



Dear Reader,

Among other topics, you will find extensive information on children's experiences with poverty and social exclusion in this Newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider,

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Events

1 June, Brussels: Presentation Workshop of the European Centre

The European Centre presented its work at the Federal Public Service Social Security in Brussels.

Read more about: [Federal Public Service Social Security, Agenda](#)

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

4 June, Brussels: Conference on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI)

The European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities in cooperation with the European Centre organised a Conference on Social Services of General Interest (SSGI) that was held in Brussels on 4 June 2007.

In 2006, the European Centre had been given the task to prepare a report on the situation of SSGI in the European Union, detailing the state-of-the-art, modernisation trends, the EU-legal implications of modernisation of SSGI and the establishment and implementation of quality issues. The goal of the conference was to discuss the final results of this study undertaken in cooperation with the Institute for Social Work and Social Education (Frankfurt am Main, Germany) and the Centre international de recherches et d'information sur l'économie publique, sociale et coopérative (CIRIEC-aisbl; Liege, Belgium).



The consortium partners, under the leadership of the European Centre, drew up the programme of the conference that included presentations and discussions on the main trends in the Long-term Care Sector (among others, with a presentation by Manfred Huber), the Social Housing Sector, as well as Labour Market Services for Disadvantaged Persons (among others, with a presentation by Asghar Zaidi). A synthesis of the results of the study was presented during the afternoon session by Manfred Huber, Mathias Maucher (ISS) and Barbara Sak (CIRIEC), under the chairmanship of Bernd Marin.

At the end of the day, a panel session was held to reflect on the replies to a questionnaire on social services of general interest that was sent out by the Social Protection Committee.

It is foreseen that the study on SSGI as well as the proceedings of the conference will be published by the European Commission over the summer.

For an overview on the project, including all powerpoint presentations held during the Conference, please visit the [website](#).

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

14-17 June, Siena: International Conference on Policies for Happiness

Orsolya Lelkes gave a presentation on religious interactions in life satisfaction. The research is a joint work with Andrew Clark (Paris School of Economics). Survey data on 30,000 individuals in 21 European countries is used to consider possible spill-over effects of individual religiosity on life satisfaction.

The results suggest, as usual, that personal religious behaviour is positively correlated with individual life satisfaction, controlling for demographic characteristics and country-fixed effects. Average religious behaviour in the region also has a positive social impact: people tend to be happier in regions with a higher proportion of religious individuals. Religious activities positively affect both those who are religious and those who are not. In contrast, a greater number of “atheists” (those who say they do not belong to any religious denomination at present) has negative spill-over effects for the religious and the non-religious alike.

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



15 June, Vienna: Challenges in Guaranteeing Adequate Pension Incomes for Women

Michael Fuchs gave a lecture on “Challenges in Guaranteeing Adequate Pension Incomes for Women” based on a presentation created in collaboration with Asghar Zaidi, and participated in a panel discussion at a public inquiry on “Pension Sharing / Pension Splitting” organised by the political academy of the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP) in Vienna.

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

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

25 June, Dublin: Conference on Active Ageing and Labour Market Trajectories

The conference highlighted issues that affect the participation of older people in the labour market. Asghar Zaidi spoke about the “Transition from Work to Retirement in EU-25: Is It A Gradual Change or A Cliff Edge Fall?”

Read more about: [Agenda](#), [Presentation](#)

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

28-29 June 2007, Vienna: International Workshop on Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies

(funded by the Childwatch International Research Network and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth)

This 1,5-days workshop deals with questions on how children experience (extreme) poverty and social exclusion; how they deal with difficult living conditions; and what helps them to cope with these experiences. Special emphasis will be given to research findings about resilience, namely to factors avoiding negative effects of poverty and social exclusion for the present well-being of children, their development and their future perspectives. Research where children were actively involved and their views and experiences were seriously taken into account, is of particular interest.

Experts from 14 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Norway, Slovakia, Ukraine and United Kingdom) and three international organisations (OECD, UNICEF/ Regional Office for CIS/CEE countries and UNIFEM/ Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe) are attending this meeting.



The workshop is jointly organized by:

- Renate Kränzl-Nagl, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna
- Daniel Gerbery, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava
- Mona Sandbaek, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo

Read more about: [Workshop Website](#)

For further information please contact: [Renate Kränzl-Nagl](#)

Publications

Websites:

[www.MonitoringRIS.org updated](#)

We are pleased to announce that a new update of the Monitoring RIS Website is now online. By popular demand, the website now includes a country-specific sitemap, allowing easy access to all available information for a given country. Further additions are new partner NGOs as well as new key documents.

We are constantly looking for new contents for the website. If you know of any interesting RIS-related project, data, event or NGO working in the field, kindly let us know. Our readers' help in creating a comprehensive and interesting website is very much appreciated.

To suggest new information, please use the online forms or communicate directly to the following address: risweb@euro.centre.org

To receive the announcement for updates you can register on the "Next update" page.

Read more about: [Monitoring RIS Website](#), [Next update registration](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

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

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



Personnel Matters

New Staff:

Fabian Bahr

Fabian Bahr studied Social Sciences in the United Kingdom and in Germany where he received his degree as *Diplom-Sozialwissenschaftler*. At the European Centre, Fabian is involved in the SHSGI project, for which he is providing the input on the employment and expenditure trends in health and social services, and in the MA:IMI project, for which he is in charge of the data collection on long-term care for the elderly. Long-term care is one of his core research interest since his thesis during his previous employment at the OECD in Paris.

Read more about: [Fabian Bahr](#)

For further information please contact: [Fabian Bahr](#)



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Contacts for Activities & Products are listed on the website.

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