



Social Welfare Policy and Research News June 2006

PROJECTS

Evaluation of the Children's Rights Amendment Act 2001, in particular of Joint Custody after Divorce

The European Centre and the *Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie* carried out a project on the implementation of the Children's Rights Amendment Act 2001 in Austria, in particular of joint custody after divorce.

Among other findings, the results threw light on the following issues:

- Did parents accept joint custody? Did it work out well?
- Did it change the awareness of parents? Seen from the perspective of judges, advocates, notaries, court surveyors, mediators, representatives of the Youth Welfare authorities and family counselling centres, children's and youth ombudspersons as well as representatives of women shelters.
- Did the Act strengthen the rights of children?
- Could the aims of the Austrian Children's Rights Amendment Act 2001 be achieved?

Project Director: Renate Kränzl-Nagl

Project Team EC: Renate Kränzl-Nagl, Ulrike Zartler

[Read more about the project](#)

[Executive summary \(in German\)](#)

[Journal article about the findings](#) (article in German on pages 52/53)

EVENTS

8 June 2006 – Vienna – International Seminar

Pension Reform in Europe: Need and Options for a More Coordinated Reform Approach

Professor Robert Holzmann of The World Bank lectured in the context of an international seminar at the European Centre. The seminar discussed current pension reforms in Europe and debated whether the NDC pension system adopted by Sweden in its reforms of the late 1990s can possibly serve as a suitable model for all European countries.

[Publications, background reading, presentations](#)

27 June – Vienna – International Seminar

Quality Assurance Systems for Long-Term Care: An International Perspective

Joshua M. Wiener, PhD, Program Director for Ageing, Disability, and Long-term Care, RTI International, Washington DC headed an international seminar at the European Centre. There is evidence about great variation in quality of long-term care services that often do not meet the expectations of the public, the users of services and their families. Policies to match quality in long-term care with public expectations include quality assessment and monitoring of outcomes. But long-term care still lags behind acute health care when it comes to measurement and quality improvement strategies. What is the current state of quality assessment in a number of developed countries? What can be learnt from international comparisons in this new field of cross-country research?

[Presentations \(after the meeting\)](#)

This seminar is the second in a series of international seminars that are organised at the European Centre. If you would like to be invited to our seminars [please leave your contact details here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article:

Looking at a poor family with three children in different countries – *an article of the journal “HSA Luzern – Das Magazin” (May 2006), Lucerne School of Social Work (HSA)*, illustrates the European Centre project “Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies”.

[See pages 4/5 \(in German\)](#)
[Read more about the project](#)

Newspaper Articles:

[Marin, Bernd \(2006\) Various articles in Der Standard, Vienna, 2006](#)

Websites:

We are pleased to announce that the **second update of the Monitoring RIS Website** is now online.

You can consult it at: www.MonitoringRis.org

Among other changes, you will find more information on national NGOs, Policies and Strategies, translations of MIPAA and RIS documents in more languages, information on Implementation Activities and Policies in the UNECLAC region ...

The next update is planned for 4 August, with more information on indicators. To get the announcement for the next update, you may want to register on the [“Next update”](#) page.

We look forward to an increasingly comprehensive and interesting web page, thanks to your suggestions, and invite you once again to submit any information you regard as relevant and that could help to enhance the web page's accuracy.

For that purpose, please use the online forms on the web page or communicate directly to the following address: risweb@euro.centre.org

Sincerely yours,

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