



Dear Reader,

The April Policy Brief on “Informal Carers: Who Takes Care of Them?” offers the reader an overview of informal caregivers across wider Europe, highlighting common characteristics and differences across countries. For several reasons that are enumerated in the Policy Brief, such as the increase in female employment, it appears that the current pool of informal caregivers – particularly women – may be reduced in the future. Due to this potential shortage of informal care, this Policy Brief critically addresses some of the policies that attempt to support carers by reducing their burden both from an emotional and financial point of view.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Brief

Informal Carers: Who Takes Care of Them?

Until recently, informal care in the context of long-term care for dependent older people (provided by relatives and friends), has been overlooked by policy-makers. Driven by concerns about the fiscal sustainability of long-term care services and by more self-conscious and demanding carers’ movements across countries, informal care has been brought into the limelight.

Data on carers are still relatively scarce, due in part to the nature of the care itself as it is often provided informally at home. In view of this, what do we know about informal carers and who benefits from them? Which country differences exist? Which policies are set in place to support them? This Policy Brief tries to shed light on these issues by using available data from (inter)national sources as well as qualitative information gathered in our recent publication “Facts and Figures on Long-term Care – Europe and North America”. It seeks to increase knowledge on informal carers and to discuss some of the implications surrounding social policies that impact them. The analysis is very much policy-oriented and takes a comparative view, focusing mostly on the wider Europe.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

For further information please contact: [Frédérique Hoffmann](#), [Ricardo Rodrigues](#)



Projects

Study on Child Poverty and Child Well-Being in the EU

We are very pleased to inform you that the results of the child poverty project are now publicly available.

Combating child poverty and improving child well-being have become key issues on the policy agenda of the EU and its Member States. Following the work carried out in 2007 and 2008 by the European Commission and the Member States in the context of the European Strategy for Social Inclusion – notably the report prepared by the EU Task-Force on Child Poverty and Child Well-Being – a new study has been launched this year to contribute to the development of more coherent and integrated policies in this area. The study was carried out by the TÁRKI Social Research Institute (Budapest), in collaboration with Applica (Brussels), with contributions from the European Centre as well.

The main aim of the report was:

- to identify the main determinants of child poverty and social exclusion in Europe and across the Member States;
- to provide an overview and assess the effectiveness of existing policies on income support and access to the labour market and enabling services for parents;
- to define a reduced set of indicators which best reflect the multi-dimensional nature of child well-being, suitable for monitoring policies aimed at reducing child poverty, enhancing the welfare of children and improving their life-chances.

Read more about: [study](#)

For further information please contact: [Orsolya Lelkes](#)

Return Migration and its Effects on Skills and Productivity of Migrant Workers

In this project the labour market performance of Romanian and Bulgarian return migrants has been analysed and whether it really pays off to return home. We looked at the employment dynamics of returnees from the perspective of employment and occupational status switches to capture the effects of the work experience abroad on the upgrade in the home labour market.

The research findings written by Isilda Shima are now available on-line.

Read more about: [study](#), [FIW Policy Brief](#), [executive summary](#) (in German)

For further information please contact: [Asgar Zaidi](#)



Alcohol Measures for Public Health Research Alliance (AMPHORA)

The international project website is now on-line.

Read more about: [website](#)

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

Events

Upcoming Events

7 May, St. Pölten (Austria): Conference on “Jugendliche Alkoholszenen” (Juvenile Alcohol Scenes)

At a conference organized by the Ilse Arlt Institute on Social Inclusion Research of the University of Applied Science, Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl will speak about “Wie lässt sich die Öffentlichkeit für berauschte Jugendliche und Erwachsene gesundheitsfördernd gestalten?” (How Can Public Space Be Arranged in a Health-Promoting Way for Intoxicated Young People and Adults).

Read more about: [agenda](#)

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

7 May, Bratislava (Slovak Republic): The Political Economy of Strategic Social Policies in Post-Communist Democracies

At the invitation of the European Centre’s National Liaison Official for Slovakia, Mrs. Kvetoslava Repkova, Pieter Vanhuysse will give a lecture on “The Political Economy of Strategic Social Policies in Post-Communist Democracies” at a special roundtable discussion conveyed by the Institute for Labour and Family Research (IVPR) in Bratislava (comments and chair, Daniel Gerbery).

Read more about: [agenda](#)

For further information please contact: [Pieter Vanhuysse](#)



7 May, Bucharest (Romania): Social Inclusion – Matching Needs and Goals: The Case of Employment Policy

At the invitation of Aspen Institute Romania, Asghar Zaidi will attend as a keynote speaker the Round Table. The objective is to discuss in an informed and constructive way some of the key challenges in the social policy making process in Romania.

Read more about: [event](#)

For further information please contact: [Asghar Zaidi](#)

14-15 May, Ankara (Turkey): 1st Annual International Social Security Forum

The Forum, initially envisaged as part of the “Social Security Week” activities in 2010, is organized mainly to evaluate efforts made regarding the “Reform and Restructuring of the Turkish Social Security System”, which generally started 2006.

It aims to convey the efforts made, the developments achieved as well as relevant basic problematic issues to the international social security community so as to secure its interest for these issues.

Asghar Zaidi will deliver a keynote speech on “Fiscal and Pension Sustainability: Present and Future Issues in EU Countries”.

Read more about: [event](#)

For further information please contact: [Asghar Zaidi](#)

17 June, Graz (Austria): Gesundheit & Pflege – Wie passt das eigentlich zusammen?

Kai Leichsenring will speak about “Integrierte Versorgung – Koordination oder Integration von Gesundheits- und Sozialdiensten?” (Integrated Care – Coordination or Integration of Health and Social Care Services?) at the 3rd Symposium of the “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Public Health in der Gesundheits- und Krankenpflege” (Working Group on Public Health in Health and Care)

Read more about: [agenda](#)

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

27-29 June, Boston (US): AcademyHealth 2010 Annual Research Meeting

Kai Leichsenring has been invited for a podium presentation at the AcademyHealth 2010 Annual Research Meeting at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. He will present interim results from the FP7 Project INTERLINKS, focusing on “Quality Development in Long-Term Care: An Overview of European



Approaches". His participation is sponsored by the EU Commission's 7th Framework Programme for research to facilitate exchange between European and US research activities.

Read more about: [event website](#)

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

Past Events

16 April, Paris (France): La prise en charge de la dépendance en Europe

Prof. Marin and Frédérique Hoffmann were invited by Diane Lequet-Slama – our French National Liaison Official – from the DREES (Direction de la Recherche, de l'Évaluation, des Études et des Statistiques within the Ministry of Health) to attend a Seminar entitled "La prise en charge de la dépendance en Europe".

Based on the publication *Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care: Europe and North America* (Huber, Rodrigues, Hoffmann, Gasior and Marin, 2009), Bernd Marin presented an overview of some of the main issues currently occurring in the field of long-term care, while Frédérique Hoffmann was asked to present an overview of family carers and their challenges together with Blanche le Bihan-Youinou (École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique, EHESP, coordinator of the project WOUPS, "Workers Under Pressure and Social Care") as their Discussant.

However, due to the ensuing closure of Charles de Gaulle airport because of the volcanic ash cloud, Frédérique Hoffmann was unable to travel in time to Paris and Bernd Marin kindly presented her slides in addition to his own.

Read more about: [book](#)

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

14 April, Vienna (Austria): Land – Leben – Lernen. Im Lernen liegt die Zukunft des ländlichen Raumes (Rural Areas – Living – Learning. Learning is the Future of the Rural Area)

This Enquete – organized by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management – focussed on the further development, strengthening and opening of the agricultural educational network "Netzwerk Land" (Network Rural Areas) – because education, consulting, research and innovation are interlinked with welfare and well-being.

Bernd Marin spoke about "Leben, Leisten und Lernen im vitalen ländlichen Raum – Kernkompetenzen der Wohlfahrts- und Wissensgesellschaft" ("Living, Accomplishing and Learning in Vital Rural Areas – Core Competencies of the Welfare and Knowledge Society").

Read more about: [event](#) (in German)

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



25-26 March, Warsaw (Poland): 2010 International Conference on Comparative EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Orsolya Lelkes presented her paper entitled “Social Participation and Social Isolation” at the Net-SILC conference in Warsaw.

The paper argues that Spain, Belgium, Finland, Portugal and the UK are the most “social” countries in terms of meeting friends and relatives. This, however, might not mean social participation in other ways, including political engagement or voluntary work, showing that it is a multi-faceted phenomenon. Most ex-Communist countries tend to have a small politically active population.

Contact with friends or relatives, helping others and doing voluntary work is shown to make people happy. With respect to social isolation, the unemployed and those at risk of poverty tend to have multiple times as high exposure to social isolation.

In old age, relationship with kin gains importance, and in many countries a relatively good informal support assures that these people do not remain without help (not relatively more so than others).

Hosted by the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the conference has been organized by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Network for the Analysis of EU-SILC (Net-SILC).

Read more about: [conference website](#)

For further information please contact: [Orsolya Lelkes](#)

Publications

Working Papers

Gamliel-Yehoshua, H., Vanhuyse, P. (2010) The Pro-Elderly Bias of Social Policies in Israel: A Historical-Institutional Account

Abstract

Accelerated population ageing and high voting turnout rates among elderly voters in recent decades have led many social scientists to predict increasing pro-elderly biases in the social policies of mature welfare states. This article investigates and empirically estimates the evolving age orientation of social policies in Israel, which is a comparatively young society that has nevertheless aged significantly since independence in 1948.

We present a historical and qualitative overview of the development of policy efforts towards different age groups and develop an Elderly/Non-Elderly Spending Ratio at four points in time between 1975 and



2005. We argue that in its first five decades, the Israeli welfare state uniquely combined a broadly universalistic and citizenship-based outlook with a number of significant particularistic spending biases towards specific subgroups. But from the second half of the 1990s onwards, the pro-elderly policy bias of the Israeli welfare state has strongly increased.

These findings support Lynch's (2001, 2006) thesis for 21 OECD countries, which posits that a shift from a universal to a more occupationally based institutional model of welfare will result in a higher pro-elderly bias of social spending.

Read more about: [paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Pieter Vanhuysse](#)

Matsaganis, M., Benedek, D., Flevotomou, M., Lelkes, O., Mantovani, D., Nienadowska, S. (2010) Distributional Implications of Income Tax Evasion in Greece, Hungary and Italy

Abstract

Even though tax evasion has been the focus of a growing volume of research in recent years, the issue of its distributional impact is still relatively neglected. This paper is an attempt to analyse empirically the implications of tax evasion in terms of inequality, poverty, redistribution and progressivity of the income tax system in Greece, Hungary and Italy (three countries featuring an extensive informal economy).

The paper applies the discrepancy method, i.e. compares two sets of data, namely household budget surveys and income tax returns, to derive ratios of under-reporting by income source and geographical area. The tax-benefit model EUROMOD is used to estimate the distributional impact of tax evasion comparing household disposable incomes to a full compliance counterfactual.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Orsolya Lelkes](#)

Pedace, L., Pisani, M. and Zaidi, A. (2010) Employing the Capability Approach to Compare Pensioners' Well-being across UK Countries, Treasury Economic Working Paper No. 7, April, London: HM Treasury.

Abstract

The goal of this paper is to compare different measures of pensioner well-being across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Having appraised various approaches to conceptualizing and measuring the well-being of pensioners, Sen's (1992) capability approach stands out as a novel and theoretically appealing way to obtain additional insights into the well-being of pensioners living across the United Kingdom. Pensioners' well-being is therefore compared across these countries in terms of various attained outcomes and proxies for capabilities.



The results highlight that wider measures of pensioners' welfare provide a more comprehensive picture. For example, although pensioners in England are found to have the highest average income, their wider well-being is not consistently above that of their peers in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. This research suggests that studies using income as the only proxy for pensioners' well-being provide a partial picture and should be complemented with non-monetary measures for a more comprehensive evidence base.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Asghar Zaidi](#)

Book

Bovenberg, L., Van Soest, A. and Zaidi, A. (2010) Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe, Palgrave Macmillan, UK, forthcoming

This book is based on ten commissioned papers of the European Science Foundation's Forward Look project "Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe". Each of these papers was discussed in a workshop during Autumn 2008, and also at a final conference in The Hague, April 2009.

In broad terms, the book improves our understanding of the key relationships between demographics, welfare regimes, pension schemes, public health and formal and informal care, employment, income security, and well-being in a cross-national framework from a broad economic perspective, supplemented with insights from other social sciences. Various experts discuss how scientific research can provide cutting-edge evidence on income security of the elderly, well-being of the elderly, and labour markets and older workers: the three themes dominating the current European economic and social policy debate.

The chapters included in the book set out a research agenda that:

- exploits the diversity of European pension and health and care systems to study causal links between institutional arrangements, individual decision making, labour force participation, financial security and general well-being of the older population groups and their health outcomes.
- integrates economic, psychological, sociological and epidemiological approaches to individual decision-making related to health and pensions, and the implications of this for financial and labour markets, financial institutions, and public policy.

The chapters provide an overview of the research issues and their value for science and society. They adopt a forward looking approach in not only discussing remaining knowledge gaps and the research opportunities for the immediate future but also in discussing data needs and other infrastructure requirements for carrying out fruitful research in the distant future.



Book contribution

Moreira, A., Whelan, B. and Zaidi, A. (2009) 'The Demand for Older Workers', in: Bovenberg, L., Van Soest, A. and Zaidi, A. (2010) Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe, Palgrave Macmillan, UK

All advanced economies are experiencing rapid population ageing caused by the combination of an increase in longevity and a sharp drop in fertility rates. This is likely to reduce the share of working age population, which will exert a negative pressure on economic growth and lead to a rising old-age dependency ratio. It poses serious problems for the public finances through growing pressures for expenditure on pensions, health and long-term care.

Increasing labour force participation among older people has a vital role to play in coping with these challenges, which can be brought about by a variety of actions targeted at both the supply and demand sides of the labour market. However, perhaps reflecting the lack of evidence on the role of demand, or even the relatively buoyant state of European economies until recent times, many of the strategies to promote an active ageing agenda at European level have concentrated on the supply side of the labour market.

This paper argues that a more effective approach for improving the participation of older workers in the labour market will require a greater focus on improving the demand of older workers. Unfortunately, little is known about the factors that impact on the demand for older workers in Europe. The purpose of this chapter is therefore to fill this information gap. First, it provides a survey of the current (European-based) literature on this topic; and, second, it identifies the main areas of development of research on this topic.

For further information please contact: [Asgar Zaidi](#)

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2010\) Various articles in Der Standard, in Die Presse, in Format, in Kleine Zeitung, in Salzburger Nachrichten, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2010](#)

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



News from our National Liaison Officials

Publication of the Dutch National Liaison Official Institute

The report “The Social State of The Netherlands 2009” has been published by The Netherlands Institute for Social Research under the editorial control of Rob Bijl, Jeroen Boelhouwer, Evert Pommer and Peggy Schyns. Every two years it provides an impression of the current social situation in The Netherlands.

Using key figures, trends over the past ten-year period are analysed in the fields of education, employment, income, health, leisure time use, participation, safety and housing. The report also devotes attention to trends in public opinion and the political climate, the life situation of the Dutch, how much the Dutch use various provisions and how they rate them. The key figures are compared with the government policy objectives in each of these fields, and where possible the Dutch situation is compared with that in other countries.

Read more about: [report](#), [press release](#) (summary)

For further information please contact: [Rob Bijl](#)



Contact for general newsletter/web site comments, suggestions or questions:

Annette Hexelschneider
Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Berggasse 17
A-1090 Vienna (Austria)
Tel: +43-1-319 45 05-23
Fax: +43-1-319 45 05-19
hexelschneider@euro.centre.org

Contact for general research questions: ec@euro.centre.org

Contacts for Activities & Products are listed on the website.

Please feel welcome to forward the newsletter to others.

If you wish to reproduce any information please contact hexelschneider@euro.centre.org

If you wish to unsubscribe please answer this mail with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate. The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research does not warrant its accuracy and disclaims any liability to any third party anywhere in the world for any injury, damage, direct or indirect loss, consequential or economic loss or any other loss suffered as a result of the use or reliance upon the information contained in the newsletter and our web pages to the maximum extent permitted by law.

The newsletter contains links to external sites over which the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research has no control and accepts no responsibility, as long as the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research has no information about the illegality of the information. Should you have information about such content on pages where we link to please send immediately a mail to ec@euro.centre.org.