

## **Abstract**

The topic of the thesis is „work, unemployment and age“.

The connection of work, unemployment and age is, from the background of globalisation, technical progress, demography and the discussions on reducing the social welfare system, a very controversial matter in public discussion, in politics, economy and the media.

Concentrating on the target group of elderly (older than 45 years), highly educated (at least “Matura”) jobless people in the region of “Obersteiermark Ost” (districts of Bruck/Mur, Leoben and Mürzzuschlag, the north eastern part of Styria in Austria) the results underlines the importance of the topic.

The author spoke to 17 experts and presented the core messages based on the literature that is available on this subject and offers an overview on already existing initiatives.

The paper points out that the matter of work, unemployment and age bears a lot of opportunities.

Social work with its resource-oriented approach can offer some solution for this problem. The defining characteristics are systemical support, networking and empowerment. Social workers need to become sensitive to ideas of entrepreneurship for highly educated elderly jobless people. Corporate Social Responsibility and other ways of dealing with the matter “work and age” in the media with a positive approach are also essential points.

Finally, the paper includes the design of an empirical research project to obtain data on the matter in the region of “Obersteiermark Ost” to create new projects for the region and the target group.