



Dear Reader,

We would like to draw your attention to our January Policy Brief on “Income Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU”, see the below information and link.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatou
Publications Officer

Policy Briefs

Income Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU, *Orsolya Lelkes and Katrin Gasior*

The aim of this Brief is to estimate the degree of social exclusion at EU level, and to identify the country clusters related to this, and also to present the level and the trend of poverty at country level.

According to Europe2020 targets, the risk of exclusion is to be measured by three indicators: at-risk-of-poverty, severe material deprivation, and living in households with very low work intensity. The EU-SILC for 2009 suggests that overall 113 million people in the EU are at risk of exclusion according to at least one of these indicators. Some 6.5 million people are deprived according to all three indicators. On this basis, only a minority, therefore, can be defined as suffering from severe cumulative disadvantage.

We explored the natural grouping of the three indicators of social exclusion at a country level across the EU. At a larger level, we find a cluster of six East-European countries (Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria and Romania) and the rest of the EU. On a more detailed level, we can identify four country groups.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate varies between 9% and 26% across EU Member States. We find that the poverty gap is larger in countries with higher rates of poverty. Between 2004 and 2008, the proportion of population at-risk-of-poverty declined in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland, and Slovakia. In contrast, the proportion at-risk-of-poverty increased in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Sweden. 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](#)



Projects

Demand for Long-Term Care and Supply-Mix

In 2012 the European Centre will carry out a project on “Demand for Long-Term Care and Supply-Mix” funded by the City of Vienna. Based on secondary analysis of survey and administrative data the aim is to analyse which factors (socio-demographic characteristics, available support, housing environment, etc.) are driving demand for certain care settings, e.g. inpatient care, mobile services. In addition, the analysis aims at identifying reasons why some people do not utilize benefits in kind although they receive adequate care allowances and whether or not there is unmet need in the demand for long-term care benefits. The results of the secondary analysis will be used to model scenarios of future demand and to estimate corresponding costs.

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

Quality Management by Research-oriented Indicators – Czech Handbook

The main target audience of this handbook are the key stakeholders of care homes, which include its management, staff, clients and relatives, as well as policy decision-makers, regulators and sponsors. The handbook contains a set of 94 selected result-oriented indicators that have been developed on the basis of the exchange of experiences and existing tools in selected EU Member States.

Thanks to the efforts of Ing. Jiří Horecký, President of the Federation of Providers of Social Institutions in the Czech Republic, the Handbook is now also available in [Czech language](#).

Read more about: [project](#)

For further information please contact: [Petra Kulveitová](#)

Presentation by Maria M. Hofmarcher, EC Director of Health and Care, at the EC Researcher’s Meeting, January 11, 2012: ‘Reforming Austria’s Highly Regarded but Costly Health System’ (based on the OECD working paper published in 2011)

Maria M. Hofmarcher, Director of Health and Care, presented the findings from the OECD Working Paper “Reforming Austria’s Highly Regarded but Costly Health System”, published September 2011. In the presentation, Ms. Hofmarcher assessed the current state of the Austrian health system, addressing why it is highly regarded and demonstrating how the system ranks on several health indicators in international comparison. The presentation also revealed what is behind the high costs of the system including highly fragmented governance and financing and an overreliance on inpatient care over more affordable ambulatory and outpatient care options. In addition the lack of focus on cost-efficiency and health promotion and prevention are major issues.



To address these issues and improve the overall performance of the health system, Ms. Hofmarcher presented several key recommendations:

- i) tighten the institutional design of the system,
- ii) mobilize performance-based payment mechanisms to improve productivity, i
- iii) emphasize national health and quality goals,
- iv) promote better balanced integrated care,
- v) make medium-term fiscal outlook of the system more prominent.

For more information see:

[Gönenç, R., M. M. Hofmarcher and A. Wörgötter \(2011\) "Reforming Austria's Highly Regarded but Costly Health System", OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 895, OECD Publishing](#)

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

Publications

Book

Vanhuyse, Pieter & Goerres, Achim (eds.) (2012) Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies: Comparative Studies of Policies and Politics. Abingdon: Routledge / ECPR Studies in European Political Science

Published with Routledge and the European Consortium for Political Research to coincide with the start of the European Year of Active Aging and Solidarity between the Generations, this volume brings together an expert set of scholars from Europe and North America to investigate generational politics and public policies within an explicitly comparative political science approach. The book examines changing social and public policy demands due to ageing electorates and features analysis of USA, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy and all major EU countries. It studies government reforms that have often hurt the interests of growing elderly voting blocs in order to safeguard macro-fiscal viability, and looks at the political drivers behind highly topical responses such as pension generosity cuts and retirement age increases. It also examines the social policy attitudes of younger and older generations, as well as the emergence of 'grey' or pensioner parties across 31 democracies.

Contributors include: Robert H Hudson (Boston University, USA), Stefan Svallfors (Umea University, Sweden), Sean Hanley (University College London, UK), Andrej Kokkonen (Gothenburg University, Sweden), Juan J Fernandez (University of Madrid, Spain), Martin Hering (McMaster University, Canada), Jennifer Sciubba (Rhodes College, USA).

For advance praise, book flyer, and book order website: [EC website](#)

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



Book Chapters

Goerres, Achim & Vanhuyse, Pieter (2012) 'Mapping the Field: The Comparative Study of Generational Politics and Policies', Chapter 1 in Vanhuyse, Pieter & Goerres, Achim (eds.), Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies: Comparative Studies of Policies and Politics. Abingdon: Routledge/ ECPR Studies in European Political Science

Whereas the call for a political science based study of older people and ageing is not new (Cutler 1977; Hecló 1988), relatively little unified progress has been made so far. This editorial introductory chapter maps the field of generational politics and introduces the edited volume "Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies". This book brings together an expert set of scholars to investigate generational politics and public policies within an explicitly comparative political science approach. It opens important political process black boxes by asking a number of central questions. How does population aging change political support for redistribution towards different age groups in society, including not just elderly people but also families with children? How, and when, do established parties in aging democracies implement policies that directly hurt the interests of the growing elderly voting bloc, such as pension generosity cutbacks and retirement age increases? Where, and when, do new 'grey parties' emerge on the political scene in Western and Eastern Europe and what, if anything, makes such pensioner parties persist over time? The answers provided in this volume promise to be of major interest to scholars in fields such as political economy, political sociology, social policy, comparative politics, demography, and gerontology.

Keywords: generational politics, population aging, welfare state politics, retrenchment tactics, pensions politics, grey party emergence, old democracies

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

Tepe, Markus & Vanhuyse, Pieter (2012) 'Accelerating Smaller Cutbacks to Delay Larger Ones? The Politics of Timing and Alarm Bells in OECD Pension Generosity Retrenchment', Chapter 6 in Vanhuyse, Pieter & Goerres, Achim (eds.), Ageing Populations in Post-Industrial Democracies: Comparative Studies of Policies and Politics. Abingdon: Routledge / ECPR Studies in European Political Science

This chapter investigates the politics of delays in pension generosity cutbacks in 18 OECD democracies between 1981 and 1999 by using event history analysis. In the context of fiscal austerity, policymakers are assumed to have a strong incentive to manipulate the timing of cutbacks strategically. Investigating both medium and large cutbacks in ageing welfare states, we test whether, in addition to conventional demographic and economic variables, political-institutional variables capturing partisanship (political ideology), electioneering (political cycle), and institutional constraints (political rigidity) contribute to explain the



timing of cutbacks. While the latter two factors are found not to have any significant effect on the timing of pension generosity cutbacks, more right-leaning governments tend to implement pension generosity cutbacks significantly earlier. Finally, we find near-similar effects of unemployment and population ageing: these socio-demographic variables tend to delay large-size cutbacks, but to accelerate medium-size cutbacks in pension generosity, possibly because they function as alarm bell signals urging policymakers to take still feasible incremental action through ‘muddling-through type’ retrenchment in order to delay more radical and politically highly risky retrenchment.

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

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Publication of the Official Slovak National Liaison 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”.

Family and Work / Rodina a práca, 6/2011, Competence of Persons Involved in the Safety of Operation of Selected Work Equipment, by Miroslav Novotny

This report includes the identification, analysis and specification of different requirements for the competence of revised legislation and other regulations to ensure the safe operation of work equipment. The goals of the report are to ensure the unity of requirements and to develop proposals to modify the relevant Slovak technical standards. Resuming the current proposal will be helpful for the unification of training systems (basic training, periodic training, testing) for the competence of those involved in operating selected work equipment.

Read more about: [issue 6/2011](#)

For further information please contact: [Michaela Szabóová](#)

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2012\) Various articles in: Der Standard, in: Die Presse, in: Format, in: Kleine Zeitung, in: Salzburger Nachrichten, in: Der Falter, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2012](#)

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