



EUROPEAN CENTRE • EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM • CENTRE EUROPÉEN
FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH • FÜR WOHLFAHRTSPOLITIK UND SOZIALFORSCHUNG • DE RECHERCHE EN POLITIQUE SOCIALE
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Social Welfare Policy and Research News, Issue April 2006

Dear Reader,

We are very pleased to send you the first issue of the Newsletter of the European Centre. Its main goal is to promote our research findings and to inform you about our projects, events and publications. Over the next months we are planning to further expand this Newsletter, among others with Policy Briefs.

We hope the Newsletter will attract your attention. Please do not hesitate to forward it to any other organisation and person whom you think may be interested in issues related to our research focus.

Projects

Risk of Poverty in the European Union

The European Centre is one of four partners in the Network on Social Inclusion and Income Distribution of the European Observatory on the Social Situation, which is a project financed and monitored by the European Commission's Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG. The general task of the network is to monitor and report on trends in income distribution and social inclusion, i.e. the overall inclusiveness of European society, which incorporates the situation in terms of income and wealth, the impact of tax/benefit systems, the access to services, questions related to poverty and population groups facing a higher risk of exclusion.

The [final annual report for 2005](#) (PDF, 2,4 MB) of the Network on Social Inclusion and Income Distribution examines differences and trends in poverty rates across countries of the European Union.

[Read more about the project.](#)

Events

Past Events:

15 March 2006 – Vienna – Workshop on the International Development of Drug Treatment

The workshop, which took place at the European Centre on 15 March 2006 was organized by the [Open Society Institute Budapest](#), (Monica Ciupagea) with support by Gabriele Fischer from the Medical University of Vienna as well as the European Centre (Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl and Flip Maas).

Presentations informed about the development of drug treatment in general and in Russia, Southeast Asia and India in special. A main focus of the presentations was on "harm reduction".

It was decided to continue the discussion and jointly organise another meeting in 2007 at the European Centre, again during the annual meeting of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs at the UNO in Vienna.

[Presentations.](#)

4 April 2006 – Vienna – Ageing-Workshop

The Austrian Ministry of Finance in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, the Ministry for Health and Women and the European Commission (DG ECFIN) invited to the workshop. Bernd Marin from the European Centre commented on “Projections of age related public expenditures for the EU25 up to 2050”.

[EC-Presentation](#)

7 April 2006 – Vienna – Press Conference

The new book on the demand for formal child care in Austria (in German): *Kinderbetreuungsplätze in Österreich. “Fehlen keine oder bis zu 650.000?”* was presented at a Press Conference in the Presseclub Concordia - Vienna, with the participation of Michael Fuchs, who is the author of this book, and Bernd Marin (European Centre) and Prof. Dr. Christian Friesl (Industriellenvereinigung). The Industriellenvereinigung (Federation of Austrian Industry) charged the European Centre with this study, which assesses the needs for child care places between 2005 and 2015.

[Read more about the publication, the press conference documents and the press coverage.](#)

Upcoming Events:

20 April 2006 – Vienna – EU Presidency Conference

“Social Services of General Interest”

Social services of general interest are services provided by the state or on its behalf in the interest of the general public and connected to specific welfare obligations. They form an integral part of the European model of society, notably with regard to social and territorial cohesion. Moreover, they play a decisive role in safeguarding the quality of life of all citizens and in overcoming social exclusion and poverty.

On 20 April 2006 a conference on this issue will be held in Vienna, where the significance of social services for growth, social cohesion and social inclusion as well as questions regarding the application of Community law to these services are to be discussed. Key elements of services of general interest, such as universal access, high quality level, consumer rights, transparency and legal certainty, should be taken into account in the debate.

The European Commission’s Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG has contracted a consortium led by the European Centre to carry out a study on “Social and Health Services of General Interest in the European Union”. In this relation, Manfred Huber will address the conference with a keynote speech, outlining the research design of this study.

[Read more about the project on our website by the second half of April.](#)

19-21 June 2006 – Vienna – Social Services Conference

Every year, the European Social Network organises a European Social Services Conference in one of the EU Member States holding the Presidency during that time. The European Centre is co-organising this year’s 14th edition, to take place in Vienna from 19-21 June on the theme “Young and Old in a Changing Europe. The Demographic Challenge to Social Care and Health”.

Kai Leichsenring from the European Centre will be one of the keynote speakers. Other European Centre staff being involved are Bernd Marin, Manfred Huber and Flip Maas

Read more about [Kai Leichsenring](#), the [conference](#).

Publications

Website:

MA:IMI Project – Update of the Monitoring RIS website

We are pleased to announce that the first update of the Monitoring RIS Website is now on-line, and also provides an “Increase text size” option. You can consult it at:

<http://www.MonitoringRis.org>

The next update is planned for 2 June (more national NGOs, more information on indicators, more implementation activities...). All interested actors in the field are highly welcome to participate, and invited to submit to the Editorial Committee any information they think= relevant and could help to enhance the website’s accuracy.

For that purpose, please use the on-line forms you will find on the website or communicate directly to the following address: risweb@euro.centre.org

Read more about the [MA:IMI project](#), the [Monitoring RIS website](#)

Journal Articles:

Lelkes, Orsolya (2006) “Tasting freedom: Happiness, religion and economic transition”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 59: 173-194

Lelkes, Orsolya (2006) “Knowing what is good for you. Empirical analysis of personal preferences and the `objective good’”. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, Special issue on the Socio-Economics of Happiness, 35 (2): 285-307

Books:

Marin, B. (2006) ‘NDC – Eine magische gesamteuropäische Pensionsreform- und Koordinationsformel? Einige Anmerkungen zu Robert Holzmanns Modellentwurf’ in: Holzmann, R., Palmer, E. (Eds.) (2006) *Individuelle Pensionskonten auf Umlagebasis – Konzept, Anwendung, Erfolgsaussichten*. Book Series “Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung”, Volume 15, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag (under preparation, will be published in 2006).

The above publication is the German edition of Holzmann, R., Palmer, E. (Eds.) (2006) *Pension Reform: Issues and Prospects for Non-Financial Defined Contribution (NDC) Schemes*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

Read more about [the German edition](#), the [English edition](#)

Newspaper Articles:

[Marin, Bernd \(2006\) Articles in Der Standard, Wien, 2006](#)

National Liaison Official Matters

We are pleased to announce the recent appointments of several new National Liaison Officials (NLO).

Ms Annita Kyprianou, Senior Administrative Officer at the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus has been appointed as new NLO succeeding Ms Lenia Samuel, who has become Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (DG V).

Ms Kvetoslava Repkova of the Slovakian Institute for Labour and Family Research has taken up the NLO position that had become vacant after Ms Erika Kvapilova had renounced from that position in 2005.

She is coming for an internal visit to the European Centre on 24 April.

Mr Dimitris Ziomas has been nominated as NLO for Greece.

Ms Vesna Piperski, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy of Serbia and Montenegro will be the new NLO for that country, succeeding Ms Miroslava Dinkic.

Ms Dinkic, in her position of Head of the Social Policy Department of the Economic and Social Policy Institute (ESPI) will continue to cooperate with the Centre. Through her negotiation, Serbia and Montenegro has decided to become Member State with *Full Cooperation status* of The European Centre, and to contribute financially in accordance with the UN Scale of Assessment.

[Read more about National Liaison Officials.](#)

Networking

Communiqué – Towards a European Research Media Service

The European Centre supports “Communiqué” which is an initiative to help improve media relations within the European Research Area. Communiqué is an opportunity for the European research community to debate the creation of a European research media service.

[Read more about Communiqué](#)

Sincerely yours,
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