

Health Economics and Policy

Annual Report 2022



WU

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UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS

Health Economics and Policy (HEP) Division

2022 Annual Activity Report

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1 HIGHLIGHTS

- The HEP team published 5 more articles in **international academic journals** and 1 report for the European Union Joint Research Centre.
- Daniela Weber was awarded as Co-PI a grant (529,920€, with Valeria Bordone from University of Vienna) from the **Life Sciences 2022 – Public Health call from the Vienna Science and Technology Fund**. This 4-year project will investigate cognitive health in aging society with a particular focus on the role of context for cognitive functioning and related policy implications in Europe.
- Marcel Bilger was awarded as Co-PI with **funding from the Austrian Social Health insurance (ÖGK)**. This 3-year funding (162,000€) has made it possible for HEP to hire a new Prae Doc Research Assistant. The aim is to develop of a survey for the routine collection of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austrian outpatient care.
- In collaboration with the WU Institute for Social Policy, the HEP team continues teaching and managing the **5-course WU Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy**. This specialization meets a strong demand and runs at its full capacity of 30 new Bachelor's students per semester.
- The HEP team continues organizing the **2024 European Health Economics Association (EUHEA) Conference**, in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and Gesundheit Österreich GmbH.

2 THE HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY DIVISION

2.1 THE TEAM

Marcel Bilger, Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Head of Division

Marcel Bilger holds a Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences with a specialization in Econometrics and Statistics from the University of Geneva. During his doctoral studies, he completed the International Doctoral Program in Health Economics and Policy from the Swiss School of Public Health+. After his Ph.D., Marcel worked as a Consultant for the Development Research Group at the World Bank, and as a Post-doctoral Research Scholar at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. As a tenure-track Assistant Professor, he then led the Laboratory of Health Econometrics in the Signature Program for Health Services and Systems Research at Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore while being Assistant Director for Education in the Program. Marcel has joined the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2018 as the new Head of the Health Economics and Policy Group.



During his career, Marcel has published in leading journals in health economics, health services research, and medicine as well as a book on health equity and financial protection. He is deeply passionate about the equity and sustainability of health systems. His work also includes the study of modifiable health risk factors such as obesity, lack of physical activity, and non-adherence to medications. In his new position, he now aims at offering innovative courses in health economics and policy in close partnership with the healthcare industry. His research objectives include developing a new framework that will consider both efficiency and equity considerations in efforts to guide health policymaking in Austria and internationally. His ultimate goal is to contribute to health equity and to the strengthening of health systems, while simultaneously training the next generation of leaders.

Hannah Lou Harrison, Administrative Assistant

Hannah Lou has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and is currently finishing her Master in the same subject. She arrived at HEP in October 2021 and worked as an administrative assistant until the end of 2022. During this time, she ensured that administrative processes ran smoothly and were streamlined. Furthermore, Hannah Lou helped with the realization of the organization of conferences with up to 1000 participants and completed important missions for several of HEP's research projects. Due to her scientific background, she was able to familiarise herself quickly and systematically with the tasks and gained detailed insights into the research field of health economics and policy. In 2023, she will transition to the position of student assistant in the HEP research project PRÖMS.



Sophie Guthmuller, Assistant Professor



Sophie Guthmuller holds a Ph.D. in Economics with a specialization in Health Economics from Paris Dauphine University. During her doctoral studies, she completed the International Doctoral Program in Health Economics and Policy from the Swiss School of Public Health+. After her Ph.D. and thanks to this expertise, Sophie has worked on several health econometrics projects and various economic evaluation projects within multi-disciplinary and international research teams. First as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bordeaux School of Public Health (ISPED) in France, then as Research Fellow in the Academic Unit of Health Economics of the University of Leeds in the UK. Finally, as Economic Analyst at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, she has

particularly applied her expertise in public policy evaluation methods at the European level. Sophie has joined the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2020 as tenure track Assistant Professor in the Health Economics and Policy Group. Since October 2020, she is also part of the RWI Research Network <https://www.rwi-essen.de/en/forschung-beratung/weitere/rwi-research-network/team>. Her research has led to papers published in French and international peer-reviewed journals, and was granted two PhD prizes. Her research interests include health economics, public policy evaluation and applied econometrics.

Daniela Weber, Research Assistant Professor

Daniela Weber completed a master in technical mathematics from the Vienna University of Technology, a master in Statistics from the University of Vienna and a doctorate with distinction in Social and Economic Sciences from the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Next to her assistant professorship within the HEP division, she is also a research scholar within the Population and Just Societies Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg. Her research focuses on the demographic and economic perspectives in research on aging and health. She published her research findings in several high level journals such as PNAS, Scientific Reports or PlosOne. "Aging Health Capital" is her ongoing project funded by OEAW with the prestigious APART GSK grant.



Viktoria Szenkurök, PhD student



Viktoria Szenkurök joined the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in November 2020 as a Teaching and Research Associate. Her dissertation project deals with inequalities in the use and provision of informal and formal long-term care. Viktoria received her Master's degree (MSc) in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2020. In her Master thesis she analysed the linkage between demographic trends, poverty and income inequality. As Teaching and Research Associate her scientific research focus lies on the economics of health, ageing and distribution.

In her first research project, she is working with both macro- and micro-level data to investigate socio-economic and societal differences in the use of home care services by older adults in Europe. Viktoria's second project extends previous knowledge by examining the causal effects of receiving cash benefits on the use of (informal) care. Finally, her third research project emphasizes the caregivers' perspective, focusing on wage differentials.

Maddalena Josefin Lamura, Research Assistant

Since November 2021, Maddalena J. Lamura is a research assistant at the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. She collaborates in a mixed methods study, researching the spread of precarious working conditions in online platform work and how these impact workers' health. Maddalena attained her Master degree (MSc) in Socio-ecological Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in October 2021. During the Master, she specialized in Ecological economics, Social policy and Advanced qualitative and quantitative methods. Her research interests lie in the potential for the digitalisation of work to support the socio-ecological transformation, encompassing both micro (working conditions) and macro (eco-social policies) perspectives.



Susanne Drexler, Doctoral researcher



Susanne Drexler joined the Department of Health Economics and Policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in July 2022 as a doctoral researcher. She works on PRÖMS, a third-party financed project in collaboration with the Austrian Social Health insurance (ÖGK) aimed at the development of an instrument for the routine collection of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in primary care. Susanne completed an Erasmus Mundus Master in Health Economics and Management (MSc) with a specialisation in Global Health at the University of Oslo, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the University in Bologna in December 2021 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Vienna. Before joining the HEP division, Susanne worked as a research assistant at the Norwegian Institute for Public Health (FHI) and the Institute of Advanced Studies (IHS) where she has contributed to several reports and publications. Her research interests include health policy evaluation, health equity, and health system sustainability.

Dominik Klaus, PhD student

Dominik Klaus has received a Master's degree in Socioeconomics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Vienna. He has visited the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt for a research stay and he is engaged in the Austrian Association for Sociology as a council member of the section Sociology of Work. Before joining the HEP team, he received an ÖAW scholarship and a research position at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Vienna. His dissertation project deals with recognition and blurring boundaries in digital remote work. Other research interests include new forms of employment, digital service work and decent sustainable work. Next to his research, Dominik teaches courses on the topics of Socioeconomic Theories, Sustainability, Sociology of Work, Social Policy and Literature Research.





Thomas Arnhold, Research Assistant

Thomas Arnhold works as a research assistant at WU's Department of Health Economics and Policy, where he collaborates in the research project Aging Health Capital. Next to working at HEP, Thomas is currently pursuing his Economics Master's at WU. In his studies, Thomas Arnhold specialized in the application of quantitative methods in Health Economics, Behavioral Economics, and Development Economics.

Sabina Kantorova, Tutor

Sabina joined the team as a tutor and assistant in August 2022. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business, Economics and Social Sciences with a focus on Socioeconomics from WU Vienna and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Socioeconomics at WU. She supports the team in organizational, research and teaching tasks. Furthermore, she is currently assisting in the research project focusing on the health and working conditions of platform workers. Sabina is currently starting to work on her master's thesis under supervision of Sophie Guthmuller. The thesis will focus on socioeconomic differences and their effects on the uptake and success rates of breast cancer and colorectal cancer screenings in Austria. Her research interests lie in behavioral economics and its implementation to existing policies.



For more information and for the long-version CVs of all the members, please visit the HEP website:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/hep>

2.2 CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

Administrative Assistant

Hannah Lou Harrison covered this position throughout December 2022 and will be replaced by Maddalena Josefin Lamura starting January 2023.

New PhD Students

Susanne Drexler has joined the Division in July 2022. Her position is funded by an external research grant.

Dominik Klaus has joined the Division in July 2022. His position is funded by an external research grant.

New Research assistant

Thomas Arnold joined the Division in October 2022 to support Dr. Weber in the project "Aging Health Capital". His position is funded by OEAW Apart.

New Tutor

Sabina Kantorova joined the Division in September 2022.

3 RESEARCH

The overarching objective of HEP's research effort is to generate new empirical results, methods, and theoretical frameworks that inform health policy making.

3.1 PUBLICATIONS

Guthmuller Sophie. 2022. Loneliness among older adults in Europe: The relative importance of early and later life conditions. PLoS ONE. 17 (5), e0267562.

Guthmuller Sophie, Meroni Elena C., 2022. Evaluation of the higher education grant system for less privileged students in Portugal. Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union.

Klaus Dominik, Hofbauer Johanna, 2022. Schwerpunktheft "Digitalisierung der Arbeitswelt". Virtuelle Assistent*innen: Ambivalente Erwerbs- und Anerkennungschancen. Zeitschrift für Diversitätsforschung und -management. 7 (1), 63-67.

Oberndorfer Moritz, Dorner Thomas E., Leyland Alastair H., Grabovac Igor, Schober Thomas, Šramek Lukas, **Bilger Marcel**, 2022. The challenges of measuring social cohesion in public health research: a systematic review and econometric meta-analysis. SSM-Population Health, 101028.

Spitzer Sonja, Shaikh Mujaheed, **Weber Daniela**, 2022. Older Europeans' health perception and their adaptive behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. European Journal of Public Health. 32 (2), 322-327.

Weber Daniela, Loichinger Elke. 2022. Live longer, retire later? Developments of healthy life expectancies and working life expectancies between age 50–59 and age 60–69 in Europe. European Journal of Ageing, 19 (1).

3.2 ACTIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

Guthmuller S. (PI), Heger D., Wübker A. Project 1 "Loneliness amongst older adults" in Research Area C) of the Leibniz Science Campus Ruhr "Regional Variation in Health Care" that was granted 1.2 Million Euro in funding for 4 years, until the end of 2023.

Loneliness among the European ageing population

The objective of this research project is to study loneliness among ageing populations. More specifically, the aims include: (1) analysing the correlation between the rates of loneliness and living in a region with declining and ageing populations, (2) studying the impact of retirement on loneliness, (3) investigating the link between loneliness and health and health care use in ageing populations. To identify the causal impact of loneliness, advanced counterfactual impact evaluation methods will be used. More detailed information on this project is available here: <https://www.rwi-essen.de/lscr>.

Aging Health Capital

This project aims at investigating the development of old-age health capital from an international perspective. It will identify life course factors associated with cognitive and physical performance and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases of the 50+ population in Europe, the United States, and Asia using several comparable national panel surveys on health and aging. The factors are characteristics on the individual, regional/neighbourhood, and country level and are collected at different points during the life course. Results gained by this research project will be very important for policy makers as societies across the world face an aging population. Therefore, maintaining active older adults with high cognitive and physical capacities and intervene at proper time will be an important objective.

Weber D. (PI). Aging Health Capital: Evolution of physical and cognitive health over the life course from an international perspective. APART-GSK-Stipend by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (392,000€ for 4 years).

Weber D. (Co-PI), Robert Zniva (Co-PI). REdesigning HeAlth ProduCTs 2.0. Received from WISS-2025 by the Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung (120,000€ for 18 months, extended until June 2023).

REdesigning HeAlth ProduCTs 2.0

The objective of this project is to focus on the users' perspective when developing care products. The targeted region for this interdisciplinary project is Salzburg, where collaborations with partners from demand and supply side are confirmed. Two products used a lot in daily life by people in need of care are now under redesign to enable better usage and more support in daily routines.

Working conditions and health of crowdworkers

The increasing use of cloud computing facilitates the digitalisation of work and its platform-based outsourcing to an undefined amount of external workers. The effects on working conditions and the health of workers play an important role, but remain largely unexplored. The aim of the project is to empirically analyse precarious and health-endangering tendencies of virtual crowdworking, where work is done or uploaded directly in the interface of the platforms. Low-skilled work (microtasks) will be treated in the quantitative-qualitative mixed methods approach as well as demanding knowledge work (macrotasks).

Bilger M. (Co-PI), Barbara Haas (Co-PI). Precarious working conditions and health of crowdworkers? A mixed methods analysis of an online survey and qualitative interviews. Digitalisierungsfonds Arbeit 4.0 der AK Wien (150,849€ for 2 years).

Bilger M. (Co-PI), Noemi Kiss (Co-PI). PROMS-/PREMS-Instrument. Funded by Austrian Social Health insurance (ÖGK) (162,000€ for 3 years).

PRÖMS: PREMs and PROMs in outpatient care

This is a third-party financed project in collaboration with the Austrian Social Health Insurance (ÖGK) aimed at the development of a survey for the routine collection of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austrian outpatient care. Currently, the patient perspective is not included in care planning in Austria and existing PREM and PROM instruments do not address the patient-system relationship. The final survey will be implemented digitally and create a continuous feedback loop from patients to ÖGK supporting the ultimate aim of improving Austrian

outpatient care. Other results of this project, such as use of PREMs and PROMs in primary care, will be relevant for payers, policy makers, and decision makers in other jurisdictions.

3.3 OTHER ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Informal and Formal Long-Term Care Utilization and Unmet Needs in Europe: Examining Socioeconomic Inequalities and the Role of Institutional Arrangements

As the number of people with physical disabilities and limitations in daily activities increases, long-term care systems in Europe are under increasing pressure to meet these additional needs. The overarching goal of this research project is therefore to deepen our understanding of a socioeconomic gradient in older adult's use of home care services and determine whether it differs across countries with varying institutional, labour market and care supply characteristics. Methodologically we are using a two-part multilevel decomposition technique based on individual-level data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and a wide range of macro-level indicators drawn from various sources such as the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection database). The results of this study are particularly relevant for policymakers aiming to fill emerging gaps in current long-term care systems.

HEP researchers involved: *Marcel Bilger, Viktoria Szenkurök, Daniela Weber*

Cancer screening, diagnosis, and mortality in Europe

Cancer is a major social issue in Western societies because of its high incidence and high mortality risk that particularly affects aging societies. The good side of the coin is that cancer is in many cases avoidable, and early detection is key to increase the chance of cure. For that reason, many countries in Europe introduced organised screening programmes (OSP) for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer. However, there are large regional differences across Europe as to whether and when OSPs were introduced. We exploit these variations in this project to comprehensively evaluate OSP. The first OSPs in Europe date back to the 1980s and most of them are still active nowadays. However, after almost 40 years of implementation, a comprehensive evaluation of this policy is still missing. For instance, do OSPs have an impact on screening uptake? Do they reach the population at higher risk? Do OSPs help increasing early diagnoses and reducing mortality? Do OSPs impact inequality in healthcare use and health? This project aim is to fill this gap.

HEP researchers involved: *Sophie Guthmuller*

In collaboration with: *Vincenzo Carrieri (Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro) and Ansgar Wübker (RWI Essen, Hochschule Harz)*

Discrete Choice Experiments to Analyze Long-term Care Financing Preferences among Midlife Singaporeans

The past three decades have seen rapid population aging in advanced economies. In Singapore, the number of seniors with activity limitations is projected to more than double between 2010 and 2030. At the same time, nuclearization of families, increased labour force participation by women and increased population mobility has reduced the potential supply of informal caregivers around the world. Many governments now face the urgent challenge of financing and providing formal long-term care in a fiscally sustainable manner. One way to mitigate the financial burden on the public sector is by encouraging individuals to prepare for their own long-term care expenses through insurance. Globally, long-term care (LTC) insurance coverage rates are low and, for those who are enrolled, only part of their potential future LTC

expenses are covered. We propose to conduct a series of four surveys involving Singaporean citizens aged 40 to 49 to choose between hypothetical insurance plans and financing scenarios. The objective is to analyse the preferences of the respondents for different characteristics of LTC insurance plans and alternative financing mechanisms. Our overall aim is to increase financial protection against LTC costs in Singapore and internationally. This project was awarded a Health Services Research Competitive Grant from the Ministry of Health of Singapore (NMRC/HSRG/0069/2016).

HEP researchers involved: *Marcel Bilger*

In collaboration with: *Wan Chen Graham (Agency for Integrated Care, Singapore)*

Predicting Behavioral Change using Stated Preferences: Comparison of Preferences Expressed in a Discrete Choice Experiment to Results of a Randomized Controlled Trial on Pedometer-Based Activity Programs

Initially developed in marketing science, Discrete Choice Experiments (DCEs) are being applied in an increasing number of fields, including the environment, transportation, and health. While DCEs can be used to analyse a great variety of issues such as calculating market shares, quantifying the value of non-market goods, and predicting uptake of new services, all applications share a key feature that is intrinsic to DCEs: respondents need to trade between the attributes of the choice tasks they are presented with. The validity of all studies involving DCEs thus critically depends on the validity of the tradeoffs made by the respondents. A well-documented concern is that various hypothetical biases can affect the elicitation of these tradeoffs. The external validity of DCEs is currently under-researched because few settings provide the analyst with data on both revealed and stated preferences simultaneously. In this study, we administered a DCE to participants of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to make it possible to compare these two types of data. We focus on one type of hypothetical bias that can adversely affect the validity of DCEs. When an attribute relates to a behaviour, respondents might underestimate the effort that is required from them to change their behaviour and report unrealistic tradeoffs. While such potential bias can in theory apply to numerous settings, its study is especially relevant to health as respondents might be overly optimistic while stating not only their participation in new public health programs but also the extent of their involvement.

HEP researchers involved: *Marcel Bilger*

In collaboration with: *Eric Finkelstein and Isha Chaudhry (Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore)*

Targeted Incentives: On the Non-Fungibility of Incentives

Incentives for behaviour change generally yield small and short-lived benefits. We hypothesize that targeting incentives at an appropriate mental account can increase effectiveness. We test this hypothesis via a field experiment with taxi drivers. Half received a monetary reward for increased activity and half were offered the equivalent amount framed as the value of one day's taxi rental. Both groups increased activity levels—during and after the incentives were stopped—but the increase was significantly greater for those in the mental accounting treatment. Preliminary results support the non-fungibility of incentives and the value of targeting incentives at salient mental accounts.

HEP researchers involved: *Marcel Bilger*

In collaboration with: *Eric Finkelstein (Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore)*

Trends in Socioeconomic Inequality in Obesity among Children and Adults in the United States

In a period of steady increase in income inequality, it is crucial to monitor the relationship between income and health. Given the considerable health and economic burden of obesity, such monitoring helps tailoring the medical and policy response to the epidemic, and planning the financing of obesity-related costs. To quantify socioeconomic inequality in obesity and the obesity gap between poor and non-poor in 2015-2016, and examine trends from 1999 through 2016 in these measures. The data analysed consists of pooled datasets that include measured weight and height from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) over the 1999-2016 period. Each dataset is cross-sectional and nationally-representative of the US civilian noninstitutionalized population over a 2-year period. Child (2 to 19), working adult (20 to 65) and older adult (66 to 85) populations have been studied. Socioeconomic status was measured using the family poverty income ratio (PIR), and poverty defined as $PIR < 1.3$. Obesity was measured using body mass index (BMI) z-scores relative to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) BMI-for-age growth charts, and the obesity threshold set at the 95th%ile of the CDC charts. Socioeconomic inequality was measured by Foster-Greer-Thorbecke (FGT) concentration indices for the prevalence, depth, and severity of obesity, and the obesity gap measured by mean differences in these three aspects of obesity between poor and non-poor.

HEP researchers involved: *Marcel Bilger*

In collaboration with: *Eric Finkelstein and Fillipinas Bundoc (both from Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore)*

The Effect of a Social Education Grant on Academic Success: Evidence from Portugal

This project studies the impact of the higher education grant system for less privileged students in Portugal on academic success. Thanks to administrative data on the applicants, linked with data on students' academic situation, we are able to reconstruct the full academic history of these students. Eligibility to the higher education grant is conditioned on having resources below a threshold. We adopt a regression discontinuity approach based on this exogenous assignment rule to measure the impact of the grant on various outcomes measuring academic success.

HEP researchers involved: *Sophie Guthmuller*

In collaboration with: *Elena Meroni (Joint Research Centre, European Commission)*

The Role of Education and Age Cohort in Shaping Attitudes toward Immigration in Europe

This project complements the existing literature on determinants of attitudes to foreign populations by explicitly addressing the role of education, using repeated cross-sectional data combined with contextual information on yearly migrant inflow rates to European countries.

HEP researchers involved: *Daniela Weber*

In collaboration with: *Karen Umansky (University Potsdam, Germany)*

„Don't look up": trust and COVID-19 immunization choices.

This project uses novel data collected on a weekly basis covering more than 35,000 individuals in EU to analyze the relationship between trust in various dimensions and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. We find that trust in science is negatively correlated, while trust in social media and the use of social media as the main source of information are positively associated with vaccine hesitancy. High trust in social media is found among adults aged 65+, financially distressed and unemployed individuals, and hesitancy is largely explained by conspiracy beliefs among them. Finally, we

find that the temporary suspension of the AstraZeneca vaccine in March 2021 significantly increased vaccine hesitancy and especially among people with low trust in science, living in rural areas, females, and financially distressed. Our findings suggest that trust is a key determinant of vaccine hesitancy and that pro-vaccine campaigns could be successfully targeted toward groups at high risk of hesitancy.

HEP researchers involved: *Sophie Guthmuller*

In collaboration with: *Vincenzo Carrieri (Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro) and Ansgar Wübker (RWI Essen, Hochschule Harz)*

Encouragement or crowding out of the family? The effect of cash-for-care on informal care use

Using panel data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), this project aims to determine the effect of taking-up cash-for-care benefits on informal care and to uncover country-specific heterogeneities across conservative welfare states with a traditionally familialistic approach to elderly care.

HEP researchers involved: *Viktoria Szenkurök*

Wage differentials in the female dominated long-term care sector: Evidence from Portugal

This project explores inequalities in working conditions, especially in wages, within the female-dominated formal care sector and between the formal care sector and other female-dominated sectors in Portugal. For this, we use matched employer-employee data from *Quadros de Pessoal*, which is based on a compulsory annual inquiry to all organizations in Portugal.

HEP researchers involved: *Viktoria Szenkurök*

In collaboration with: *Ricardo Rodrigues (ISEG, Lisbon)*

Cognitive health in aging society - The role of context for cognitive functioning and related policy implications in Europe

The interdisciplinary project aims at providing a clear understanding of healthy cognitive aging. Conceptually, the focus is on the link between labour market participation and healthy cognitive aging. Analytically, inequalities across time and space are investigated, where gender and education are central individual dimensions. For this, we employ quantitative methods on high-quality survey data (SHARE).

HEP researchers involved: *Daniela Weber*

In collaboration with: *Valeria Bordone (University of Vienna)*

3.4 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH VISITS

Bilger, Marcel & Kiss, Noemi. PRÖMS: Health Community durch Datenerhebung, Auswertung und Austausch von Patient-Reported Outcomes and Experience Measures. 7. Österreichische Primärversorgungskongress, Graz, 2022.

Guthmuller, Sophie. The impact of Organised Screening Programmes in Europe on screening uptake: Evidence for colorectal cancer. European Health Economics Association Conference, Oslo, 2022.

Lamura, Maddalena J. Working conditions and health of crowd-workers. 20th ESPAnet Conference, Vienna, Austria, 2022.

Lamura, Maddalena J. 2022. Working conditions and health of crowd-workers. 14th Conference of the European Society of Ecological Economics, Pisa, Italy, 2022.

Szenkurök, Viktoria. Home-based Long-Term Care Utilization across Europe: Examining Socioeconomic Inequalities and Societal Differences using a Two-Part Multilevel Regression Model. 18th Conference on Pensions, Insurance and Savings, Rabat, Marokko, 2022.

Szenkurök, Viktoria. The Effect of Institutional Arrangements on Home-Based Long-Term Care: A Panel Data Approach for Selected European Countries. 20th ESPAnet Conference. Vienna, Austria, 2022.

Szenkurök, Viktoria. The Effect of Cash-for-Care on Home-Based Long-Term Care: A Panel Data Approach for Selected European Countries. 6th International Conference on Evidence-based Policy in Long-term Care, London, United Kingdom, 2022

Szenkurök, Viktoria. Home-based Long-Term Care Utilization in Europe: Examining Socioeconomic Inequalities and Societal Disparities using a Two-Part Multilevel Regression Model. ESA RN01 Midterm Conference: 'AGEING IN EUROPE: Towards more Inclusive Societies, Research and Policy. Vienna, Austria, 2022.

3.5 PEER-REVIEWS FOR ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- Age and Ageing
- Ageing and Society
- Comparative Population Studies
- Health Economics
- Journal of Aging and Health
- Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences
- Journal of Health Economics
- Social Science and Medicine
- Value in Health
- Journal of Social Policy
- Social Science and Medicine – Population Health
- Plos One
- European Sociological Review

4 TEACHING

HEP's teaching philosophy consists in developing the understanding of key health economic concepts, fostering the ability to apply health economic theory to real life situations, and creating skills that are directly relevant to the industry.

4.1 COURSES

The HEP team teaches approximately 16 hours per week on average at all academic levels. At the Bachelor's level, HEP, in collaboration with the Institute for Social Policy, offers a 5-course Specialization that is open to students enrolled in three different programs: Business and Economics, Business Law, and Business, Economics, and Social Sciences. This Specialization in Health and Social Policy enables the Division to teach health economics and policy within a broader interdisciplinary perspective and to reach a larger number of students. This specialization is currently running at its full capacity of 30 new Bachelor's students per semester.

The table below summarizes HEP's teaching portfolio. More detail on each course offered can be found in the WU course catalogue (<https://learn.wu.ac.at/vvz/>).

Course	Program	HEP Lecturer(s)	Semester
Economics and Policy of the Public Healthcare Industry	Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course II)	Marcel Bilger, Thomas Czypionka ^b Sophie Guthmuller Viktoria Szenkurök	SS 2022 WS 2022/23
Economics and Policy of the Private Healthcare Industry	Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course III)	Marcel Bilger Viktoria Szenkurök	SS 2022 WS 2022/23
Social Policy Evaluation^a	Bachelor's Specialization in Health and Social Policy (Course V)	Sophie Guthmuller Ulrike Schneider	SS 2022 WS 2022/23
Field Course: Economic and Social Policy	Master's in Economics	Sophie Guthmuller Bittschi Benjamin	SS 2022
Interdisciplinary Socio-Economic Research Lab I: Quantitative Methods for evaluation of Social and Health Policies	Master's in Socioeconomics	Marcel Bilger Ulrike Schneider	WS 2022/23
Interdisciplinary Socio-Economic Research Lab II: Quantitative Methods for evaluation of Health and Health Policy	Master's in Socioeconomics	Ulrike Schneider Sophie Föbleitner ^b	SS 2022
Applied Socio-Economic Theories and Methods	Master's in Socioeconomics	Marcel Bilger	WS 2022/23
Advanced Quantitative Methods for Social and Economic Research	Ph.D. in Economics and Social Sciences	Marcel Bilger	WS 2022/23

^a Taught in collaboration with the Institute for Social Policy.

^b External lecturers.

4.2 EXTERNAL LECTURERS

Dr. Thomas Czypionka, Head of the Health Economics and Health Policy Unit, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

Sophie Föbleitner, MSc BSc, Health Economics and Health Policy Unit, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)

4.3 EXAMINATIONS, AND THESIS SUPERVISIONS

Ph.D. and Doctoral theses supervised

- Drexler, Susanne: Socioeconomic and policy evaluation of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and patient reported experience measures (PREMs) in Austrian outpatient care (ongoing).
- Föbleitner, Sophie: Inequalities within the Austrian Health Care System, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Gösenbauer, Barbara: Socioeconomic Analysis of Quality and Cost of Outpatient and Hospitalized Long-Term Care in Austria, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Oberndorfer, Moritz. Unequally unequal? Social cohesion and health in times of rising income inequality, Doctoral Program at the Medical University of Vienna (ongoing).
- Schneider, Peter. Pharmaceutical Policy for High-priced and innovative medicines, WU Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences (ongoing).
- Szenkurök, Viktoria. Socioeconomic Inequalities in Long-Term Care. WU Ph.D. Program in Economics and Social Sciences (ongoing).

Master's theses supervised

- Arnhold, Thomas, An analysis of the effects of educational inequality on inequality of functioning in older age using population health survey data, Master's Thesis in Economics (ongoing).
- Ahmetagic, Majda, Auswirkungen von COVID-19 Maßnahmen auf die COVID-19-Impfrate: Fall von Österreich und Deutschland, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (completed).
- Homdrum, Karina, Innovation in der digitalen psychischen Gesundheitsfürsorge: Das Potenzial für die Anwendung digitaler Gesundheitstechnologien zur Bekämpfung von Depression in Europa, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (completed).
- Kettl, Julian, Sleep as a question of health inequality amongst cloud workers, Master's Thesis in Socio-economics (ongoing).
- Köpfler, Florian Christian, Socioeconomic status and mental health among the elderly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic (completed).

Bachelor's theses supervised

- Modritz, Nina Marie. Auswirkungen von Kultur auf Soziales und Gesundheit, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Gugele, Svenja Tabea. COVID-19 and access to abortion, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Niebelschütz, Anna Lisa. Covid-19 Impfstoff-Ungleichheiten: Warum gibt es Unterschiede in den Beschaffungsquoten von Covid-19 Impfstoffen zwischen Ländern mit hohen und niedrigen Einkommen?, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Balle, Joshua Niklas. Der Effekt der Privatversicherung auf den Zugang zum Gesundheitssystem in Österreich, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).

- Cunaku, Sara. Determinants of medical tourism - Results from semi-structured interviews in Kosovo, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Lechner, Celine. Die Aufhebung der U.S. Supreme Court Entscheidung Roe v Wade und ihre Auswirkungen, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Halm, Magdalena Valentina, Bachelor's thesis in Business and Economics (completed).
- Höhne, Tessa. Digitalized vaccination booklets to promote immunization coverage in Austria: results from qualitative interviews based on the Health Belief Model, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Ilic, Antonia. Gesundheitspolitische Auswirkungen einer alternden Bevölkerung in Österreich, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Wimmer-Etz, Klara. Luftverschmutzung als unterschätzte Gefahr für die kognitive Gesundheit - Eine internationale Literaturstudie, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Karasek, Felix. Ökonomisierung und soziale Teilhabe im österreichischen Gesundheitssystem, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (completed).
- Reiter, Jasmin. Supply and demand of employer-based private health insurance: a comparative mixed method study between Austria and the UK. , Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Müller, Maximilian. The cost of Alzheimer, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).
- Kolenda, Claudio. Wie wirkt sich die COVID-19-Pandemie auf die ärmere Bevölkerung aus und welche ökonomischen Schwierigkeiten ergeben sich daraus?, Bachelor's thesis in Business, Economics, and Social Sciences (ongoing).

5 OUTREACH

The goals of HEP's outreach activities is to network with the healthcare industry and academic researchers, and communicate research results and engage with the public.

In 2022, the HEP team conducted the following outreach activities:

EuHEA

The HEP team is organizing the 2024 European Health Economics Association (EUHEA) Conference, in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) and Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (<http://www.euhea.eu/>).

Sophie Guthmuller is a Member of the scientific committee of the Empirical Health Econometrics Workshop (former HEW), Ispra, Italy, which was postponed to July 2022 due to the pandemic.

HEW

ATHEA

Marcel Bilger was re-elected as President of the Austrian Health Economics Association (ATHEA) and will continue serving in this position until 2023 (<http://www.athea.at/en/about/>).

Sophie Guthmuller is a Member of the Platform „RegisterForschung.at“ to promote access to administrative data to researchers and the creation of the Austrian Micro Data Center (AMDC).

Register Forschung.at

WHO

Daniela Weber is a Member of the “WHO Consortium on Metrics and Evidence for Healthy Ageing”, which aims at reviewing and suggesting metrics for healthy ageing within the framework of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030.

INFOS AND CONTACT

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