



Dear Reader,

As the year 2010 will end soon, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing interest in our work.

Please find our New Year greetings on the card attached to this Newsletter mail.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Projects

New Project Deliverables

Indicators for Care Homes – Dutch version published

The Dutch-language version of the Handbook from the project “Quality Management by Result-Oriented Indicators - Towards Benchmarking in Residential Care for Older People” has been published.

Read more about: [Handbooks of the project](#) (English, German, Dutch)

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

EUROMOD Update Feasibility Study – Bulgaria and Romania

The main task of the Feasibility Studies is to lay the foundations for the integration of the New Member States in EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit microsimulation model, alongside the EU15, and therefore they all include:



1. key features of national tax-benefit systems;
2. identification of appropriate data requirements and data sources;
3. consideration of issues relevant for modelling each tax-benefit instrument (tax evasion, non take-up of benefits, etc.).

Read more about: [Feasibility Study – Bulgaria and Feasibility Study – Romania](#)

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

Treatment and Care for Older Drug Users

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe, has published a special review which reveals why drug use is no longer simply a “youth phenomenon”.

Part of the review confirms on European level research findings of the SDDCARE project to which the European Centre contributed research.

Read more about: [EMCDDA publication](#), [SDDCARE project](#)

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

Events

Upcoming Events

17-18 January 2011, Barcelona (Spain): Evaluating Care across Borders (ECAB) – Working Meeting



The ECAB project aims to identify and analyse arrangements of cooperation between actors located in different EU countries. Taking on existing studies about cross-border care collaborations, the ECAB project will provide insight into the actual success and failure factors of cross-border care collaborations, for example on hospitals in border areas, on long-term care, in the field of medical records, on pharmaceutical products, and on quality standards.

The meeting will serve to discuss the research methodologies of each work package in further detail and discuss the workload of the next months.



This project is co-funded by the EU through the FP7 Cooperation Work Programme: Health (contract number 242058; contract acronym EUCBCC) 2010-2013 EUCBCC consortium.

Read more about: [EC project website](#), [international project website](#)

For further information please contact: [Catharina Hjortsberg](#), [Andrea Schmidt](#)

2-4 February 2011, Vienna (Austria): Comparing European Alcohol Policies

Among other topics, the workshop will cover:

- Available comparisons of European alcohol policies and their shortcomings and gaps
- Indicators of alcohol policy, selected for comparison
- Nationwide prevention plans

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

Past Events

20 December, Vienna (Austria): Study Visit of the Thai Standing Committee on Social Welfare

The Thai Standing Committee on Social Welfare of the House of Representatives of Thailand visited the European Centre. Mr Sutham Rahong, 1st Vice Chairman of the Committee on Social Welfare, led the group of delegates.

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

15-17 December, Vienna (Austria): General Assembly Meeting 2010

The General Assembly Meeting is the annual meeting of Board Members, National Liaison Officials, European Centre staff and observers. This year, stakeholders from 19 European countries participated.

The management report by the Executive Director and thematic sessions with transversal papers written by staff members and commented upon by NLOs informed about last year's work performed by the EC. Moreover, they highlighted possibilities for further activities. Topics of the sessions were:

- I. Solidarity among Generations and Social Protection
- II. Fiscal Crisis and Social Sustainability
- III. Work on Health Care in Progress

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



13 December, Vienna (Austria): Health Care Systems in Transition (HiT) – Austria 2010 – Expert Workshop

Andrea Schmidt participated in a workshop at the Austrian Ministry of Health to review the 2010 draft version of the report “Health Care Systems in Transition” (HiT) on Austria, which is published by the WHO in collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems.

Until the end of January 2011, the European Centre will provide feedback on the draft report and provide input on specific chapters in order to make the HiT 2010 report as comprehensive as possible.

Read more about: [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#)

For further information please contact: [Andrea Schmidt](#)

3 December, Vienna (Austria): WWF Austria – Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Staaten und Unternehmen: Soziales (Sustainability Indicators for Countries and Enterprises: Social Matters)

At the invitation of WWF Österreich, Pieter Vanhuysse took part in the Expert Workshop “Nachhaltigkeitsindikatoren für Staaten und Unternehmen: Soziales” with representatives from the Austrian national government (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection), science (such as the Institute for Advanced Studies, the University of Vienna, the European Centre Vienna, and the Boltzmann Institute), social partners (such as the Austrian Trade Unions ÖGB –VIDA and the Arbeiterkammer Vienna) and civil society (such as CARE, the Red Cross, the “Armutskonferenz”, and the CARITAS).

The workshop was convened by WWF Österreich to come to a consensus about the best way to build composite and synthetic indicators out of over 300 dimensions in order to measure the social sustainability of firms and of nation states. The WWF Report Soziale Nachhaltigkeit Österreich (“Social Sustainability Austria”) will be published in 2011.

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

18-19 October, Murnau (Germany): Achieving Quality Long-Term Care In Residential Facilities

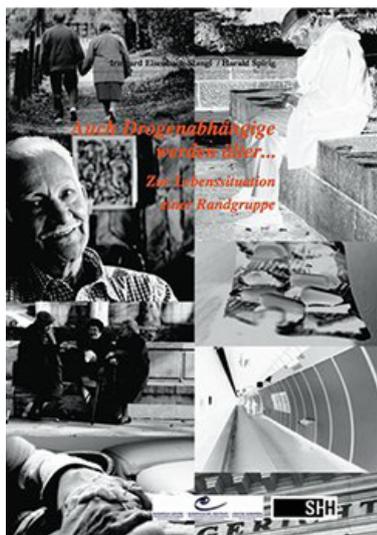
The discussion paper by Kai Leichsenring, who acted as Thematic Expert for the German Peer Review Conference “Achieving Quality Long-Term Care in Residential Facilities”, is now available online.

Read more about: [discussion paper](#)

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

Publications

European Centre Book



Eisenbach-Stangl, Irmgard / Spirig, Harald (2010) Auch Drogenabhängige werden älter... Zur Lebenssituation einer Randgruppe (Even Drug Addicts Are Ageing... The Life Situation of a Marginalised Group), European Centre and Schweizer Haus Hadersdorf

Mit dem Ausbau der Drogenhilfe und der Einführung von schadensmindernden Angeboten wurden die Lebensbedingungen und Überlebenschancen von drogenabhängigen Frauen und Männern verbessert. Die Zahl älterer Drogenabhängiger ist folgerichtig in vielen europäischen Ländern gestiegen. Gestiegen ist jedoch auch die Zahl hilfsbedürftiger „Drogensenioren“, was zur Frage ihrer angemessenen Versorgung führt.

Read more about: [book](#)

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

Review of European Centre Book

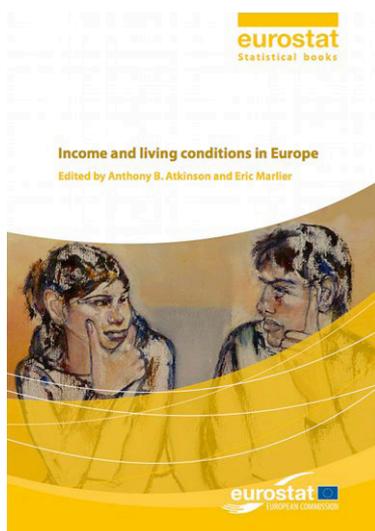
Marin, B. / Zólyomi, E. (Eds.) (2010) Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements. Public Policy and Social Welfare Vol. 37. Farnham (UK): Ashgate / European Centre Vienna

Review by [Hedva Sarfati](#) (International Social Security Association Consultant, Labour Market and Welfare Reforms) in the journal *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, issue 4, 2010, pages 17-19.

Read more about: [review](#), [book details including sample chapter](#)

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

Book contribution



Lelkes, Orsolya (2010) 'Social Participation and Social Isolation', in: Atkinson, Anthony B. / Marlier, Eric (eds.), Income and Living Conditions in Europe. Eurostat Statistical Books. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010

Abstract:

This book is about the incomes and living standards of the people of Europe. It treats employment, income inequality and poverty, housing, health, education, deprivation and social exclusion.

The reader will learn about many of the social issues confronting Europe. How much income poverty is there in Europe? Is inequality increasing? Does a job guarantee escape from income poverty? How is

Europe's welfare state coping with the economic crisis?

The book is a timely contribution to the Europe 2020 Agenda as it explores "the new landscape of EU targets" and the implications for monitoring at EU and national levels.

Read more about: [publication](#)

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

Peer Reviewed Articles

Tepe, Markus / Vanhuyse Pieter (2010) 'Who Cuts Back and When? The Politics of Delays in Social Expenditure Cutbacks, 1980- 2005', West European Politics, Vol. 33, No. 6, pp. 1214-1240 (5-year impact factor 1.417).

In this article, Pieter Vanhuyse and Markus Tepe (University of Oldenburg) investigate the politics of delays in welfare cutbacks in OECD democracies. In the context of fiscal austerity, policymakers are assumed to have a strong incentive to strategically manipulate the timing of such welfare cutbacks. Applying event history analysis to both small and large cutbacks in 21 mature welfare states, Tepe and Vanhuyse test whether partisanship (political ideology), electioneering (political business cycles), and institutional constraints (political veto points) contribute to explain the timing of welfare cutbacks. Macro-economic determinants such as worker productivity, economic growth and unemployment are found to be more important than these political variables. However, leftwing governments and welfare states with more institutional rigidity or a larger degree of contribution financing do tend to delay welfare cutbacks, while cabinets that have recently changed their party composition implement cutbacks earlier.



Keywords: event history analysis, blame avoidance, electioneering, partisanship, retrenchment, veto players

Read more about: [full paper](#)

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

Working Papers

Lelkes, O. (2010) Social Participation and Social Isolation, Eurostat Methodologies and Working Papers. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Abstract:

There is little variation in the total level of social contacts: over three quarters of the population meet relatives or friends at least once a month in all the countries. There are major differences with regard to the intensity of these contacts. The Mediterranean countries tend to be among the most “social”, especially Cyprus, Portugal and Greece, where about 40% or more meet friends on a daily basis. Friendship ties appear to be nurtured more than family ones: in the majority of European countries, people are more likely to maintain close contact with friends than with relatives.

A number of former Communist countries tend to have a relatively small politically active population.

People with more social engagements tend to report higher levels of happiness or life satisfaction.

In 2006, 7% of EU citizens were found to be socially isolated: never meeting friends or relatives, or not being able to receive help if needed. Social isolation increases in old age and it is higher among those who are at risk of poverty.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

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

EUROMOD Working Paper 7/10, co-authored by our Research Affiliate Horacio Levy: Matsaganis, M./Levy, H./Flevotomou, M. (2010) Non-Take Up of Social Benefits in Greece and Spain

Abstract:

Even though interest in non-take up of social benefits is considerable in many European countries, the topic is under-researched in southern Europe. The paper provides preliminary estimates of the extent of non-take up of two pairs of means-tested retirement benefits in Greece and Spain. The benefits examined are (i) the minimum pension supplements “pensioner social solidarity benefit” / ΕΚΑΣ and “complementos por mínimos”, and (ii) the social pensions “pension to uninsured elderly” and “pensión de jubilación



no contributiva”. The paper finds that the non-take up of social benefits in the two countries is rather extensive, examines the methodological difficulties inherent in the analysis of non-take up, and concludes with a discussion of the results and their implications.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Horacio Levy](#)

TV

The French Government is raising the retirement age by two years, and it resulted in the largest day of protest in France since Sarkozy became president in 2007. But what did the demonstrations against pension reform change and why do the French always resort to industrial action? Asghar Zaidi participated in September in a live debate on the suitability of these pension reforms for France, especially in comparison to other European countries.

Watch more about: [full interview](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

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

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.

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.