surveillance of national healthcare systems) and the European Pillar of Social Rights. Earlier research experience dealt with the Europeanization of domestic social inclusion, health care and pensions policies through different EU policy instruments and the social challenges of EMU and EU enlargement. Bart Vanhercke was appointed, for the academic year 2013-2014, Associate Professor at the Institute for European Studies of Saint-Louis University (FUSL). In March 2016, he obtained his PhD (cum laude) at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR) of the University of Amsterdam. He was appointed Policy Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA Berlin) in November 2015. He was appointed associate member of the academic staff at the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA, KULeuven) in June 2016.

During 2018, Bart Vanhercke worked on a variety of issues – on challenges in long-term care ⁽¹⁷⁾ and on Inequalities in access to healthcare ⁽¹⁸⁾ – in the context of the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), of which he is Social Protection leader. He was the general coordinator of the project on 'National Trade Union Involvement in the European Semester – INVOTUNES' and worked as project leader in the project on 'Public service trade unions: effective intervention in the European Semester (EFISTU)'. He was the lead editor of the OSE's flagship book on 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018', together with Dalila Ghailani and Sebastiano Sabato. He also co-authored the book's Conclusions, signed by the editors. He contributed to the report on the effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights for the European Economic and Social Committee, led by Sebastiano Sabato ⁽¹⁹⁾. He co-authored (with Slavina Spasova) an ETUI policy brief: 'The 'generosity' of pensions for workers in hard jobs: in need of a nuanced debate'. He co-authored an edited volume on 'Occupational Welfare in Europe: state of play, determinants and policy implications', with David Natali and Emmanuele Pavolini; he also co-authored the book's Conclusions, signed by the editors. He presented his work, amongst others, at the 'Social policy in the EU: state of play' annual conferences, the SPRINT final conference, the SPC's Working Group on Ageing, Queen's University (Belfast), ROSEnet, the Employment Committee (Sofia), the ESPN Network Meetings, ETUC, a CNV/WOW-Europe/EZA Seminar (Utrecht), the European Commission, Saint-Louis

17. Lead author: Slavina Spasova, co-authors: Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, and Ramón Peña-Casas.

18. Lead author: Rita Baeten, co-authors: Slavina Spasova and Stéphanie Coster.

19. Lead author: Sebastiano Sabato, co-authors: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Slavina Spasova and Francesco Corti.

University, la FEC/CSC, the Social Protection Committee, the University of Amsterdam, MISSOC (Sofia), The European Social network and HIVA (KULeuven).

2.2 THE OSE BACK OFFICE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Elodie Kibendo – Secretary

Elodie Kibendo has been the secretary at the European Social Observatory since November 2017. She works with the administrative and logistics team in a supporting role. Her tasks consist in: receiving telephone calls, reports of administrative meetings, receipt of emails, a part of the mailing service. She works and arranges documents with the researchers' team. She also helps to organise events and to harmonise bibliographical references in the OSE Working Paper Series and the annual 'Bilan' books. She is responsible for the management and updating of the OSE database and is in charge of interview transcriptions.

Benoît Malice – Web Assistant

Benoît Malice provides logistics support for conferences (preparing files of documents, reception – publication displays). He performs various secretarial tasks: document-binding, photocopies, transcribing texts, etc. He is in charge of the layout of the 'OSE Working Paper Series'. He performs a number of support tasks for the website: input to the various sections of the site, html layout of the newsletter 'European Health Care News' (French, Dutch and English), for the NIHDI contract; corrections and addition of various sections (French and English); checking all web pages, uploading new content, updating bibliographical references in the publications pages as well as the posting of registration forms.

Renaud Smoes – Webmaster

Renaud Smoes manages the IT equipment and security, manages and updates the OSE site, project webpages and contact database. He analyses and implements online working solutions such as Office 365, Basecamp and Google Drive, which have proved to be an essential tool for managing the constant flow of documents in collaborative research projects such as ESPN. He manages the OSE Flash News and the 'European Health Care News' newsletter (html layout, sending out the letter, mailing list) for the NIHDI contract. His other tasks include events organisation (invitations, management of the subscriptions, welcoming, technical support) and generating graphic material for researchers, slides and visual aids for OSE events. He has also managed the websites for several projects, including INVOTUNES. During 2018, he started to implement the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Françoise Verri –Financial and Administrative Manager

Françoise Verri, with the OSE Director, manages calls for tender (e.g. drafting budgets, planning tables, revision of the OSE offers and online registration), manages the finances of the institution, produces financial reports for all projects (both European and national), draws up the budgets and is responsible for the administrative management of the OSE (staff, relations with outside bodies, supplies, etc.). She prepares the accounts, makes payments, is responsible for invoicing and VAT as well as for the organisation and practical coordination of books, papers, programmes and invitations, the final revision of notes and reports and managing translations for the various publications. Finally, she drafts the minutes of the key meetings: the Board of directors, General Assembly and monthly meetings of the research team.

2.3 INTERNSHIPS

The OSE has concluded internship agreements with the University of Milan as well as with Brigham Young University (Utah, United States). Roskilde University, the University of Amsterdam and the Universities of Florence have been sending students on a regular basis, while we regularly receive direct applications from individuals. As a result, Bachelor and Master students in political science, sociology, economy and law make ongoing contributions to the OSE research activities. For most OSE interns their stay at the OSE is a mandatory part of their curriculum, for which they receive a scholarship. In 2018, the OSE welcomed six research interns and a visiting PhD researcher.

The OSE provides these students with opportunities to network with top researchers and politicians in various fields, as well as (in case of an outstanding internship) giving them letters of recommendation that they can take to future job interviews. For many interns at the OSE, it is the first time that they get to experience work in research, which often proves to be invaluable in their future career decisions. Interns are involved at different levels in a variety of research projects covering all employment and social fields. They help by drafting minutes of events, qualitative research, editing work, interview transcriptions and translation. Interns' written pieces regularly appear in OSE publications, and are acknowledged as such (in several cases, interns have been recognised as co-authors).

Table 1. OSE internships in 2018

<i>Name</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Sending Institution</i>
1. Marcel Muraille	November 2017 – 30 January 2018	ULB
2. Sherihane Bensemmane	15 January – 30 June 2018	ULB - ESP
3. Tamsyn Randall	22 January – 20 April 2018	Brigham Young University
4. Vincent Lindner	05 March – 31 August 2018	Göttingen University
5. Paola SIGNORELLI	03 April – 31 July 2018	University of Milan
6. Taylor WILHOIT	17 September – 07 December 2018	Brigham Young University
7. Francesco CORTI	7 November 2018 – 29 March 2019 (visiting researcher)	Università degli Studi di Milano

3. NUTS AND BOLTS: RESEARCH PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN 2018

This section provides a snapshot overview of the **18** research projects managed by the OSE team in 2018. More details on each of them can be found on the Project page of the OSE website (in EN and FR).

In addition to these projects, the OSE, in collaboration with a network of experts (the PPMI group, RAND Europe and KOOP) was awarded a Framework contract (2017-2020) with the European Commission for the provision of services related to the implementation of better regulation guidelines. The purpose of the multiple framework contracts is to provide access to services to assist DG EMPL in implementing the Better Regulation Guidelines in its area of activity. More specifically, these are services supporting DG EMPL in its impact assessment, evaluation and monitoring. The framework contracts may also be used by other Commission services if the main focus of their studies is related to employment, social affairs, labour mobility and skills.

3.1 FOLLOW UP OF EU LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN IMPACT ON HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS: NIHDI (2018-2019)

Since 2002, the OSE has worked closely with the Belgian National Institute for Health and Invalidity Insurance (NIHDI/INAMI/RIZIV), providing the latter with expertise on EU policies with a potential impact on national health care systems. In 2018, four issues of the quarterly electronic newsletter on recent EU developments with potential impact on national health care systems have been published, and research was carried out on the involvement of Belgian actors in cross-border telemedicine.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Rita Baeten (lead researcher) and Dalila Ghailani.

3.2 THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: ESPN1 (2014 – 2018)

The European Social Policy Network (ESPN) was established in July 2014 at the initiative of the European Commission to provide high quality and timely independent information, advice, analysis and expertise on social policy issues in the European Union and neighbouring countries. In particular, the ESPN is supporting the Commission in monitoring progress towards the EU's social protection and social inclusion objectives. It provides the Commission with a comprehensive overview of social protection and social inclusion policies in the countries covered, including their strengths and weaknesses.

At the heart of the ESPN are country teams of more than a hundred independent experts on social protection and social inclusion policies. The Network covers 35 countries – the 28 EU Member States plus seven other countries. The ESPN is managed jointly by the LISER Research

Institute (lead partner, based in Luxembourg), the independent research company APPLICA (Belgium) and the OSE. The OSE manages regular Thematic Reports (including two Synthesis Reports every year) and is responsible for quality control of the regular Flash Reports (with Eric Marlier).

OSE researchers involved in this project: Rita Baeten (Health Care leader), Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas (co-authors), Slavina Spasova (ESPN lead researcher and Pensions leader) and Bart Vanhercke (ESPN Social Protection leader).

3.3 THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK 2, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: ESPN2 (2018-2019)

The 'ESPN1' consortium (see above) successfully secured the continuation of this Commission-funded network. The ESPN2 currently covers 35 countries: the 28 EU countries as well as seven candidate and potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. It also provides ad hoc social policy analysis for an additional set of countries inside and outside Europe. Finally, the ESPN acts as the secretariat to MISSOC (Mutual Information Systems on Social Protection). At the heart of ESPN2 are still 35 Country Teams of independent social policy experts who are supported and coordinated by a central team of international experts.

In 2018, the OSE has managed regular Thematic Reports (including, Synthesis Reports on inequalities in access to health care and long-term care for the elderly) and was in charge of quality control of the regular Flash Reports (with Eric Marlier). As of 2018, the OSE is also in charge of quality control of the Country Profiles and European Semester Reports and the Economic Reform Programme Reports produced by the 35 country teams.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Rita Baeten (Health Care leader), Stéphanie Coster, Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas (co-authors), Paola Signorelli (research intern), Slavina Spasova (ESPN Pensions leader and lead researcher) and Bart Vanhercke (ESPN Social Protection leader).

3.4 SOCIAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2018, EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE: ETUI (2018)

The 2018 annual stock-taking of Social Europe – edited by Bart Vanhercke, Dalila Ghailani and Sebastiano Sabato – reports on recent EU and national social policymaking, with a focus on the game-changing advent of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) one year ago. A dominant feature of this annual review of social policy in the European Union is the way in which the EPSR has slowly but steadily started to influence EU policymaking, well before it was politically endorsed in November 2017. The Pillar's new 'rights-based social investment approach' is at present leaving its mark on the 2018 European Semester and has triggered two batches of legislation: the 'Pillar Package' and the 'Social Fairness Package'.

These developments are assessed critically in the 19th edition of this edited volume, looking at both their positive and negative outcomes as well as their potential to serve as steps towards a fully-fledged 'European Social Union' (ESU). Authors of this year's volume: Maurizio Ferrera, Max Koch, Sebastiano Sabato and Francesco Corti, Stefan Clauwaert, Slavina Spasova and Mathijn Wilkens, Ramón Peña-Casas, Dalila Ghailani and Stéphanie Coster, Laurent Vogel and Cécile Barbier.

3.5 ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION IN BELGIUM, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIAL SECURITY: FPS/SS (2014-2018)

The OSE and the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA, University of Leuven) continued conducting research for the Belgian Federal Social Security administration (FPS), with a view to updating and improving the indicators used in the Belgian National Social Report (NSR) and the National Reform Programme (NRP).

OSE researchers involved in this project, Ramón Peña-Casas (lead researcher) and Stéphanie Coster, provided a comparative review of several studies related to the evolution of social and economic inequalities in Belgium.

3.6 REBUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, VALUE-BASED EUROPE OF SOLIDARITY AND TRUST THROUGH SOCIAL INVESTMENTS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: RE-INVEST (2015 - 2019)

In 2013, as a response to rising inequalities, poverty and distrust in the EU, the European Commission launched a major endeavour to rebalance economic and social policies, with the Social Investment Package (SIP). Funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme, the RE-InVEST project aims to strengthen the philosophical, institutional and empirical underpinnings of the SIP, based on social investment in human rights and capabilities. The project actively involves European citizens severely affected by the crisis in the co-construction of a more powerful and effective social investment agenda. The OSE contributes to this project by applying the social investment model to public intervention in the health care sector and in the formulation of policy recommendations. In 2018 the final report on inclusive service delivery through social investment: the case of health services was delivered, and the key findings were presented at the project meeting in Paris.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Rita Baeten (lead researcher) and Sebastiano Sabato.

3.7 INTERNATIONAL DIGEST: BELGIAN REVIEW FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE SOCIAL SECURITY: FPS/SS (2017 -2020)

In 2017, the OSE was awarded a contract with the Belgian Federal Public Service Social Security, to write the 'International Digest' for the quarterly Belgian Review for Social Security (RBSS/BTSZ). The 2018 digest continues to provide a regular overview of international developments (EU, OECD, ILO etc.) that have a direct or indirect impact on social protection and social inclusion policies and debates. The RBSS/BTSZ is available online, in French and Dutch.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Cécile Barbier and Bart Vanhercke.

3.8 THE IMPACT OF DIGITALISATION ON THE CONTENT AND QUALITY OF JOBS IN PUBLIC SERVICES, THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES: EPSU (2017-2018)

What is the concrete impact of the increased use of ICTs in public services on the content and quality of jobs? This is the central question of the research project that the OSE conducted for the European Federation of Public Services (EPSU). After reviewing the literature and carrying out targeted interviews with sectorial EPSU delegates, the project focus on reporting the perceptions of workers themselves about the positive and negative effects of ICT on their work.

The effects of digitalisation on the content of work and the organisation of tasks and, more generally, on job quality, were analysed in two specific sectors: home care and public employment services, in four European countries: France, United Kingdom, Italy and Spain. The final results were presented at the EPSU annual congress, at a joint conference of the Hans Böckler Stiftung and the Verdi Union, as well as in a meeting of the Network of European social employers.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Dalila Ghailani, Stéphanie Coster and Ramón Peña-Casas (lead researcher).

3.9 PUBLIC SERVICE TRADE UNIONS: EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, EUROPEAN PUBLIC SECTOR UNION: EFISTU (2018-2019)

The OSE is a partner in this new project led by the European Public Sector Union (EPSU) and funded by the European Commission. The partnership also includes the School of Education of the University of Nottingham. The project aims at investigating the extent to which public sector trade unions – in particular in the area of education – have been involved (if at all) in the European Semester. The project is intended to provide public sector trade unions with tools to achieve effective involvement in the Semester. The OSE will conduct case studies in France and Italy.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Sebastiano Sabato, Bart Vanhercke (project leader) and Francesco Corti (visiting PhD researcher).

3.10 EUROPEAN SEMESTER REVIEW: WHICH WAY FORWARD FOR A SOCIAL EUROPE? : ESN (2018)

With inequality increasing across Europe and the EU not on track to achieve the Europe 2020 social objectives, the European Social Network (ESN) has again asked the OSE to provide scientific underpinning of its work on the European Semester. The focus was – among other things -on the impact of austerity policies on public social services management and provision, territorial disparities and evidence-based policy-making. Policy areas covered included children’s services, homelessness and housing exclusion, community care and de-institutionalization as well as services to immigrants and refugees. The report will provide the substance for ESN proposals regarding the 2018 Country-specific Recommendations.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher) and Bart Vanhercke.

3.11 NATIONAL TRADE UNION INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, EUROPEAN COMMISSION: INVOTUNES (2018-2019)

The OSE is the lead partner of this Commission-funded project. The partnership is made up of ten institutions. These include universities (the University of Macerata, Uppsala University and University of Turku); trade union-related research institutes (the European Social Observatory, the Hans Boeckler Foundation’s Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI), and the Institute for Social and Trade Union Research (ISTUR); independent research centres (the Centre for Studies for Social Intervention (CESIS), the Bulgarian Academy of Science and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) is an associate partner in the project.

INVOTUNES explores the extent to which national trade unions are involved (if at all) in the European Semester, the mechanisms and impact of such involvement and finally the linkages between the European Semester and national social dialogue. At the core of the project are eight case studies of eight countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. The project will develop concrete recommendations for national trade unions with a view to ensuring effective and quality involvement in the Semester.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Sebastiano Sabato (scientific coordinator), Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke (project manager).

3.12 STUDY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS: EESC I (2017-2018)

The study on 'How to implement key elements of the European pillar of social rights: what is needed to guarantee a positive social impact' provided recommendations and proposals regarding the implementation of the future European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) to the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Particular attention is paid to the ways in which social partners and civil society – in particular the EESC – could play an important role in terms of consultation and participation. The study will focus on the three following priority areas: Fair working conditions for all, Collective bargaining and Wages.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Dalila Ghailani, Ramón Peña-Casas, Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher), Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke.

3.13 REPORT 'INTEGRATING THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS INTO THE ROADMAP FOR DEEPENING EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION': EESC II (2018-2019)

The aim of this study for the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee, which started in 2018, is twofold: a) to analyse concrete proposals aimed at integrating the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) into EU policies; and b) to provide policy-makers and stakeholders with specific recommendations to achieve such an objective. The study, which uses qualitative research methods, discusses three policy initiatives: a) the possibility of 'socialising' the EU budget and creating a (social) budget for the Eurozone; b) setting up a macro-economic stabilization instrument for the EMU in the form of an equivalent European Unemployment Benefit Scheme (EUBS); and c) the possibility of striking a new balance between the economic and social dimensions of the EU by setting up a legally binding 'Social Imbalances Procedure' (SImP) or a non-binding 'Social Imbalances Framework'. The report will be published in 2019 and presented at the EESC.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher), Slavina Spasova, Bart Vanhercke and Francesco Corti (visiting PhD researcher).

3.14 OVERVIEW OF MEASURES RELATED TO WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: ETUI/ETUC (2017-2018)

As part of the follow-up to the European Commission 'New Start' initiative on work-life balance challenges faced by working parents and carers, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) asked the European Social Observatory to provide a brief overview of measures related to work-life balance in the 28 European Union Member States. The focus is put on parental leave and carers' leave as well as flexible working arrangement schemes within the EU.

OSE researcher involved in this project: Dalila Ghailani.

3.15 THE 'GENEROSITY' OF PENSIONS FOR WORKERS IN HARD JOBS: ETUI (2017-2018)

This ETUI policy brief examines issues surrounding recent cuts in pensions provision for workers in arduous and hazardous jobs (WAHJ). Such workers have historically enjoyed better provision because of the strong possibility of them having to take early retirement, but past arrangements are now under threat. The policy brief presents some data on the working conditions and pension patterns of WAHJ and provides some policy suggestions for their trade union representatives.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke.

3.16 SOCIAL INNOVATION: PPMI (2018)

A case study on the 'Employment Unified Endowment' (*Dote unica lavoro*) in Italy (Lombardy) was prepared for the Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI), as part of the project financed by the European Commission 'Dynamics and impacts of Social Policy Innovation on the resilience of local ecosystems'. Furthermore, the OSE was asked to provide feedback on the overall analytical framework of the project developed by PPMI.

OSE researchers involved in this project: Sebastiano Sabato (lead researcher) and Paola Signorelli (research intern).

3.17 JOB QUALITY AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES SECTOR: AIAS (2018)

The OSE has been asked to conduct a series of interviews with people working in the personal and household services sector, with a view to drafting a Country Report on Belgium, in view of the OSE's knowledge of industrial relations and social dialogue structures in Belgium.

OSE researcher involved in this project: Stéphanie Coster.

3.18 SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN WELFARE SOCIETIES: ASSESSING LINKAGES BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY: NOVA (2018)

The OSE has been involved in this project, which was led by the Norwegian Social Research Institute (NOVA). The project explores the links between social and ecological (in particular, climate change) policies in the context of the ecological transition. The OSE has been asked to draft a Working paper with the University of Milan on 'The EU's potential for promoting an eco-social agenda'. This paper addresses two key issues. First, it identifies the approach taken by the EU in order to link and create synergies between social and climate change policies. Second, it explores the governance procedures through which the EU implements this

approach. Two case studies are analysed: the European Semester and the UN Sustainable Development Strategy.

OSE researcher involved in this project: Sebastiano Sabato and Matteo Mandelli (University of Milan).

4. THE PLACES TO BE: OSE EVENTS IN SHORT

This section describes the seven events that have been (co-)organised by the OSE throughout 2018. More details can be found on the Past Events page of the OSE website. An overview of the participation of OSE researchers in events organised by other institutions is provided in Section 5 ('Up close and Personal').

09/02/2018 – Self-employment in Europe: labour market and social protection – Brussels –Eurofound/OSE Joint Event

Presentations: Exploring self-employment in the European Union – Mathijn Wilkens, Research Officer, Working Life, Eurofound and Access to social protection for the self-employed: A comparison of 35 countries – Dalila Ghailani and Slavina Spasova, European Social Observatory (OSE). Panel Discussants: Ana Carla Pereira, Head of Unit, European Commission; Robert Plummer, Social Affairs Senior Adviser, BusinessEurope Ignacio Doreste, Adviser, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit, ILO.

This half-day event was an opportunity to explore recent Eurofound and OSE European research on issues surrounding self-employment and social protection. In particular, it was an opportunity to share expertise relating to the European Commission's initiative on 'Social protection for all'. The European Social Pillar set out a strategic priority that all workers should have access to social protection regardless of employment status. The event brought together representatives of the social partners, EU institutions, national representatives, practitioners and academics to debate issues including, among others, the diversity of the self-employed; social protection and representation of the self-employed; the place of self-employment in a future labour market; and the impact of the digital economy on self-employment.

16/02/2018 - National Trade Union involvement in the European Semester – INVOTUNES Kick-off Meeting – Brussels

This first (internal) meeting of the INVOTUNES project meeting enabled an initial discussion about the substance and goals of the project as well as the draft analytical and methodological framework that would guide the collective work. The meeting also helped us to clarify the ambitions and limitations of the project: the presence of a Steering Committee member during the meeting played an essential role in this respect. The afternoon session was mostly devoted to a preliminary discussion about the horizontal Work Packages and initial guidance on the country case studies, the project's dissemination strategy and the national workshops (incl. possible dates).

05/03/2018 – Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017 – European Parliament, Brussels – Book Presentation/Public Debate

Event hosted by Philippe Lamberts – MEP, co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group.

Key Speakers: Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke, OSE. **Presentations:** Amandine Crespy, IEE, CEVIPOL, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Daniel Clegg, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, Denis Bouget, OSE and ETUI

27-28/09/2018 – National Trade Union involvement in the European Semester – INVOTUNES National Workshop in Uppsala – Roundtable

The 1.5-day Uppsala workshop was the first opportunity to discuss the draft country case studies for the eight countries under scrutiny. Furthermore, discussion took place on the initial ideas for the horizontal work packages, as well as on analytical and methodological issues and the project's dissemination strategy. The first public Roundtable Discussion on 'Nordic social partners and the European Semester: what kind of engagement and why (not)?' made it possible, for the first time, to 'go public' with the preliminary research findings and discuss them with an audience (some 33 in total) of academics, EU and national stakeholders and policymakers. Keynote speakers included high-level representatives from Uppsala University, the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (SACO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Swedish employers. The Swedish European Semester Officer (European Commission) was one of the active participants.

8-9/10/2018 – Public service trade unions – Effective intervention in the European Semester Conference – Brussels – Conference

Key Speakers: Professor Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham, Jeroen Jutte, Head of Unit, DG Employment, European Commission, Guillaume Afellat, Social Affairs Advisor, CEEP European public service employers' organization, Richard Pond, EPSU

Panel Discussants: Ramón Peña-Casas, OSE – Agnès Thibault, European Semester Officer – Sébastien Dupuch, Force Ouvrière – Dominique Pognon, CGT-SP – Howard Stevenson, University of Nottingham – Patrick O'Riordan, European Semester Officer – Richy Carrothers, Forsa – Sebastiano Sabato, OSE – Nicoletta Grieco, FP-CGIL – Antonio Marchini, FP-CGIL – Torbjörn Olausson, European Semester Officer – Per Brogger Jensen, FOA – Agnese Dagile, European Semester Officer – Liga Barina, LVSADA – Martins Svirskis, LBAS – Sanita Skiltere, Latvian local government organization.

This conference was the first major event of a two-year project run by the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) with the support of the ETUCE education federation. The project also involves two research organizations – the OSE and the University of Nottingham. The aim of the project is to investigate the impact of the European Semester on public services and to assess the role of public service trade unions in trying to influence the process at national and European levels.

30/10/2018 – Social investment in affordable and quality long-term care, Theory, challenges and applications (SPRINT)

The SPRINT consortium invited policy makers, researchers, care providers and other key stakeholders, to discuss the challenges associated with the application of the concept of social investment to the provision and resourcing of long-term care. Social investment has been a strategic policy response to new social risks. This conference explored what this approach has to offer for tackling this challenge? The SPRINT research project was funded by the European Commission to explore the application of the concept of social investment to the challenge of long-term care provision. At this event, SPRINT partners, together with policy-makers, other leading researchers, and social investment specialists, discussed policy perspectives, research findings, analytical tools, and innovative approaches to social finance. This was an opportunity to hear and share new ideas and to network with others interested in this issue. Keynote speakers: Bart Vanhercke and Slavina Spasova.

11/12/2018 – Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018 – Brussels – Presentation/Debate

Chair: Bart Vanhercke, Director, European Social Observatory (OSE). Key Speakers: Dalila Ghailani, Liina Carr, ETUC; Maxime Cerutti, BusinessEurope; Maurizio Ferrera, University of Milan; Sacha Garben, College of Europe; Marcel Haag, Sec Gen, EC; Max Koch, University of Lund; Ana Carla Pereira, DG EMPL, EC; Philippe Pochet, ETUI; Sebastiano Sabato, OSE; Slavina Spasova, OSE; Mathijn Wilkens, Eurofound.

To mark the 19th edition of their flagship publication, the European Social Observatory (OSE) and the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) held a presentation-debate. A dominant issue in this annual review was the way in which the European Pillar of Social Rights has influenced EU policy making even before it was politically endorsed. The book examines the impact of the Pillar's new 'rights-based social investment approach' while also questioning if the Pillar could encourage a fully-fledged 'European Social Union'. But will it also be able to steer the EU's macroeconomic policies? This volume looks at social protection of the self-employed, recent progress in occupational health and the impact of the digital transition on job quality. Eco-social policies need to be put on the agenda urgently – but at whose expense?

5. UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL: TEAM MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16/01/2018 – Belgian Commission for medical supply planning, Brussels

Rita Baeten gave a presentation, with Willy Palm, on ‘planning and regulating the health workforce in a European perspective’ to the ‘Commission de planification – offre médicale’ in Belgium.

25/01/2018 – Social Protection Committee, Working Group on Ageing, – Brussels

Bart Vanhercke presented the OSE/ETUI edited volume ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of the play 2017’ to the members of this sub-Committee of the SPC.

26/01/2018 – Research seminar, Queen’s University, Belfast

Bart Vanhercke presented his views on ‘Socializing’ the EMU through the European Semester, during a JCME TREUP Research Seminar on EMU, New Economic Governance and Social Justice.

09/02/2018 – Eurofound/OSE joint event, Brussels

Dalila Ghailani and Slavina Spasova presented the ESPN report on ‘Access to social protection for non-standard workers and the self-employed’ at this event on Self-employment in Europe: Labour market and social protection.

20/02/2018 – ROSEnet 3rd European Policy Seminar, Brussels

Bart Vanhercke participated in a panel discussion on Positioning of Older People in Public Policy during this policy seminar on Sustainable Ageing: Older people and European public policy beyond 2020’, organized as part of the COST Action ‘Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe: Collaborations in Research and Policy’.

23/02/2018 – RE-Invest meeting, Paris

Rita Baeten and Sebastiano Sabato presented the key findings of their research ‘Towards inclusive service delivery through social investment: the case of health service’ at a meeting of this Horizon2020 project on ‘Rebuilding an inclusive, value-based Europe of solidarity and trust through social investments’.

05/03/2018 – ‘Social Policy in the EU: state of play 2017’, Book presentation/Public debate, European Parliament, Brussels

Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke presented their views during the launch event of the edited volume ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017’. The event was hosted by Philippe Lamberts – MEP, co-Chair of the Greens/EFA Group.

23/03/ 2018 – Employment Committee, Sofia

Bart Vanhercke presented the OSE/ETUI edited volume 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017' to the members of this EU-Committee.

15-16/03/2018 – European Social Policy Network Meeting (ESPN), Brussels

Rita Baeten, Stéphanie Coster, Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke spoke at this ESPN expert meeting on pension adequacy, challenges in long-term care, indicators as well as dissemination and guidelines, while acting as chairs/discussants.

15/03/2018 – OECD Expert Workshop, Paris

Slavina Spasova presented the ESPN Synthesis report on 'Access to social protection for people working on non-standard contracts and as self-employed in Europe' at the OECD Expert Workshop on 'Policy responses to new forms of work'.

27/03/2018 – ETUC Netlex Conference, Ghent

Bart Vanhercke shared his views on the socialisation of the European Semester during this ETUC event on 'Making the rights real for workers'.

5-6/04/2018 – CNV/WOW-Europe/EZA Seminar Utrecht, Netherlands

Bart Vanhercke presented a state of play of recent social developments in the EU in 2017 at this seminar on The Future of Europe – the social dimension.

17/04/2018 – European Commission reflection seminar with civil society, Brussels

Bart Vanhercke gave a presentation on 'Socializing the European Semester: EU social and economic policy co-ordination in crisis and beyond' at a European Commission seminar on 'The Social Pillar and European Semester as tools for delivering social Europe'.

17/04/2018 – ETUI Monthly forum, Brussels

Dalila Ghailani presented her report on measures related to work-life balance in the European Union during the ETUI Monthly Forum on 'Is the European Union ready to commit on work-life balance?'.

25/04/2019 – Saint-Louis University seminar, Brussels

Bart Vanhercke gave a keynote speech at this seminar on 'Protection sociale, politique de l'emploi et inégalités : quel rôle pour l'UE ?'.

04/05/2018 – Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Louvain-la-Neuve

Rita Baeten gave a guest lecture on 'Soins de santé sur le plan européen, Enjeux et impacts sur la politique de santé en Belgique'.

04/05/2018 – Groupe Fédéral Indicateurs Sociaux, Brussels

Stéphanie Coster and Ramón Peña-Casas presented a comparative review of the evolution of social and economic inequalities in Belgium.

08/05/2018 – Journée d'étude Europe 2018 FEC/CSC, Brussels

Bart Vanhercke spoke about the 'Défis actuels et scénarios futurs pour la protection sociale européenne' at the conference on 'Le futur du travail en Europe' at the European Economic and Social Committee.

16/05/2018 – Social Protection Committee (SPC), Brussels

Bart Vanhercke presented the edited volume 'Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2017' to the members of the SPC.

07/06/2018 – EPSU Social Dialogue & Collective Bargaining Conference, Brussels

Ramón Peña-Casas presented the final results of the project 'Impact of digitalisation on job quality in public services - Homecare and Public Employment Services' at EPSU's General Assembly.

22/06/2018 – Jean Monnet Summer Course, Amsterdam

Bart Vanhercke presented his views on 'Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights' during a summer course on EU Labour Law Perspectives: Enhancing the EU Social Pillar.

31/05/2018 – Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC) meeting, Sofia

Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke gave a joint presentation on 'Social policy in the EU, a state of play: towards new work-life balance policies' during the MISSOC meeting.

26/06/2018 – Eurocarers Policy Working Group, Brussels

Slavina Spasova presented the Synthesis report on 'Challenges in long-term care in Europe' during the meeting of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group, made up of national affiliates.

27/06/2018 - Seminar – EPSU/Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Ver.di, Berlin

Ramón Peña-Casas presented the final results of the project 'Impact of digitalisation on job quality in public services – Homecare and Public Employment Services' at this joint seminar on 'How trade unions can use collective bargaining to uphold and improve working conditions in the context of the digital transformation of public services?'.

28/06/2018 – ESN European Semester Meeting, Brussels

Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke presented the preliminary findings from the cross-country analysis at the European Social Network Reference Group meeting.

02/07/2018 – Conference on 'Pension adequacy in a changing society', Brussels

Bart Vanhercke chaired the European Commission's flagship event, organized to present the 'Pension Adequacy report' (PAR) 2018.

17-18/09/2018 – Social Protection Committee, Vienna

Slavina Spasova presented the Synthesis report on ‘Challenges in long-term care in Europe, national policies on long-term care in Europe’ at the informal SPC Meeting organized by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

05/10/2018 – ACCESS Europe, Amsterdam

Sebastiano Sabato presented his views at an ACCESS Europe conference on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

4-5/10/2018 – European Social Policy Network Meeting (ESPN), Brussels

Bart Vanhercke and Slavina Spasova presented at this ESPN expert meeting their report on ‘Inequalities in access to healthcare’ and its dissemination/planning, while acting as chairs/discussants.

8-9/10/2018 – European Public Service Unions (EPSU) conference, Brussels

Sebastiano Sabato, Ramón Peña-Casas and Bart Vanhercke presented initial research findings at this EPSU conference on ‘Effective Intervention in the European Semester’, as part of the EFISTU research project.

24/10/2018 – Joint Federation of European Social Employers & EPSU seminar: Brussels

Ramón Peña-Casas presented the final results of the project ‘Impact of digitalisation on job quality in public services – Homecare Work’ at this joint seminar on ‘Digitalisation in social services: defining opportunities for social partners, barriers and how to prepare for the future’.

30/10/2018 – SPRINT (H2020) Project Final Conference, European Parliament, Brussels

Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke jointly presented their views on ‘Social investment and national policies on long-term care in Europe’ during this Horizon 2020 Final Conference on ‘Social investment in affordable and quality long-term care. Theory, challenges and applications’.

21/11/2018, HIVA – Research Institute for Work and Society, Leuven

Bart Vanhercke presented the edited volume on ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018’ during a HIVA/KUleuven lecture.

28/11/2018 – Social Protection Committee (SPC), Brussels

Rita Baeten presented the results of the ESPN Synthesis Report on ‘Inequalities in access to healthcare’ to the members of the SPC.

29/11/2018 – MISSOC Network Meeting, Vienna

Rita Baeten presented the ESPN report on ‘Challenges in long-term care’ to this meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection/Social Security.

30/11/ 2018 – MISSOC Network Meeting, Vienna

Rita Baeten presented the ESPN report on ‘Inequalities in access to healthcare’ to this meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection/Social Security.

09/12/2018 – European Policy Center (EPC), Brussels

Slavina Spasova spoke on ‘Gaps in social protection for the self-employed’ to the EPC ‘Task Force on ‘Social protection in the 21st century’.

11/12/2018 – Conference ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018’, Brussels

Dalila Ghailani, Sebastiano Sabato, Slavina Spasova and Bart Vanhercke presented their views during the launch event of the edited volume ‘Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018’.

12/12/2018 – Service Public Fédéral (SPF) Sécurité sociale, Brussels

Slavina Spasova gave a presentation on ‘gaps in social protection for the self-employed’, drawing on the ESPN Synthesis report.

6. OUTPUT DATA: THE OSE'S REACH

6.1 PUBLICATIONS [TO BE UPDATED]

As illustrated in Table 1, the OSE team has produced **24** publications in 2018 (as compared to 30 in 2017). This number includes eight book chapters, five journal articles, as well as two books/edited volumes, two papers and six reports. In addition, one digest has been written. The details of these OSE publications are given in Section 7 below.

Table 1. Type and number of OSE publications in 2018

Type of publication	Number
Articles	5
Papers	2
Reports	6
Book chapters	8
Digest, book review, opinion	1
Edited Volumes/books	2
Total	24

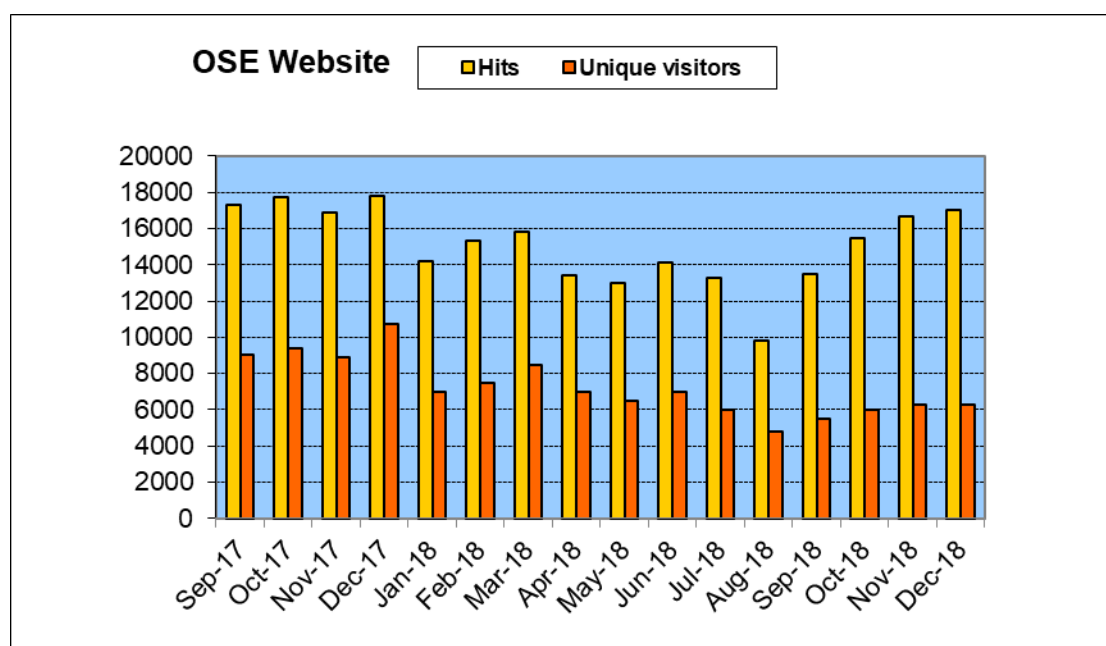
Since 2012, publications by OSE researchers have been cited well over 3,000 times in the scholarly literature, across an array of publishing formats and disciplines (Source: Google Scholar). Google Scholar harvests publications from all across the internet, giving students and researchers easy access to the OSE's work through the familiar format of Google. However, it should be noted that Google Scholar is largely limited to English publications, while the OSE continues to publish in French and (occasionally) Dutch. Google Scholar also fails to include the most up-to-date version of publications, as there is a two-month lag between publication and appearance on Google Scholar. Most importantly, such a citation tool obviously obscures the fact that some OSE publications may not be quoted but are actively used as background material (e.g. for stakeholders and policymakers) and food for thought for internal discussions (e.g. in European institutions) while other publications (e.g. some of the deliverables written for the European institutions) are published without the author's name.

6.2 THE OSE WEBSITE: STRUCTURE AND VISITORS

The OSE website is available in [English](#) and [French](#), and is structured as follows:

- The welcome page highlights the latest news, events, publications, activities, and appearances in the media of the OSE;
- The ‘Contact’ page explains how to reach the OSE, both electronically and physically, while the ‘Team’ page provides information (incl. publications) on most team members;
- The ‘Agenda’ section displays upcoming events hosted by the OSE (and affiliates) detailing the event’s content, date, location, and contact information, as well as various network activities;
- Information about past events is available through a link on this page;
- Many OSE publications can be accessed through the ‘[Publications](#)’ page, which provides a chronological list of published works by present and past OSE researchers, including the OSE Working Paper Series. Sorted by year, the prolific ‘Publications’ section displays the commitment shown by the OSE researchers to their subjects.
- On the ‘project’ page, interested readers can find current and past projects the OSE team participated in with links to key documents and partners in OSE research;
- Finally, the ‘Links’ page is a tool for additional research, as it gives an extensive list of various NGOs, institutions, organisations, research fields, etc.

As illustrated in Graph 1 and Table 2, the total number of hits on the OSE website varied between 9,800 and 16,995 hits per month in 2018. The number of unique visitors – which are counted only once no matter how many times they visit the site – ranges between 4,800 and 8,500 visitors per month: on average, more than 6,000 unique visitors came to visit every month.

Graph 1: Visitors and unique visitors per month to the OSE website

Source: AWAT Service linked to web hosting

The OSE website is given a light update on a weekly basis and is fully updated on the occasion of every OSE Flash News publication or new OSE event. We have started to work on the new OSE website (using Drupal Open Source content management system), to make it easier to include multimedia content and sharing functions and to manage the content, and in order to have an attractive layout on a range of devices (PC, tablet, smartphone).

Table 2: Traffic on the OSE website

<i>Month</i>	<i>Hits</i>	<i>Unique Visitors</i>
January 2018	14200	7000
February 2018	15300	7500
March 2018	15800	8500
April 2018	13400	7000
May 2018	13000	6500
June 2018	14100	7000
July 2018	13300	6000
August 2018	9800	4800
September 2018	13500	5500
October 2018	15500	6000
November 2018	16650	6280
December 2018	16995	6248
Average	14,295	6,527

6.3 OSE PUBLICATIONS: DOWNLOADS

A single OSE Working Paper has been issued in the OSE Working Paper Series in 2018. The Series will be revamped in 2019, with 10 papers scheduled so far.

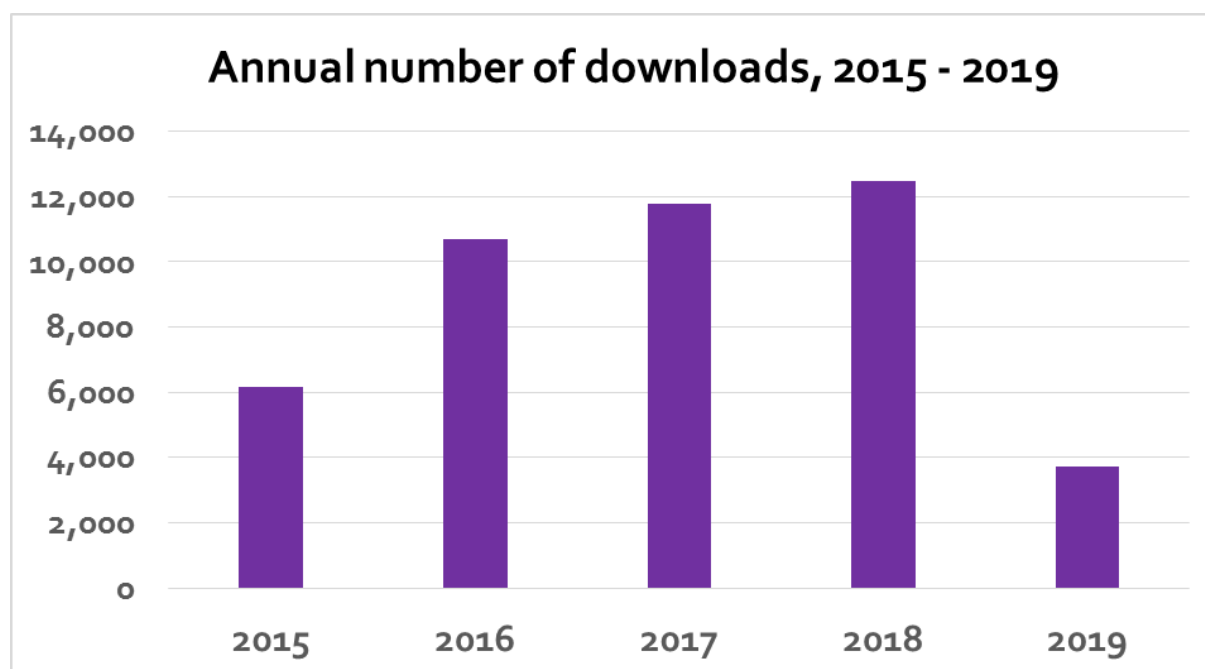
Table 3. OSE Working Paper issued in 2018: downloads from Website

	<i>Number of downloads</i>
The EU's Youth Guarantee: a broadly accepted reform in need of full implementation - Andor L. and Veselý L. (2018) OSE Paper Series, Opinion Paper No.19, January 2018, 22p.	1,050

If we include all the Working papers of the Series published until December 2018 – 67 working papers: 35 Research Papers, 20 Opinion Papers and 12 Briefing Papers – the number of downloads during 2018 exceeds **20,000**. The data indicates that older OSE Papers **continue to be downloaded** in significant numbers in the years after they have been published.

Another indication of the OSE's reach is dissemination of the **ESPN Synthesis Reports**, to which the OSE team actively contributes – mostly as (lead) authors – for all issues concerning the broad area of 'Social Protection'. Synthesis reports have been brought to the attention of the Social Protection Committee (In-Depth Reviews-IDR), the SPC's Working Group on Ageing, the SPC's Indicators Subgroup, MISSOC meeting, several EU Presidency conferences, the ETUC, European NGOs etc. Synthesis Reports are also featured in the 'Social Europe e-newsletter' (DG EMPL website), as 'Social Developments' News (DG EMPL website), on the OSE and ESPN Web pages, through social media (incl. the ESPN ResearchGate page) etc.

This has resulted in impressive download figures of the ESPN Synthesis reports (data provided by the European Commission, March 2019):

Graph 2:

6.4 OSE NEWSLETTERS

The OSE Newsletter ('OSE Flash News' since 2018) was launched in September 2009, and the 'European Health Care News' in 2006.

The Health care Newsletter is sent by the NIHDI/RIZIV/INAMI to the NIHDI's General Council and Insurance Committee, which include the key stakeholders of the Belgian national health insurance system. Additionally, it is published on the NIHDI and OSE website and disseminated by the OSE to its registered readership.

Both newsletters have continuously increased their readership, which has now reached more than 1,200 for the Health Newsletter (published in three languages) and more than 1,500 for the 'OSE Flash News' (see Table 4). In compliance with the GDPR rules, we work with an 'opt-in registration system' for both. This means that the newsletter and Flash News are only sent to persons who decide to subscribe after they received an invitation to do so by e-mail.

Table 4. OSE Newsletters: 2018 readership

	Number of subscribers (opt-in)
OSE Flash News	1,512
European Health Care News	1,247

7. FOOD FOR THOUGHT: OSE PUBLICATIONS IN 2018

Andor L. and Veselý L. (2018) 'The EU's Youth Guarantee: a broadly accepted reform in need of full implementation', OSE Working Paper Series, Opinion Paper No.19, Brussels, European Social Observatory (OSE), 22p.

Azzopardi-Muscat N., Baeten R. *et al.* (2018) 'The role of the 2011 patients' rights in cross-border health care directive in shaping seven national health systems: Looking beyond patient mobility', *Health Policy*, 122 (3), 279–283.

Baeten R. and Ghailani D. (2018) 'Wat als ziekenhuiszorgen in het buitenland in gunstiger medische omstandigheden kunnen gebeuren? Onderzoek naar de toestemmingen verleend door de Belgische ziekenfondsen', *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Sociale Zekerheid*, 2017 (1), 53-96.

Baeten R. and Ghailani D. (2017) 'Et si les soins hospitaliers pouvaient être administrés dans de meilleures conditions médicales à l'étranger ? Enquête sur les autorisations préalables accordées par les mutuelles belges', *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale*, 2017 (1), 51-93. [Published 2018]

Baeten R. and Sabato S., Signorelli P., Moth R. and Neary D. (2018), Towards inclusive service delivery through social investment: the case of health services, Deliverable 6.3, project Rebuilding an Inclusive, Value-based Europe of Solidarity and Trust through Social Investments (RE-INVEST) (H2020), November.

Baeten R., Spasova S., Vanhercke B. and Coster S. (2018) 'Inequalities in access to healthcare. A study of national policies', European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Brussels, European Commission.

Barbier C. (2018) Digest européen – Digest international, *Revue Belge de Sécurité Sociale*, (2018) 1.

Barbier C. (2018) L'Union européenne en 2017 : les faits marquants, in Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) *Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018*, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 187-204.

Ghailani D. (2018) 'Brief overview of measures related to work-life balance in the European Union. Country sheets', Brussels, European Social Observatory (OSE), 38p.

Ghailani D. and Peña-Casas, R. (2018) 'Occupational Welfare in Belgium: wide coverage, low benefits', in Natali, D., Pavolini, E. with Vanhercke, B. (Eds), *Occupational Welfare in Europe: Risks, opportunities and social partner involvement*, 2018, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 125-146.

Natali D. and Pavolini E. with Vanhercke B. (2018) 'Occupational Welfare in Europe: state of play, determinants and policy implications', in Natali D., Pavolini E. with Vanhercke B. (eds.) *Occupational Welfare in Europe: Risks, opportunities and social partner involvement*, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 239-257.

Natali D., Pavolini E. with Vanhercke B. (eds.) (2018) 'Occupational Welfare in Europe: Risks, opportunities and social partner involvement', Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 267p.

Peña-Casas R., Ghailani D. and Coster S. (2018) 'The impact of digitalisation on job quality in European public services. The case of homecare and employment service workers', Final Report. European Social Observatory (OSE) and European Public Service Union (EPSU), 41p.

Peña-Casas R., Ghailani D. and Coster S. (2018) 'Digital transition in the European Union: what impacts on job quality?', in Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 117-134.

Sabato S. (2018) 'Linking Lisbon and Europe 2020: the 'peer reviews' in the Social OMC', in Jessoula M. and Madama I. (eds.), A chance for social Europe. Europe2020 and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, Routledge, 166-185.

Sabato S. and Corti F. (2018), 'The times they are a-changin'?' The European pillar of social rights from debates to reality check', in Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 51-70.

Sabato S., Agostini C. Natili M. and Jessoula M. (2018) 'Europe 2020 and the fight against poverty: from the target to governance', in Jessoula M. and Madama I. (eds.), A chance for social Europe. Europe2020 and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, Routledge, 14-35.

Sabato S., Ghailani D., Peña-Casas R., Spasova S., Corti F. and Vanhercke B. (2018) 'Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights: what is needed to guarantee a positive social impact', Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee, 45p.

Spasova S. and Vanhercke B. (2018) 'The 'generosity' of pensions for workers in hard jobs: in need of a nuanced debate', ETUI Policy Brief, 2018(12), Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), 7p.

Spasova S. and Wilkens M. (2018) 'The social situation of the self-employed in Europe: labour market issues and social protection', in Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 97-116.

Spasova S., Baeten R. and Vanhercke B. (2018) 'Challenges in long-term care in Europe', Eurohealth, 24 (4) Brussels: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 7-12.

Spasova S., Baeten R., Coster S., Ghailani D., Peña-Casas R. and Vanhercke B. (2018) 'Challenges in long-term care in Europe. A study of national policies 2018', European Social Policy Network (ESPN), Brussels, European Commission.

Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (2018) 'Conclusions – The European Pillar of Social Rights as a game changer', in Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) Social policy in the European Union: state of play 2018, Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE), 165-186.

Vanhercke B., Ghailani D. and Sabato S. (eds.) (2018) 'Social Policy in the European Union: State of Play 2018', Brussels, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) and European Social Observatory (OSE).