



**Dear Reader,**

Since 2001 the European Centre has been supporting the process of “Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)”, in its preparatory phase (2001-2002) as well as in its follow-up phase (2003-2008). On the occasion of the Sixty-third Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) the decision was taken to continue this collaboration of UNECE and the European Centre from March 2009 till February 2014. Please find more details in this Newsletter.

**Annette Hexelschneider**

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

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## Policy Briefs

Poverty and social exclusion continue to be serious challenges across the European Union and for health systems in Member States. People with mental disorders are at high risk of poverty, stigmatization and social exclusion. They are also more likely to face physical health problems and to die prematurely. There is evidence that they do not receive the general health care that best responds to their needs. Improved access to general health care is therefore essential to minimizing disadvantage for people with mental disorders. This Policy Brief outlines hurdles of access to health care for people with mental disorders and discusses policy implications.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

For further information please contact: [Manfred Huber](#), [Kristian Wahlbeck](#)

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## Projects

### **New Project: Alcohol Measures for Public Health Research Alliance (AMPHORA)**

AMPHORA, a four-year project co-financed by the seventh framework programme of research of the European Commission with 33 partner organizations from 14 European countries, aims to add European knowledge across a wide range of public health alcohol policy measures, and to disseminate this knowledge to those engaged in policy-making.



By enhancing cooperation among researchers and advancing research in Europe, AMPHORA will provide new scientific evidence for the best public health measures to reduce the harm done by alcohol. AMPHORA is coordinated by the Hospital Clínico i Provincial de Barcelona (HCPB) in Spain.

The European Centre contributes to Work Package 3 on “Culture Determinants and Alcohol Policies in Europe”. The objectives of this Work Package are

- (a) to build a common framework to identify the unplanned – demographic, social and cultural – determinants affecting alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems over time (1960- 2005);
- (b) to evaluate the impact of preventive programmes and policies implemented at the country level over time, as well as of unplanned demographic, social and cultural determinants, on alcohol consumption and on alcohol-related problems;
- (c) to enable the identification of those preventive alcohol policies that have a higher probability of good success (the “best policies”) at the country level.

Read more about: [project](#)

For further information please contact: [Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl](#)

## **INTERLINKS – Health Systems and Long-Term Care for Older People in Europe. Modelling the Interfaces between Prevention, Rehabilitation, Quality of Services and Informal Care**

From 1-4 March 2009 the official INTERLINKS kick-off meeting in Vienna brought together almost 40 researchers, representing the 16 participating organizations from 14 countries. The project is co-financed by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, DG Research.

The key objectives of this meeting were to get to know each other and to exchange starting points of LTC systems in the individual countries. In particular, sub-groups working on rehabilitation and prevention, quality development in LTC and on informal care agreed upon their work-plan for the first phase of the project. This phase consists in literature reviews and the construction of first modules to describe, analyse and improve LTC systems in Europe. Participants were highly motivated and contributed to a fruitful working climate, thus forming a group of researchers with enthusiasm to carry out this 3-year research project.

A public website with first results will be established by the end of 2009.

Read more about: [general information on the project](#)

More information about the Spanish side of our project can be found in two articles about our Spanish project partner – the University of Valencia.

Read more about: [“La UV, único integrante español en el diseño de Interlinks”](#) [University of Valencia – the Spanish project member], [“La ley de Dependencia es insostenible y hay que buscar otras alternativas”](#)



[The long-term care law is not sustainable – searching for alternatives] (to skip advertisement click top right of the page), [“Poliwelfare” Research Unit](#) at the University of Valencia (in English)

For further information please contact: [Kai Leichsenring](#)

## Involvements

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Centre Vienna Agree on Cooperation in Developing Policy Responses to Population Ageing**

Jan Kubis, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe, and Bernd Marin, Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that marks a new stage in the collaboration of the two organizations on population ageing.

Read more about: [MoU](#), [project](#), [MonitoringRIS website](#)

For further information please contact: [Bernd Marin](#), [Eszter Zólyomi](#)

## Events

### **Past Events**

#### **30 March – 1 April 2009, Geneva (Switzerland): Sixty-third Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Item 2 on the agenda of the meeting was dedicated to the “Economic Development in the ECE Region”. Bernd Marin contributed as a panellist to the discussion of the panel on “Enhancing Economic Cohesion”. This session addressed how the ECE region is doing in terms of facing issues of poverty and basic needs and what more the ECE could do to help countries come to terms with these issues.

Read more about: [UNECE website](#)

For further information please contact: [Bernd Marin](#)



## Publications

### New European Centre Book

**Stanculescu, Manuela Sofia/Stanovnik, Tine (Eds.) (2009) Activity, Incomes and Social Welfare. A Comparison across Four New EU Member States. Public Policy and Social Welfare Vol. 33 (A Series Edited by Bernd Marin, European Centre). Aldershot (UK): Ashgate**

The book's main aim is to describe and quantify the large socioeconomic changes which have occurred in four new Member States of the European Union (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia), since the early 1990s. Within the broad frame of socioeconomic change, a number of topics were explored in greater detail: changes in activity, occupational status and educational attainment, household income sources and income inequality, and risk of income poverty.

Read more about: [book](#)

For further information please contact: [Willem Stamatou](#)

### Book Contribution

**Fuchs, M. (2009) 'Nicht-Inanspruchnahme von Sozialleistungen am Beispiel der Sozialhilfe' [Non Take-up of Social Benefits Using the Example of Monetary Social Assistance Benefits], pp. 290-301 in: Dimmel, N./Heitzmann, K./Schenk, M. (eds.), Handbuch Armut in Österreich [Handbook Poverty in Austria]. Innsbruck: Studienverlag**

Based on the comparison of detailed micro-data (EU-SILC), official figures on recipients and expenditure as well as potential entitlements simulated with the tax/benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD, the article\* estimates the size of non-take-up of monetary social assistance benefits in Austria in 2003. To account for likely measurement errors both in the reported income data as well as in the simulation of household needs, participation rates are calculated for various scenarios of the underlying parameters. Results: More than half of all households potentially entitled to the benefit do not claim. The determinants of non-take-up analysed in different regression models controlling for possible endogeneity of independent variables – significant higher participation rates, inter alia, in case of higher amounts entitled to, a non-employed head, living in Vienna – confirm hypotheses derived from theoretical models of take-up related to pecuniary determinants, information and administration costs as well as psychological costs.

\*The article represents an adapted German version of 'The role of measurement error for estimating non take-up in Austria' within the "Accurate Income Measurement for the Assessment of Public Policies"



project (AIM-AP), funded as Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project within the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission (project no. 028412).

Read more about: [book, AIM-AP project](#)

For further information please contact: [Michael Fuchs](#)

**Leichsenring, Kai (2009) 'Le tendenze politiche socio-sanitarie nell'ambito della cura e assistenza a lungo termine nei Paesi europei' [Social and Health Policy Tendencies in the Area of Long-term Care in European Countries], pp. 191-218 in: Bertin, Giovanni (a cura di/ed.), Invecchiamento e politiche per la non autosufficienza [Ageing and Long-term Care Policies]. Trento: Edizioni Erickson.**

Read more about: [book](#)

For further information please contact: [Kai Leichsenring](#)

## Website

We are happy to announce that the next update of the MonitoringRIS website has been published. It includes, among others, detailed information on normative frameworks, tools, facts and figures and policies and strategies in Cyprus and Poland

Read more about: [MonitoringRIS website, complete list of changes](#)

For further information please contact: [Annette Hexelschneider](#)

## Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2009\) Various articles in Der Standard, in Die Presse, in Format, in Kleine Zeitung, in Salzburger Nachrichten, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2009](#)

For further information please contact: [Bernd Marin](#)



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