



Dear Reader,

We welcome two new colleagues at the European Centre – Andrea Schmidt and Pieter Vanhuyse. Pieter has already worked for the European Centre as consultant and you may have read about his publications in previous issues of this Newsletter.

More information about Andrea and Pieter can be found on page 7 of this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Projects

MA:IMI – Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation

The spring issue of the Mainstreaming Ageing Newsletter has been published. It focuses on women, work and pensions.

Read more about: [Newsletter](#)

For further information please contact: [Eszter Zólyomi](#)

Events

Upcoming Events

22-23 April, Burgos (Spain): Conference on Minimum Pensions, Evolution of Social Security Systems and their Contribution to Social Inclusion: Ministerial Meeting

Asghar Zaidi will attend the conference on the invitation of the Spanish EU Presidency. One of the purposes of the Conference will be to review jointly the role of minimum pensions as contribution to social inclusion, in the context of European pension system reforms. The Conference will also deal with some of the medium and long-term implications of the impact of the crisis on pension systems.



On the basis of the Conference's outcome, draft conclusions will be prepared as Conclusions of the Presidency or, if appropriate, suggestions for Council Conclusions.

Read more about: [event](#)

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

29-30 April, Logroño (Spain), Conference on “Active and Healthy Ageing”

Bernd Marin will speak at the plenary session of the Spanish EU Presidency event. Asghar Zaidi will also be attending the event. The conference aims to promote active ageing in the EU covering a number of key issues such as healthy ageing, active working life, lifelong learning and social participation.

Read more about: [event](#)

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

10 May, Vienna (Austria): Economic Crisis and its Impact on Pension Schemes and Benefits

Upon invitation, Asghar Zaidi will give a seminar at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW) on “Economic Crisis and its Impact on Pension Schemes and Benefits”. This WIIW seminar series addresses the impact of the current global financial and economic crisis on the CEE, SEE and CIS countries and discuss possible policy responses.

Read more about: [event](#)

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

26-27 May, Frankfurt am Main (Germany): Senior Drug Dependents and Care Structures in Europe

The project “Senior Drug Dependents and Care Structures” compiled preliminary data in four European countries and researched current best practice examples of how to care for senior drug dependents. The results of the studies will be presented at the conference.

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl will speak together with Harald Spirig (Schweizerhaus Hadersdorf, Vienna) about the “Situation and Needs of Senior Drug Dependents in Austria”.

Read more about: [event](#)

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



Past Events

22 March, Buenos Aires (Argentina): Long-Term Care – Bernd Marin in Argentina

On invitation of the International Longevity Center, the Gerontological Association of Argentina (member of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics), and the Society for Geriatrics and Gerontology in Argentina, Bernd Marin spoke about long-term care at a conference for Clinical Gerontology in Buenos Aires.

Read more about: [event](#) (in Spanish)

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

18-21 March, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation): International Forum “Senior Generation”, International Congress “Social Assistance and Elderly Health in Present-Day Society”

At the request of the Organizing Committee, the European Centre has sent a message to the participants signed by Bernd Marin, the Director of the European Centre.

Alexandre Sidorenko participated in the congress and delivered a plenary lecture on “Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Countries of the Former Soviet Union”.

Read more about: [message to the conference](#)

For further information please contact: [Alexandre Sidorenko](#)

18-19 March, Budapest (Hungary): Conference on “Independent Fiscal Institutions”

Pieter Vanhuysse participated in the conference by invitation of the newly founded Office of the Fiscal Council of the Republic of Hungary.

The conference was held at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and included contributions by Lars Calmfors (Director, the Swedish Fiscal Council), Alice Rivlin (founding Director, the US Congressional Budget Office), Simon Wren-Lewis (Oxford), Fabrizio Coricelli (Paris), Kenneth Rogoff (Harvard) and Jürgen von Hagen (Bonn), as well as opening remarks by Janos Kornai (Harvard, em.), George Kopits (Chairman, Office of the Fiscal Council of the Republic of Hungary) and László Sólyom, the President of the Republic of Hungary.

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



13 March, Salzburg (Austria): Das Pensionssystem und altersgerechtes Arbeiten im europäischen Vergleich (The Pension System and Age-Appropriate Working in European Comparison)

Bernd Marin gave a lecture at the University of Applied Sciences Salzburg where he spoke about the question, which reforms can restore pension security in ageing societies.

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

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

11 March, Berlin (Germany): Gesünder länger leben. Geschlechtersensitiver Generationenvertrag in langlebigen Gesellschaften (Living Longer and Healthier. Gender-Sensitive Generational Contract in Longevity Societies)

Bernd Marin spoke at the German Centre of Gerontology about the challenge of sustainable reforms to secure safe pensions in an ageing society and of bringing more gender balance to society.

Read more about: [event and presentation](#) (in German)

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

8 March, Paris (France): Workshop on Gender Dimensions of Retirement

DREES (Direction de la recherche, des études, de l'évaluation et des statistiques), COR (Conseil d'orientation des retraites), the OECD and the European Centre Vienna jointly organised a workshop on "The Gender Dimension of Retirement" in Paris, France.

This closed event, attended by officials from the French Ministry and by international experts from Europe and the US, provided a platform for an exchange of views on the topic of gender and retirement with particular regard to the French situation. Key findings of recently published materials (including the European Centre's new book on Women's Work and Pensions) as well as preliminary results from OECD research were presented and discussed in three thematic sessions:

- (1) demographic and socio-economic changes and trends,
- (2) recent and ongoing pension reforms and their gender-differentiated impacts,
- (3) specific policy instruments implemented to achieve more gender equality.

Read more about: [event](#) (in French), [book](#)

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



4-5 March, Brussels (Belgium): European Workshop on Dynamic Microsimulation

The workshop was designed to exchange information about latest developments in the field of microsimulation between the years of the International Microsimulation Conferences, and to encourage collaboration between various organisations and teams that are developing and using microsimulation models.

Gijs Dekkers, in consultation with Asghar Zaidi, spoke about “Establishing a Europe-wide Network of Dynamic Microsimulation Modellers: Challenges and Opportunities”

Read more about: [event](#)

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

19 January 2010, Brussels (Belgium): Expert Workshop on “Long-Term Care Challenges in an Ageing Society: The Role of ICT and Migrants”

The presentations of this event are now on-line.

Read more about: [presentations](#)

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

Publications

Book Reviews

Pieter Vanhuyse’s book *Divide and Pacify* has been newly reviewed in the Israeli journal *Gerontology*, 36 (4), 117-120 (in Hebrew) and in this year’s first issues of three journals: *Political Studies Review*, *The CEU Political Science Journal*, and *East Central Europe/L’Europe du Centre-Est*.

Political Studies Review, 2010, Vol. 8, No. 1:

“... a fresh look at social policies ... [about] why, despite the severe social hardship of post-communist transformation, East European societies hardly engaged in distributive struggles and protest. The book’s main claim is that policy makers in the region clearly understood the potentially explosive situation and strategically adopted social policies to ‘divide and pacify’ the working population. Thus Hungary and Poland, amid a steep transformational recession, adopted generous pension policies ... This stands in contrast to the Czech development, where reformers initially prevented layoffs through softer budgetary constraints and therefore were able to avoid the pitfalls of a pensioners’ welfare state. ... The book is well structured and written, and it adds an original argument to the literature on post communist social policies.”



The CEU Political Science Journal, 2010, Vol. 5, No. 1:

“... well-crafted and thoughtful explanations of the collective actions of the population in [CEE] countries regarding the shock of unemployment. ... Showing how only an interdisciplinary perspective can really aid in better understanding an apparently puzzling issue ... it is an informative, concise, and analytical book which deserves every scholar’s and political researcher’s attention ... a complex book which encompasses political, psychological, economic, and sociological elements ... Economists of the post socialist countries and the political decision makers can also use these experiences to review and analyze their own political decisions already implemented ... a highly recommended research book.”

East Central Europe/L’Europe du Centre-Est, 2010, Vol. 37, No. 1:

“... not only offers a novel and provocative approach to the problems of policy and politics in transition, but also opens up an innovative research agenda for understanding the formation of political cleavages in East Central Europe today. ... There are several advantages to this approach, which render it an important contribution ... rejecting the accounts that see the development of social policies in the region as a by-product of ad hoc, ‘emergency responses’, or alternatively as a continuation of policies already laid out under socialism ...[is] what gives the book its provocative edge and broaches an interesting research agenda ... A potentially very fruitful venue of inquiry: exploring the political decisions and cleavages of early transition politics in order to trace the ways in which these resulted in specific political configurations and potentials for conflict we observe today. As the second decade of transition unravels a lot less peacefully than the first, for anybody interested in the fate of East Central European democracies, this is a challenge that must be taken up.”

Read more about: [book website](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2010\) Various articles in Der Standard, in Die Presse, in Format, in Kleine Zeitung, in Salzburger Nachrichten, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2010](#)

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



Personnel Matters

Andrea Schmidt

In March, Andrea Schmidt joined the European Centre and the Health and Care team, in particular. She will, to begin with, be involved mainly in the project on EU Cross Border Care, and also participate in the project on result-oriented indicators in long-term care. She has a keen interest in socio-economic determinants of health as well as in health care systems in developing and transition countries.

Andrea obtained an MSc in Public Policy and Human Development from Maastricht University (held in collaboration with the ILO), and a Mag.phil. from the University of Graz in foreign languages and environmental sciences. Prior to the European Centre, Andrea worked for the press and communications department of an Austrian political party on EU and foreign affairs and, before that, as an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels. Also, she gained experience in Jordan volunteering for the United Nations University in Amman.

Andrea speaks German (mother tongue), English, Spanish and French, as well as some Dutch and basic Arabic.

Read more about: [Andrea Schmidt](#)

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

Pieter Vanhuysse

Pieter Vanhuysse has joined the European Centre on March 1st from the University of Haifa, where he is Assistant Professor at the School of Political Sciences and the Faculty of Education (on sabbatical spring-summer 2010). Pieter's research at the Centre will cover the areas of political sociology and political economy of OECD social policies; comparative human capital politics and policies; comparative welfare regime models and varieties of capitalism in Western and Eastern Europe; the political and policy aspects of generational conflict and population ageing; and micro-social politics.

Read more about: [Pieter Vanhuysse](#)

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



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