



Dear Reader,

For the International Microsimulation Association Conference to be hosted by the European Centre, we updated the conference website substantially to give a detailed overview what participants can expect in Vienna.

For participants and for people who unfortunately will not join us in Vienna we set up a blog that accompanies the website with more information about what is going on before/during/after the IMA 2007. You can find both links in this Newsletter together with additional IMA information.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider,

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Involvements

UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

In preparation of the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee has been formed by the UNECE with the nominated delegates from the Member States of UNECE. The Committee had its first meeting in Geneva (12/13th July), with the objectives to decide upon the content and modalities of the Ministerial Conference, including the agenda, the background documents, and the draft political declaration. This Preparatory Committee meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Bernd Marin and Dr. Asghar Zaidi from the European Centre. The Preparatory Committee also elected the Bureau to serve as the drafting committee for the Political Declaration that the Conference is expected to adopt. Prof. Dr. Bernd Marin has been selected as an observer within the Bureau.

Asghar Zaidi made a presentation to the members of the Committee about the activities of the European Centre's MA:IMI project.

Read more about: [the Committee's work](#), [presentation of the European Centre](#), [the MA:IMI project](#)

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



Events

Upcoming events

Update International Microsimulation Association Conference

The International Microsimulation Association Conference “Celebrating 50 Years of Microsimulation”, to be hosted by the European Centre 20-22 August, has gone from strength to strength. It has attracted close to 200 self-paying participants from all over the world, with in excess of 100 presentations of papers and models over a full three-day programme. The Conference has attracted additional sponsorship from Statistics Norway and Statistics Canada, along with sponsorship from Natsem; University of Canberra, Department of Health, Australia; Productivity Commission, Australia; Department of Education, Science and Training, Australia; Department of Work and Pensions, United Kingdom; Erste Bank Privatstiftung, Austria; Magistrate for Cultural Affairs and Science, Municipality of Vienna; and the Vienna Convention Bureau.

Although the call for papers is long closed, there are a limited number of places still available for those who wish to attend the conference. Anyone interested is invited to register [online](#).

Read more about: [conference website](#), [conference blog](#)

For further information please contact: conference co-ordination [Asghar Zaidi](#), organisational questions: [Andrea Hovenier](#)

I October 2007, Linz, Austria: Alkoholpolitik zwischen europäischer Integration und nationalen Traditionen. Am Beispiel Finnland, Österreich, Schweden (Alcohol Policies between European Integration and National Traditions. The Examples of Austria, Finland, and Sweden)

This scientific conference focuses on the discussion of different models for alcohol policies with three national examples: Finland, Austria and Sweden. In this context, the role of the European Union with regard to national alcohol policies will be thematized.

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl will speak about “Alkoholpolitische Maßnahmen in Österreich – ein historischer Aufriss” (Alcohol Policy Measures in Austria – A Historical Outline)

Read more about: [agenda](#) (in German)

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



Past events

11 July 2007, Vienna: Press Conference

The European Centre held a press conference on “Sozialhilfe – nein danke?” – Empirische Daten zur Nicht-Inanspruchnahme berechtigter Sozialhilfe, (“Social assistance - no, thanks?” Empirical Data on the Non-take-up of Social Assistance.)

Read more about: [presentation and overview about the coverage](#) (in German)

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

Summary of the Last International Seminar at the EC

Robert Laslett, Chief Economist and Director of Analysis and Stewardship, Pensions Client Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, UK, gave a seminar in the context of our International Seminar series, under the title “Personal Accounts to Improve Pension Coverage and Adequacy: The UK’s Proposed Pension Reforms and Lessons for other EU Countries”. The seminar was jointly organised by the Economic Studies Division of the Austrian National Bank (OeNB) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

Robert talked about how the UK is planning to introduce a new employee right to employer pension contributions, automatic enrolment into employer schemes, and a system of personal accounts to try to enhance pension coverage and savings. The talk described the personal accounts scheme and how it aims to minimise costs, maximise membership and avoid “levelling down” on the part of employer schemes. The topic is highly relevant given the current pension reform debate in the European Union, as many countries are also adopting personal accounts systems. As yet, there is not enough analytical work on how best to keep the scheme’s management costs to a minimum, how best to improve membership of such schemes, maintain a good contributory principle, etc. Robert talked about how the UK’s proposed pension reforms address these issues, and whether there may be lessons for other EU countries.

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

If you would like to be invited to future International Seminars please write a mail to: [Andrea Hovenier](#)

Documents of ICSW Expert Meeting

We have reported on the ICSW Expert meeting “Cultural Preservation and Empowerment of Immigrant Communities” in our [May Newsletter](#).

In the meanwhile, a [website](#) has gone online with all the Meeting documents.

For further information please contact: [Avraham Lavine](#), [Bernd Marin](#), [Dilek Çınar](#)



Publications

Policy Debates

From Lisbon 2000 to Lisbon 2007: Back to the Future

“From Lisbon 2000 to Lisbon 2007: Back to the Future” is the final document of the initiative of the European Anti-Poverty Network / Portugal, in partnership with the Portuguese government. It is based on joint work of different experts from Portugal and other European countries (including Orsolya Lelkes from the European Centre), trying to elaborate a set of proposals to help the Portuguese Presidency to foresee a reinforcement of the Social Inclusion trends and strategy within the European Union agenda.

In the context of the “Lisbon process” the document synthesises as major worries: the weak progress achieved in the promotion of social inclusion and in the European approach to it; the attention and the focus on “Growth and Jobs” as a pre-condition for reducing poverty and social exclusion, and the loss of priority of the social cohesion strand in the framework of the revised Lisbon Strategy (2005); and the debate about Social Protection and the future of the European Social Model, with a view to the enlargement of the Union and the European Strategy for Social Inclusion, which is on “stand-by”.

Read more about: [publication](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2007\) Various articles in Der Standard, Vienna, 2007](#)

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



Personnel Matters

Open Position

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research has an open position for a full-time research associate to work with us on a broad range of issues of long-term care policies for older persons in international comparisons, including financing issues, challenges of ageing populations, and the interface of long-term care with health care and other social policies. A special focus will be on work for improving care indicators for policy monitoring.

Ideally we are looking for a researcher with research experience in the field across countries and in the European policy context.

Please refer to our website for this vacancy notice for an Economist/Social Policy Analyst within the Research Pillar “Health & Care”.

Read more about: [vacancy notice](#)

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



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.