

# ABSTRACTS

## **Pieter Vanhuysse: Intergenerational Justice and Public Policy in Europe**

Wide across the advanced world, people are living longer lives and having fewer children. Population aging wide across the advanced welfare states has led to a renewed popular awareness of the notion of justice between the generations, but also to renewed academic interest. However, efforts to measure intergenerational justice empirically have largely lagged behind. How can we improve policies when we do not know the state of affairs in terms of intergenerational justice in *practice*? At the request of the Bertelsmann Stiftung, I have therefore developed a simple four-dimensional snapshot indicator to improve the cognitive toolkit of academics, journalists and policymakers. This article reports on the Intergenerational Justice Index (*IJI*), and on how EU member states perform along its four dimensions.

## **Mária Monika Váradi: Productive public work programme in peripheral regions**

The public work programme is applied by the government as the virtually universal means of combating unemployment and poverty. Within the Hungarian workfare system the so called “start” productive programs are implemented in disadvantaged communities of the country. In the frame of the productive public work programs local governments organize agricultural production employing the most reliable and motivated group of the unemployed people and providing cheap food for local catering. The local productive programs are expected by the government to become economically independent, but as local experiences show, the market embeddedness of the local programs is rather weak and accidental. For the unemployed, participating in the local public work became the preferred alternative over the (re)entry into the first labour market, thus the program does not meet its object of reintegration. In addition, it significantly weakens the ties of public workers to the world of the informal labour market. The amount of wages offered for public work is higher than that of the social welfare, it can increase the incomes of poor families, but it is not enough to help them out of poverty.

## **Balázs Krémer: On our tunnel views, jam-ins, deceives – new insights on social help-users, helpers and social policies**

This paper aims at confess readers on two issues. Firstly, in favor of achieving and deliberating ideas on meaningful, proper, wise and efficient social help, we need to break out from tunnel views rooted in scarcities, we must gain wider “bandwidth” – time to think and read, time and connections for discussing or

simply for chatting with our colleagues. Secondly, even if it is not a receipt for any panacea finding out any final solution – but for gaining bandwidth I do recommend to read and study new and important books of behavioral economics. Frankly speaking, hereby I reviewed and interpreted major books, also I shared my awkward conclusions and consequences derived from my readings by hoping to provoke and tease the readers for doing so: gaining bandwidths for better and more relevant views on social issues.