



8. Research Conference Social Policy

ESPAnet Austria – CALL FOR PAPERS

9.–10. April 2026, WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

We would like to cordially invite you to the 8th Research Conference of ESPAnet Austria – the network of social policy researchers in Austria. The ESPAnet Austria network has been promoting academic exchange on social policy for several years. Social policy research in Austria is a multi- and transdisciplinary field that draws on various disciplines and different theoretical and methodological perspectives to address a broad range of topics. The research conferences organised by ESPAnet Austria aim to contribute to deepening scientific discourse and facilitating exchange across disciplinary, theoretical and methodological differences.

The 8th Research Conference will take place on **9–10 April 2026** at **WU-Vienna University of Economics and Business**.

Call for Papers

We warmly invite established researchers as well as early-career researchers (doctoral or PhD students) to participate in the Call for Papers and submit abstracts on their social policy research topics. As interdisciplinary exchange is particularly important to us, we invite colleagues from different disciplines to present their theoretical or empirical work for discussion in a multidisciplinary environment.

The research conference will focus on social policy research in Austria and social policy research on Austria, analyses from a regional, national or comparative perspective, as well as in a European or global context.

Abstracts

Abstract submissions should include the following information:

- Title of the paper
- Name(s) of author(s)
- Abstract with information on background and research question, method or approach, results and discussion (maximum length: 300 words)
- Institution, e-mail addresses of the author(s)

Submissions are possible until 17 November 2025. Please send abstracts to espanet_at@wu.ac.at.

Conference details

- Date: 9–10 April 2026 (starting/ending at noon to allow for arrival/departure on the respective days)
- Venue: Vienna University of Economics and Business (Welthandelsplatz 1, 1020 Vienna)
- Conference fee: €70
- Conference languages are German and English
- Local organisation: Karin Heitzmann and August Österle, WU
- Contact: espanet_at@wu.ac.at

ESPAnet (www.espanet.org)

ESPAnet (The European Network for Social Policy Analysis) is a network of European researchers in the field of social policy research. The network was founded in 2002 to promote the development of research and teaching in social policy analysis and to support interdisciplinary exchange and cooperation between researchers.

ESPAnet Austria (<https://www.wu.ac.at/sozialpolitik/espanet-austria>)

ESPAnet Austria follows the objectives of ESPAnet and strives in particular to achieve the following goals:

- Promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary exchange and cooperation among social policy researchers in Austria
- Supporting young researchers in developing their skills and knowledge in social policy analysis

ESPAnet Austria focuses on the following areas

- Austrian social policy
- Austrian social policy from a comparative European and global perspective
- International and supranational social policy and its significance for social policy in Austria
- Promoting the visibility of social policy research in Austria