



Dear Reader,

Even though August might be the least busy month in a research year, we are proud to present you another issue of our Newsletter as rich in diverse content as always.

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Brief

Wiener Drogenpolitik 1970 bis 2005. Aussen- und Innenansichten The Vienna Drug Policy 1970 to 2005. External and Internal Views

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Arno Pilgram, Christine Reidl

The present study examines the formation of a regional drug policy using the example of Vienna in the period of 1970 until 2005. The investigation starts at a time when the Austrian authorities began to react to fundamental changes in drug consumption: Cannabis had become the most-used illegal substance and the drug consumers were younger and better educated. In the course of this process, the penal “repressive” instruments of drug policy (national level) were gradually complemented by “integrative” measures from the areas of health, social assistance, and education (regional level).

The development of the Viennese drug policy over a period of 35 years is looked at from different angles: from an “external” viewpoint – scientific and as much as possible objective – as well as from two “internal” angles – i.e. from the subjective perspectives of two groups of the persons concerned.

For the “external view”, the development of the different branches of the municipal drug policy apparatus as well as the national context – especially drug legislation and the activities of the executive authorities – were studied on the basis of reports and statistics. The material allowed the distinction of five developmental stages of Viennese drug policy.

The “internal views” are based on interviews with “actors” – professionals who were, in the period of investigation, active in implementing the Viennese drug policy – from the areas of administration, treatment and care, prevention, justice and the penal system, and with “addressees” of drug policy – drug users and relatives of drug users.



The study draws the success story of a regional drug policy that is based on the organisational combination of the drug-related activities of the city (“cross-sectional policy”) and the professionalisation of the drug services, with the aim of social integration. In recent years, the limitations of Viennese drug policy have become more obvious. These limitations result, on the one hand, from the lacking influence of the municipality on the national drug policy as well as on the activities of the drug policy organisations at this level. On the other hand, they result from their restricted reach that cannot influence all policy areas that determine the drug situation, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of education. It would therefore be desirable to consider a more “holistic” drug policy on the national and supranational levels, and not to forget about the fight against basic social problems.

Read more about: Policy Brief [in German](#), [in English](#)

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

Projects

New Project: The Academic Network of European Disability

The Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) has the purpose to establish and maintain a pan-European academic network in the field of disability policy. The network has a focus on research that supports the objectives of European disability policy towards the goal of full participation and equal opportunities for all people with disabilities.

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research is in charge of a thematic report that will provide an overview of national social inclusion and social protection strategies.

The purpose of the report is to review national implementation of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in social inclusion and social protection, and in particular the National Strategic Reports of Member States from a disability equality perspective, and to provide the European Commission with useful evidence in support of disability policy mainstreaming. National examples and evidence will be provided by ANED’s country experts, based on reviews of Member States’ National Reform Programmes and other sources. The report will also include recommendations to the European Commission on priorities for future policy and research development.

Read more about: [project](#)

For further information please contact: [Isilda Shima](#)



New Project: Addicts in the Public Area (Suchtkranke im öffentlichen Raum)

A study commissioned by the Sucht- und Drogenkoordination Wien (Addiction and Drug Coordination Vienna) will focus on questions related to addicts dwelling in the public area.

Not much is known about addicts dwelling in the public area. It is to be supposed that a considerable share of these persons is suffering from manifold problems and that a certain – unknown – number is not reached by care offers. The present study is in particular interested in addicts dwelling in the public area that are not reached by care offers.

Among others, it will deal with the following questions: What is the meaning of the public area for drug users? What are their reasons for staying at certain places at particular times? How many of them are without care? How do those without care live and what are their problems and needs? What should be done to also reach them with care offers? How could these be organized?

Read more about: [project](#)

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

European Commission publishes country reports

Following the publication of “Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services”, the European Commission has now also made the country reports under this study available. These provide up-to-date information on important health care reform trends in England, Finland, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Spain.

Read more about: [project](#), [country reports](#)

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



Events

Past Events

24-30 August 2008, Portoroz (Slovenia): 30th General Conference of the International Association of Research in Income and Wealth

The 30th General Conference of the International Association of Research in Income and Wealth took place in Portoroz in Slovenia, August 24-30, 2008. The conference programme included papers from the EC-researchers Orsolya Lelkes (Let Us Pray: Religious Interactions in Life Satisfaction), Manfred Huber and Ricardo Rodrigues (A framework for reporting on long-term care expenditure in Europe). Orsolya Lelkes was a discussant of two papers. Asghar Zaidi organised special sessions on pension issues and was a discussant of two papers.

Read more about: [conference](#), [full paper Orsolya Lelkes](#), [full paper Manfred Huber and Ricardo Rodrigues](#)
For further information please contact: [Orsolya Lelkes](#), [Manfred Huber](#), [Ricardo Rodrigues](#), [Asghar Zaidi](#)

Upcoming Events

25-27 September 2008, Vienna: Intoxication and Intoxicated Behaviour in Contemporary European Cultures: Myths, Realities and the Implications for Policy and Practice

The aim of this international workshop hosted by the European Centre is to consider current research and knowledge, debates and discussion on “intoxication” and “intoxicated behaviours” in contemporary European cultures.

Themes are:

1. ‘Normal’ and ‘deviant’ intoxication: In this session, we will consider how, when, why (etc.) intoxication is considered to be ‘normal’ and permissible or deviant and unacceptable (e.g. intoxication and associated behaviour as part of young male cultures, ‘binge’ drinking as a normal part of a weekend night out or as a development that raises concern). The session will focus on a few examples where ‘normal’ intoxication is embedded within the culture of a particular group and on examples where similar behaviour is regarded as inappropriate.
2. The transmission of drinking patterns and development of new ones: This session will raise questions concerning the transmission of drinking patterns across generations, within families and within peer groups, and between different cultures and on the development of new patterns within new generations, cultures and policies: A range of research examples will be presented.
3. Changing definitions of intoxication: This theme will include examination of how normal and harmful drinking has been defined in different European cultures at different times and the carrier of new con-



cepts such as 'binge drinking'/ single occasion heavy drinking/ excessive drinking etc. Papers will include research which examines the social construction of acceptable and unacceptable intoxication and how that emerges from different social groups and intrudes in different cultures.

4. Responses and Policies: This session will be an open discussion and participants will be asked to bring examples from their respective countries. Short (5-10 minute) comments might be a good idea to get the discussion underway. Key questions will be formulated.

Read more about: [workshop](#)

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

Next International Seminar of the European Centre, 3 October 2008, Vienna: Traveling without Moving? Pension Regime Change in Ageing Welfare States

**Speaker: Markus Tepe (Center for Social Science Methodology,
Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg)**

The puzzling phenomenon at the heart of this paper is the simultaneity of welfare regime stability and reform within regimes. Although comparative welfare state research tends to emphasize the role of policy legacies and institutional rigidity, there is increasing evidence on high levels of old age security reform. This paper investigates if pension reform trajectories in ageing welfare states are following a logic of "bounded change", whereby change takes place but pension regime differences persist. In order to trace "bounded change" as a feature of pension policies, the empirical analysis separates into three questions: First, do pension systems in the OECD cluster into distinct and stable regimes? Second, can we identify common patterns of reform within regimes? And third, if there are distinct reform patterns, what are their redistributive consequences?

The explorative empirical analysis employs multiple correspondence, hierarchical cluster and cross-sectional regression analyses on a sample of up to 18 OECD countries (1988-2002). The main findings can be summarized as followed: First, although mature pension systems face relatively similar challenges they respond differently toward these challenges. Second, Esping-Andersen's (1990) typology has difficulties to explain the observed pattern. Pension reform trajectories in ageing welfare states seem to be better captured in terms of insurance-based Bismarckian pension systems, and tax-based Beveridgean pension systems. Third, concerning the redistributive consequences of reform trajectories findings suggest that shifting toward funded pensions may require more careful considerations of its effect on old age poverty rates. In overall terms, the results of this study indicate convergence of reform trajectories within regimes rather than convergence of pension systems, pointing out the potential limits of efforts to harmonize old age security policies in the OECD world.

The seminar will take place at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Seminar Room, Berggasse 17, 1090 Vienna. Read more about: [seminar details](#)

There are a limited number of places available for those who register by sending an email to hovenier@euro.centre.org.



23-24 October 2008, Dürnstein (Austria): “Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health & Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe”

An AARP and European Centre Vienna High-Level Expert and Policy-Makers Conference will deal with reinventing retirement, i.e. reshaping health and financial security as a consequence of population ageing, in countries of Eastern Europe, with a particular emphasis on the new member states of the European Union, and its socio-economic consequences for Western Europe. It will provide a platform for high-level experts and policy-makers on/from Central and Eastern European countries to discuss specific aspects of the demographic transitions, and to present and debate new ideas.

The event will enhance a better understanding of the socio-demographic challenges both Eastern and Western European countries are facing, and will strengthen mutual learning. The involvement of leading international organizations and AARP, as the leading advocate of the interests of older people in the United States, will add extra dimensions to this dialogue by providing global and American experiences and perspectives.

Read more about: [conference](#)

For further information please contact: [Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano](#)

13-14 November 2008, Lucerne (Switzerland): International Conference “Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe”

Please note that the conference registration is now open.

Read more about: [conference](#)

For further information please contact: [Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano](#)

18-19 November 2008, Stuttgart (Germany): 4th Knowledge Management Days Stuttgart (4. Stuttgarter Wissensmanagement-Tage)

Annette Hexelschneider will speak about “Visualize Communities – Energize Communities. Knowledge Transfer – Knowledge Acquisition” (Communities visualisieren – Communities aktivieren. Wissenstransfer – Wissenserwerb), speech in cooperation with Barbara Geyer-Hayden.

Read more about: [conference](#)

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



Publications

Working Paper

Colombino , U., Locatelli, M., Narazani, E., O'Donoghue, C., Shima, I. (2008) "Behavioural and Welfare Effects of Basic Income Policies:A Simulation for European Countries", EM05/08

We develop and estimate a microeconomic model of household labour supply in four European countries representative of different economies and welfare policy regimes: Denmark, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom. We then simulate, under the constraint of constant total net tax revenue, the effects of 10 hypothetical tax-transfer reforms that include various alternative versions of a Basic Income policy. We produce various indexes and criteria according to which the reforms can be ranked. The exercise can be considered as one of empirical optimal taxation, where the optimization problem is solved computationally rather than analytically.

As long as the ranking of reforms is done according to welfaristic criteria it turns out that the most successful policies are those involving non means-tested versions of basic income and adopting progressive tax-rules. When other criteria (such as the implied top marginal tax rate or the effect on female labour supply) are also taken into account, the picture changes: universalistic policies remain optimal and feasible in countries like Denmark where female participation rates are very high; instead, in countries with low female participation rates (like Italy) universalistic policies appear to be too costly in terms of implied top marginal tax rates and in terms of adverse effects on female participation, and means-tested policies such as Work-Fare or Negative Income Tax seem more desirable.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Isilda Shima](#)

Narazani, E., O'Donoghue, C., Shima, I. (2008) "Labour Supply Modelling in Italy when Minimum Income Scheme is an Option", EM06/08

In this paper we analyze the effects of Minimum Guaranteed Income (MGI) schemes on labour supply of Italian married couples by applying a behavioural micro-simulation tax-benefit model. The Tax-Benefit Model applied is the static micro-simulation model of EUROMOD. A household labour supply model is simulated with different tax rules where MGI is an option. The simulated tax regimes are Negative Income Tax (NIT), Workfare Tax (WF) and Universal Basic Income (UBI). These exercises of behavioural micro-simulation tax-benefit are performed at national and regional level.

Our main finding is that changes in labour supply due to these tax-transfer rules are small and this is in favour of such income support policies. Concerning tax-transfer rules without hour's constraint, such as



UBI and NIT, they imply labour disincentives more in the South than in the North of the country, and the effect is amplified with the increase of generosity level.

Considering the welfare effects of these tax-transfer rules, we find that there are more “winners” than “losers” in the South than in the North as there are more households participating in these MGI schemes due to their low income status.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Isilda Shima](#)

Peer Reviewed Journal

Czech Sociological Review

Our Research Affiliate Pieter Vanhuysse has been appointed to become the Book Reviews Editor of *The Czech Sociological Review* (CSR), the top sociology journal from Eastern Europe and one of the very few that are ISSCI-listed and impact-factored by Thompson Scientific.

The current August 2008 issue is the first that has been edited by Pieter and it includes reviews of new books relevant to the European Centre’s work, such as those by Julia Lynch, Chris Hasselman, and Alfio Cerami on CEE social policy, by Stein Ringen on the theory of democracy, and more. The CSR’s August issue also includes a Letter from the Editors stating the new mission statement for the journal’s Book Reviews.

Quality submissions to the Czech Sociological Review from the European Centre are warmly welcomed. Please send research articles to Editor-in-Chief Professor Jiri Vecernik and ideas and 1500-words book reviews or 5000-words review articles to Pieter Vanhuysse.

Read more about: [August 2008 CSR Book Reviews](#), [Letter from the CSR’s Editors](#)

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

Publication of the Slovak National Liaison Official Institute

The Institute for Labour and Family Research of our Slovak National Liaison Official Kvetoslava Repková has published a new issue of its Bulletin “Family and Work”.

3/2008: “Actual Issues of Systems of Occupational Safety and Health Management in Slovakia”, by Viera Škvarková. In Slovak, summary and keywords in English.

Read more about: [issue 3/2008](#)

For further information please contact: [Kvetoslava Repková](#)



Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2008\) Various articles in Der Standard, in Die Presse, in Format, in Die Kleine Zeitung, in Salzburger Nachrichten, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2008](#)

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

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.

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