



**Dear Reader,**

Welcome to our first Newsletter issue after the summer break, we hope that you will enjoy reading it.

On page 2 you will find a contribution describing our input to the UNECE Ministerial Conference “Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting Quality of Life and Active Ageing”, and a Research Forum, to be held in Vienna, 18-20 September 2012.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatou  
Publications Officer

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## Projects

### Boys and Girls Workshop

A workshop “Public Health Issues and Online Communication to Adolescents – Challenges and Opportunities” took place on 5 June 2012 in the European Parliament. The workshop was part of the project “Boys and Girls”, which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Public Health Programme. It has partners from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the UK.

The main objective of the workshop was to discuss health challenges for teenagers and how to use social media for health prevention. “Boys and Girls – the web series” was presented by Business Solutions. European Centre Researcher Gabriele Schmied participated in this event.

Read more about: [Project](#), [Notes of the Workshop](#)

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



## Events

### Upcoming Events

#### **2012 WDA Forum, 27-30 August, St. Gallen, Switzerland Recent Policies on Meeting the Challenges of Ageing Societies**

This WDA Forum is organized in cooperation with UNECE and WHO and the joint session will be made up of two parts:

- (i) The UNECE and the European Commission DG Employment, Social Protection and Inclusion are undertaking together with the European Centre Vienna a Joint management project 'Active Ageing Index', within the framework of the 2012 European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. This project aims to develop and launch an Active Ageing Index that would help to measure national progress in ensuring quality of life of ageing population in European Union and other UNECE countries.
- (ii) The second part of the session will take a look at the WHO work on ageing and in particular its new Strategy and action plan on healthy ageing for Europe, 2012-2020.

Chair: Ariela Lowenstein, Head, Center for Research & Study of Aging, University of Haifa, Israel

Panellists: Manfred Huber, Bernd Marin, and Asghar Zaidi

For the detailed programme see: [Website](#)

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

#### **The UNECE Ministerial Conference, 19-20 September 2012, Vienna, Austria Ensuring a Society for All Ages: Promoting Quality of Life and Active Ageing**

In this Ministerial Conference (hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection), the UNECE Member States will mark the 10th anniversary of MIPAA/RIS. Its principal goal will be to evaluate implementation of MIPAA/RIS in the five years since the 2007 León Conference, asking how much progress has been made, where there is still room for improvement, and how to approach the challenges that still remain. Active ageing policy discourse will be at the heart of the ministerial segment of the conference, which will seek to set priorities for the coming five years for improving the quality of life of people of all ages.

Experts and ministerial panels will tackle pressing policy questions such as how best to promote the participation of older persons in the labour market and societal activities, as well as means of creating enabling environments for healthy and independent ageing. One of the side events will involve presentation of the work of the Active Ageing Index project, undertaken by the European Centre jointly with the UNECE and the European Commission.



On 18th September 2012, a Research Forum will take place, which has been coordinated by *Alexandre Sidorenko*, our Senior Advisor, working alongside *Asghar Zaidi* and *Georg Ruppe*. Prof. Dr. *Bernd Marin* will be one of the keynote speakers during the Research Forum.

For further information about the conference see: [Website](#)

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

### **Statistiktag 2012 – Measuring Wealth and Progress – How’s Austria? Statistics Austria, Wednesday, 24 October 2012**

Statistics Austria is currently working with the involvement of international experts on the development of specific headline indicators to measure economic and social progress (drawing from the recommendations of the Stiglitz Report). These indicators will be published regularly by Statistics Austria, starting with autumn 2012.

During the Statistics Day 2012, titled “How’s Austria?”, the results of the project will be presented to the public for the first time. As a dedicated expert in this field, *Asghar Zaidi*, our Director of Research, will participate in the international panel to comment on the work of Statistics Austria and present the example of similar work by the Office of National Statistics in the United Kingdom. Other international experts to participate include *Enrico Giovannini* (ISTAT), *Paul Schreyer* (OECD), *Walter Radermacher* (Eurostat) and *Ulla Rosenström* (Office of the Finnish Prime Minister).

For the detailed programme see: [Website](#)

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

### **Past Event**

#### **European Conference on Health Economics, Zürich, 18-21 July**

*Ricardo Rodrigues* and *Andrea Schmidt* participated in the European Conference on Health Economics, held in Zürich from the 18th till the 21st of July. In this conference, each had a chance to present and discuss findings from ongoing research at the European Centre in the areas of long-term care and health.

*Ricardo Rodrigues* presented a paper, co-authored with *Andrea Schmidt*, on the equity impact of providing cash or in-kind benefits in long-term care. The results from econometric modelling suggest that providing de-regulated cash benefits such as those existing in Austria, Germany and Italy could provide incentives for lower-income households to internalise care provision within the family, while more affluent households would be able to access care services. This is in contrast to countries such as Sweden and Denmark where provision of in-kind benefits mostly benefits lower-income users.

*Andrea Schmidt* presented results from the ECAB project on the measurement of quality in Austrian hospitals. The presentation was based on an econometric methodology that allows for the estimation of robust indicators on hospital quality. The methodology is based on the application of a Vector Auto-



regression (VAR) framework to individual hospital patient data, which allows for a better calculation and interpretation of trends over time in quality performance of hospitals. This could be an important tool to benchmark hospital performance and drive improvements in the hospital sector in Austria.

Results from a mapping exercise on public reporting mechanisms for quality in long-term care were also presented at the poster session, by Ricardo Rodrigues. These are also findings from ECAB, which show that most of the reporting mechanisms include not only simpler structural indicators on quality (e.g. staff ratios), but also reflect the state of the art by measuring quality of life of users. Evidence remains scarce, however, on the impact of such mechanisms on user and provider behaviour.

The underlying research to these presentations is soon to be published and made available to a larger audience.

Read more about: [Conference](#)

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

## Publications

### Reviews

#### **The Czech Sociological Review**

The reviews section of the summer 2012 issue of the *Czech Sociological Review* (ISI impact factor 0.652) contains reviews written by the likes of Peggy Watson (Cambridge), Laura Hyman (Surrey), Yaemin Shin (Oxford), and the European Centre's former NLO for Serbia, Mihail Arandarenko (Belgrade University), on altogether nine new books in sociology and social policy, including Branko Milanovic's *The Haves and the Have-nots*, Wilkinson and Pickett's *The Spirit Level*, Carol Graham's *Happiness around the World*, Stein Ringen et al.'s *The Korean State and Social Policy*, and Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz's *The Race between Education and Technology*.

For all summer 2012 book reviews see: [Website](#) On the *Czech Sociological Review* see: [Website](#)

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

### 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, 2/2012, Monitoring Barriers of Participation of Accredited Subjects of Social/Legal Protection (in Slovak language), by Milan Fico**

This study deals with selected issues of the monitoring of system settings of social/legal protection in Slovakia with emphasis on barriers which may occur in accredited subjects of social/legal protection in performing their measures.

Read more about: [Issue 2/2012](#)

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

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

## Personnel Matters

### Postgraduate Training



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graduate training course was to offer a 'backpack' of essential tools and competences to young researchers at the start of their career.

Katrin Gasior has successfully completed her postgraduate training course on international social science research called 'SOQUA' in June 2012, funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research.

The aim of the training was to gather key competences and know-how for everyday social scientific work such as empirical methods, project management tools, presentation of scientific results and the European research landscape. It furthermore offered the opportunity for exchange with experienced researchers and the chance to learn from their first-hand experiences and insider tips. The overall goal of the postgraduate

In a closing event, the Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Research, Karlheinz Töchterle, ceremoniously presented the certificates to the participants.

Read more about: [SOQUA Postgraduate Training](#)

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



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