



Dear Reader,

We start the year 2011 with two new Policy Briefs and will proceed with the series in February.

Please find the information on the January Policy Briefs below and on page 2.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Briefs

Income Poverty in the EU. Situation in 2007 and Trends (based on EU-SILC 2005-2008)

The aim of this Policy Brief – written by Orsolya Lelkes and Katrin Gasior – is to analyse the level and trends of poverty across the European Union.

The rate of poverty varies between 9% and 26% across EU Member States. As the generally accepted EU definition of poverty is based on national standards, people can be poor with rather different incomes in various countries. We show the different monetary values of the poverty threshold across countries. We find that poverty is deeper in countries with higher rates of poverty, in other words, the poor tend to have lower incomes compared to the poverty threshold value. In the period between 2004 and 2007, overall poverty has declined in Ireland, Poland, and Slovakia. In contrast, at-risk-of-poverty rates have increased in Germany, Finland, Latvia, and Sweden. In the majority of countries there has been no statistically significant change in the at-risk-of-poverty rate over the past 4 years. We explored the robustness of our results by the estimation of confidence intervals for the poverty rates, and the use of alternative threshold values.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

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



Auch Drogenabhängige werden älter... Zur Lebenssituation einer Randgruppe (Even Drug Addicts Are Ageing... The Life Situation of a Marginalised Group)

In diesem Policy Brief von Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl und Harald Spirig werden ausgewählte Ergebnisse eines EU-Projektes vorgestellt, das zwischen 2008 und 2010 in Deutschland, Österreich, Polen und Schottland unter dem Titel "Senior Drug Dependents and Care Structures" durchgeführt wurde.

Da die Ergebnisse der vier Länderstudien aufgrund unterschiedlicher Dokumentationssysteme und anderer Faktoren nicht vergleichbar sind, müssen die hier vorgestellten österreichischen Ergebnisse für jene der Gesamtstudie stehen. Sie belegen die zunehmende Zahl älterer Drogenabhängiger und zeigen ihre Randposition in Gesellschaft und Drogenmilieu und deren Folgen, wie ihre – vorwiegend unzureichende – Versorgung durch spezielle, zumeist ebenfalls randständige Einrichtungen.

Die Diskriminierung (älterer) Drogenabhängiger gründet nicht auf sozialstaatlichen Regelungen, sondern auf dem Suchtmittelgesetz, das den Umgang mit ausgewählten Substanzen inkriminiert. Die gesellschaftliche (Re) Integration älterer Drogenabhängiger setzt daher auch das Überdenken der gesetzlichen Grundlagen voraus.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

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

Projects

New Project: ICT-based Solutions for Caregivers: Assessing their Impact on the Sustainability of Long-term Care in an Ageing Europe

This study – commissioned by the Institute for Prospective Technology Studies (IPTS), a joint research centre of the European Commission in Sevilla – deals with the question of how information and communication technologies (ICT) can best support family caregivers and migrant care workers in caring for older people in domiciliary settings. Through a mapping exercise across all different European care regimes, a set of at least 50 ICT-based initiatives to support carers will be collected, and a comprehensive Impact Assessment Methodology developed and tested in-depth on 12 of them identified as good practices. This will allow, in the first place, to formulate a series of policy recommendations and options on the role of sustainable ICT-based solutions for informal carers in Europe and, secondly, to deliver a validated and transferable assessment methodology to evaluate their impact.

Read more about: [project](#)

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



Mobile Safe Sex-guide, Project Brochures and First Press Release of the SAFESEX Project

The project aims to achieve youth empowerment and improved sexual education through the implementation of modern teaching techniques and mobile technology.

The Mobile Safe Sex-guide can be downloaded in Czech, Danish, English, German, Greek, Italian and Lithuanian.

The brochures and the first press release are available in all languages mentioned above, too.

Read more about: [project website \(Mobile Safe Sex-guide, brochure, press release\)](#)

For further information please contact: [Gabriele Schmied](#)

EUROREACH project website on-line

The project website for EuroREACH is now available to the public.

EuroREACH is an EU-funded project focusing on improving access to health care data on a disease-based patient-oriented level. The project is a multinational cooperative effort intended to improve access to data for health services research. EuroREACH explores how to achieve improved access to data for cross-country comparative research through coordinating recent innovations for better health care information systems and performance measurement at a national, European, and international level.

Read more about: [project website](#)

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

Events

Past Events

19 January, Vienna (Austria): Low-Level Gerontocracy?

Pieter Vanhuysse gave a lecture on “Low-Level Gerontocracy?” in the seminar series “Faces of Eastern Europe” of the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen / Institute for Human Sciences.

Read more about: [“Faces of Eastern Europe” seminar series, seminar](#)

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

**18 January, Madrid (Spain):
The Reform of the German Pension System: A Model for Spain**



Image license: IDEAS Foundation for Progress

The event was organised by the Spanish IDEAS Foundation for Progress and the German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Speakers were Lothar Witte, Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Jesús Caldera, Vice-President of the IDEAS Foundation, Asghar Zaidi, European Centre, Walter Riester, former Labour Minister of Germany (from left to right).

Asghar Zaidi made a presentation covering two aspects of reforms in pension systems across EU countries:

- The need for pension reforms given the demographic challenge and the legacy of past pension systems.
- The timing and nature of pension reforms since 1990.

Read more about: [IDEAS Foundation for Progress](#), [video summaries](#)

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



Publications

Review of European Centre Books

**Zaidi, Asghar/ Harding, Ann/ Williamson, Paul (Eds.) (2009)
New Frontiers in Microsimulation Modelling. Public Policy and Social Welfare
Vol. 36. Farnham (UK): Ashgate / European Centre Vienna**

Review by Gijs Dekkers (Federal Planning Bureau, Belgium) in the International Statistical Review, vol. 78, no. 3 (December 2010), pp. 481-482

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

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

**Eisenbach-Stangl, Irmgard/ Moskalewicz, Jacek/ Thom, Betsy (Eds.) (2009)
Two Worlds of Drug Consumption in Late Modern Societies.
Public Policy and Social Welfare Vol. 34. Farnham (UK):
Ashgate / European Centre Vienna**

The review section of the current Winter issue of the ISI-listed Czech Sociological Review (CSR), edited by Pieter Vanhuyse, contains reviews written by the likes of Steve Crowley (Oberlin College, USA), Tomas Sirovatka (Masaryk University Brno), Vera Scepanovic (CEU Budapest), Marek Skovajsa (Charles University, Prague), and JoLynn Henke (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA) on altogether eight new books in sociology, social policy and politics authored by Peter Hall and Michele Lamont, Gerda Falkner, and James Speth. The CSR issue also features an essay on Zygmunt Bauman's role in, and contributions to, Czech sociology.

Lastly, the review section also features a review written by Jane Casey from the Centre for Drug Misuse Research at the University of Glasgow on one of the European Centre's recent publications, i.e. *Two Worlds of Drug Consumption in Late Modern Societies*.

Excerpts:

"This book aimed to compare the quantities and costs of illicit drug use across six European Union cities: London, Amsterdam, Turin, Vienna, Prague and Warsaw. ... The second part of the book gives an illuminating picture of drug consumption across the 6 cities. Set against the backdrop of Europe as one of the largest consumers of illicit drug use, this book identified a dearth of information on the quantity of drugs consumed per capita across the continent. ... In sum, this book offers a model for which consumption and expenditure patterns of drug use can be estimated in a large urban setting. The success of the book lies in its second part, which focuses on the findings of the study. ... As a researcher in the drugs field, I found the comparative discussions on the patterns of drug use across the six cities highly interesting and insightful."

Read more about: [CSR Winter 2010 book reviews section](#), [Czech Sociological Review](#)

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



Reviews of Books Written or Edited by European Centre Staff

Pieter Vanhuysse's co-edited book, **Post-Communist Welfare Pathways**

Pieter Vanhuysse's co-edited book, *Post-Communist Welfare Pathways* (Palgrave MacMillan), has been reviewed by Peggy Watson of Homerton College, University of Cambridge in the journal *Critical Social Policy*, Vol. 30, pp. 594-596 (5-year ISI impact factor 1.634).

Excerpts:

"Surprisingly, and in contrast to the voluminous literature on the economic transition from communism to capitalist democracy in Europe, the transformation of welfare after communism has remained largely uncharted. With the present edited volume, Alfio Cerami and Pieter Vanhuysse have gone some way to address this situation. In it, they bring together contributions on nine different post-communist countries and across a variety of social policy fields, in a wide-ranging discussion of institutional transformation and path dependency (and departure) in Central and Eastern European (CEE) welfare states. ... Power features explicitly in Vanhuysse's chapter, but elsewhere is more of an 'add-on'. ... Yet issues rooted in the transformation of power relations silently pervade the book – the chapters by Rat and Orenstein provide two illustrations ... this book is a step forward in the study of post- communist welfare."

Read more about: [review](#), [book](#)

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

Journal Articles

Marin, Bernd/ Zólyomi, Eszter (2010) 'Erwerbstätigkeit und Rentenanspruch von Frauen: Was ist gut, was am besten?' (Gainful Employment and Pension Entitlement of Women: What is Good, What is Best?) in: Soziale Sicherheit CHSS 6/2010 (Social Security CHSS)

Read more about: [article in German \(pp. 330-334\)](#), [article in French \(pp. 330-334\)](#), [book details including sample chapter](#)

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

Gasior, Katrin/ Zaidi, Asghar (2010) 'Social Well-Being of Disabled Older Persons: Evidence of Unequal Ageing in Europe', in: Issues of Ageing and Disability, Issue 1: International Perspectives, pp. 13-23. MagCloud

Read more about: [issue 1](#)

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



Website

The first update of the MonitoringRIS website in 2011 has been published.

Among other items, it contains new information on national implementation activities and research papers.

Read more about: [website](#), [update overview](#)

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

TV

2011: Fewer Jobs, Longer Hours?

Asgar Zaidi participated in a TV debate with François Picard and his guests: A. Craig Copetas, Senior Writer for Bloomberg News, Raquel Garrido, International Spokesperson of the “Parti de Gauche”, and Jacques Reland, Head of the European Programme at the Global Policy Institute, on France 24.

As the French argue about repealing the 35-hour work week, François Picard’s panel wondered if a more flexible workforce will really reduce unemployment in Europe.

Watch more about: [video of the debate](#)

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, in: Der Falter, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2011](#)

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



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