



**Dear Reader,**

We have published our first book of 2010: *Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements* (edited by Bernd Marin and Eszter Zólyomi).

Leading pension experts, predominantly women, from East and West, North and South of Europe analyse the basic challenges through single and comparative country studies. The editors provide facts and figures on women's lives, work and pensions and draw theoretical lessons and practical policy conclusions from the studies and the gendered statistical indicators.

Please find details and the link to a sample chapter in this Newsletter issue.

Sincerely yours,

**Annette Hexelschneider**

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

## Policy Brief

### Poverty Risks of Older People in EU Countries – An Update

This Policy Brief provides the latest evidence on how EU countries differ in terms of poverty risks for older people (aged 65 years and over).

Results using the latest EU-SILC data for 2008 show that, on average, older people face a higher poverty risk rate than the total population: the rate for older people was 19% as opposed to a rate for the total population of 17%. The highest poverty risk rates were observed in Latvia (51%), Cyprus (49%), Estonia (39%) and Bulgaria (34%), and the lowest in Hungary (4%), Luxembourg (5%) and the Czech Republic (7%).

In general, countries with low poverty risk rates for older people have a good social safety net in the form of a basic pension (e.g. the Netherlands) and/or they offer strong redistribution in the earnings-related contributory pension schemes in the form of minimum guaranteed pensions (e.g. Austria).



A broader picture is provided by the material deprivation rate, which measures deprivation in more absolute terms. On average, 16% of the older population in EU27 could be considered materially deprived during 2008, and only about one third of the income poor were also disadvantaged by material deprivation. Thus, out of 16 million older people identified as at risk of being poor, only about 5 million were also materially deprived.

Not surprisingly, there are wide variations across countries with respect to the proportion of those who are materially deprived and also face the risk of monetary poverty. The highest levels were registered in Bulgaria (73%), Romania (57%), and Latvia (50%), and the lowest in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK (all, less than 10%).

A subsequent Policy Brief will provide a glimpse into the future by analysing the impact of pension reforms.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

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

## Projects

### **Discussion Paper: Conference on Health and Dignified Ageing, Swedish Presidency of the EU**

Following the Conference on “Healthy and Dignified Ageing”, held under the Swedish Presidency of the EU and to which the European Centre contributed with the discussion paper “Who Cares”, the Council of the European Union has adopted its conclusions on the subject that reflect some of the core findings and policy messages contained in the “Who Cares” discussion paper.

Namely, it has stressed the need for improved coordination and integration between health and social care, in order to improve the quality of life for individuals. It has recognized the challenges facing the long-term care workforce and the need to take actions to overcome potential workforce shortages. The Council of the European Union highlighted also the importance of indicators to monitor developments on long-term care in Member States.

The Council of the European Union also exhorts the Social Protection Committee to include the results of these considerations in its work programme for 2010 and subsequent years and suggests the possibility of making 2012 the “European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity”.

Read more about: [project](#)

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



## Second Multi-City Study on Quantities and Financing of Illicit Drug Consumption – QUAF II

The second multi-city study on behalf of UNODC will assess drug consumption patterns – especially per capita consumption – and drug expenditures in additional cities of the UN-European Region. The first multi-city study on quantities and financing behaviour of illicit drug consumption (QUAF I) covered Western and Central European cities. QUAF II will concentrate on Nordic, Eastern and South-Eastern European cities. Research teams of seven cities joined the study: Belgrade, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Moscow, Sarajevo and Stockholm.

The first working meeting took place in June 2009, the second meeting in November 2009.

Read more about: [project](#)

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

## Senior Drug Dependents and Care Structures – SDDCARE

At present there is a growing population of senior drug dependents (35/45 years and older) in all European countries. Most senior drug dependents are poly-drug users with a preference for opiates, which they often inject. Most of them have mental health problems, a significant proportion suffers from chronic infectious diseases. So far, there has been virtually no action at European level and only few actions at national level that focus on senior drug dependents and their care and treatment needs. This project concentrates on them being a special risk group that lives at the margins of society.

The national report “Senior Drug Dependents and Care Structure” for Austria and Vienna is now available from the project’s website. Another Austrian project document on the results of interviews with senior drug dependents is to follow soon.

Read more about: [national report Austria and Vienna, project](#)

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

## EUROMOD

New EUROMOD Working Papers have been published. They are co-authored by Orsolya Lelkes (Research Fellow and Economic Policy Analyst) and Horacio Levy (Research Affiliate) from the European Centre.

Alari Paulus, Mitja Čok, Francesco Figari, Péter Hegedűs, Nataša Kump, Orsolya Lelkes, Horacio Levy, Christine Lietz, Silja Lüpsik, Daniela Mantovani, Leszek Morawski, Holly Sutherland, Péter Szivos, Andres Vörk (2009) The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Income Distribution in the Enlarged EU. EM8/09



#### Abstract

Tax and benefit systems in the enlarged EU vary significantly in size and structure. We examine how taxes and benefits shape the income distributions in 19 EU countries, focusing on the differences between Western European (EU15) and Eastern European countries (Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia). We use EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit microsimulation model, which simulates taxes and benefits for representative samples of household micro-data and uses a common framework, which allows the analysis of cross-country differences on a comparable basis. The analysis concentrates on the distribution and composition of incomes and the effect of taxes and benefits on poverty and inequality.

Alari Paulus, Orsolya Lelkes, Mitja Čok, Nataša Kump, Péter Hegedős, Andres Vörk, Péter Szivos, Silja Kralik (2009) Flat Tax Reform in Eastern Europe: Comparative Analysis of Alternative Scenarios in Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia, Using EUROMOD. EM9/09

#### Abstract

Flat tax schemes are popular in Eastern Europe, with an ever-increasing number of countries where they are being introduced, and yet many other where they are recurrently discussed. Analysing three countries, we show that the design of such schemes largely determines their impact on fiscal revenues and on the redistribution of individuals' incomes. The impact, as expected, also largely depends on the characteristics of the existing income tax system. Three different flat tax systems (Estonian, already implemented; Slovenian and Hungarian, only proposals) are simulated in each of the three countries. The analysis is based on EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit microsimulation model, which now includes these countries, enabling cross-country comparisons. The results also confirm the value of EUROMOD, which proves to be a valuable tool for international policy comparisons.

Read more about: [working papers](#)

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

## Events

### Upcoming Events

#### **2-3 February, New York (United States): AARP-UN Luncheon Briefing Series on Global Aging. An International High Level Forum for Best Practices and Policy Solutions**

Bernd Marin will take part in the briefings on key global aging issues. These events are in conjunction with the UN Commission for Social Development's forty-eighth session (February 3-12, 2010) and the Commission's priority theme of Social Integration. Future opportunities and challenges of population aging particularly around global health and the empowerment and human rights of older persons will be discussed.

Read more about: [event](#)

**3-12 February, New York (United States):  
48th Session of the Commission for Social Development**

Bernd Marin takes part in the Session of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs' Division For Social Policy and Development. The priority theme will be "Social Integration".

Read more about: [event](#)

**4 February, New York (United States): Austrian Cultural Forum, Conversation  
Bernd Marin / Janet Gornick on "Women's Work, Lives, Risks – Still a World Apart?"**

In the Austrian Cultural Forum Bernd Marin will speak about the EC book publication "Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements". Discussant will be Prof. Janet C. Gornick, Director, Luxembourg Income Study and Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Graduate Center, City University of New York. Moderated by Maria Christina Binz-Scharf who is Associate Professor of Management in the Economics Department at the City College of New York (CUNY), and a Fellow at the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies.

Read more about: [event](#)

**8 February, Washington, D.C. (United States): Meeting & Lecture Department for  
Health and Human Services / HHS, Office of Global Health Affairs / OGHA and  
HHS /ASPE, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation**

A meeting between HHS Officials and Bernd Marin will be followed by a lecture on recent book publications by the European Centre on long-term care and the gender dimension of pension reforms.

**9 February, Washington, D.C. (United States): Lecture at the World Bank**

The lecture by Bernd Marin will focus on "Who Cares? Some Facts and Figures on Long-Term Care – an Emerging Policy Field in the UN-European Region".

**10 February, Washington, D.C. (United States): Presentations and Public Debate  
in the Context of the Idea Exchange and Embassy Roundtable Series at AARP  
Headquarters. Speakers: Bernd Marin / Estelle James**

Women around the world have long faced challenges in working life and retirement. Because most reforms are gender-neutral, gender disparity is not always addressed.



Through this Idea Exchange AARP seeks to explore and understand the difficulties women face, particularly in retirement, and what could be done to achieve better social protection outcomes for both women and men. The speakers – Bernd Marin and Estelle James (Professor Emeritus, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York, and former Lead Economist and currently Consultant of The World Bank, Washington D.C) – will present their research and insights on women’s lives, work and pensions and draw theoretical lessons and practical policy conclusions from their research.

Read more about: [event](#)

## **11 February, New York (United States): Lecture at City University News Your**

The lecture by Bernd Marin and comments by Janet C. Gornick will focus on “Women’s Work and Pensions”.

Read more about: [event](#)

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

## **Past Events**

### **19 January 2010, Brussels (Belgium): Expert Workshop “Long-Term Care Challenges in an Ageing Society: The Role of ICT and Migrants”**

While long-term care (LTC) systems are faced with multiple challenges, migrant care workers and use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) could play an important role in the provision of quality and affordable care for older people.

The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) – one of the research institutes of the European Commission – has sought to investigate the adoption and use of ICT by/for migrants in Europe and the related policy implications: “The potential of ICT for the promotion of cultural diversity in the EU: the case of economic and social participation and integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities”. On the 19th of January, the findings of this study were presented and discussed at a workshop in Brussels.

Bernd Marin and Ricardo Rodrigues took part in the workshop. Ricardo Rodrigues presenting on the overall context of challenges facing LTC, the role of migrant carers (why care provided by migrant carers may arise and the opportunities and challenges surrounding it) and the use of ICT in LTC (potential and real use and why ICT may so far have fallen short of its potential in LTC).

Read more about: [event](#)

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



## **15 January 2010, Brussels (Belgium): 2nd COMAC Meeting, EU Presidency Pension Project, FPS Social Security**

Asghar Zaidi gave a presentation on “Poverty Risks for Older People in EU-Countries – An Update” at the Advisory Board’s meeting of the Belgian Government EU Presidency Project.

Read more about: [project](#)

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

## **Publications**

### **EC 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.**

This publication aims at exploring the difficulties that women face in working life and retirement – and what could be done to achieve more gender equality and fairness for women and men alike.

It starts out with simple, radical queries: How different are fe/male life courses, and why? And what is good, bad, best for women under these or probable future circumstances? It leads to complex, subtle, often ambiguous, and sometimes quite surprising policy conclusions.

Based on the empirical evidence at hand and using tools of economics and social science, it addresses design choices in public policies. They arise from converging but continuously different lives and risks of women and men, in gainful work and unpaid household labour.

It provides an overview on trends in population ageing and pension reforms around the Millennium as well as on the gender impact of demographic and socio-economic changes and main policy measures.

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

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



## EC Book review

**Lelkes, O. / Sutherland, H. (Eds.) (2009) Tax and Benefit Policies in the Enlarged Europe: Assessing the Impact with Microsimulation Models. Public Policy and Social Welfare Vol. 35. Farnham (UK): Ashgate / European Centre Vienna.**

Review by Gijs Dekkers (Federal Planning Bureau and Centre for Sociological Research of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) in the International Journal of Microsimulation (2009) 2 (2): 64-65.

Read more about: [review](#)

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

## Book reviews

The Reviews section of the Winter 2009-2010 issue of the Czech Sociological Review, edited by our Research Affiliate Pieter Vanhuyse, features book reviews written by inter alios Richard Rose (Aberdeen), Simon Smith (Leeds), John Vincent (Exeter), Sean Hanley (University College London) and European Centre researchers Eszter Zólyomi and Frédérique Hoffmann. Among the ten books on sociology, governance and social policy reviewed is the European Centre book Activity, Incomes and Social Welfare by Stănculescu and Stanovnik (eds.) (2009).

Read more about: [CSR reviews section](#)

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

## Peer-Reviewed Journals

**Eisenbach-Stangl, Irmgard / David, Alexander / Dressel, Michael (2009) ‘“Viennese Blend”’: Municipal Drug Services, Their Development and Their Governance’, in: Drugs: Education, Prevention, and Policy 16 (5).**

Read more about: [article](#)

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

## Journals

**‘Weshalb Jugendliche trinken’ [Why Do Teenagers Drink], in: ‘Gesundes Österreich’ [Healthy Austria], 11 (4).**

Read more about: [article](#)

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





## TV

In its feature “ORF Report” of 12 January, the ORF (Austrian broadcasting corporation) broadcasted a report on the non-take-up of social assistance in Austria. The report included interview passages with European Centre researcher Michael Fuchs on the causes and consequences of non-take-up.

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

## 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](#)



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