



Dear Reader,

With this issue we round off the year 2006. The next issue will appear in January 2007. Thank you very much for your interest.

Please note that we linked two new Policy Briefs to this Newsletter. Further Policy Briefs will be published beginning of next year.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider,

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Briefs

“Joint Custody after Divorce: Austrian Experiences”

Our third Policy Brief illustrates the main findings of a professions analysis carried out by Renate Kränzl-Nagl from the European Centre and Christa Pelikan from the Institute for the Sociology of Law and Criminology. This analysis was part of the “Evaluation Study on the Effects of the Implementation of the Children’s Rights Amendment Act 2001, with Particular Reference to Joint Custody after Divorce” (commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice).

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#), [Project](#)

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

“Transition from Work to Retirement in EU25”

This fourth Policy Brief has been produced within the project “European Observatory on the Social Situation”, and it draws upon the empirical evidence from the EU Labour Force Survey with respect to the labour force participation among older workers. As policy implications, we argue the needs for a “flexible later retirement”. Additional incentives are necessary to enable people not just to move between jobs in later working life but also to work part-time without losing their entitlement to benefit. Such policy incentives should encourage older workers to avoid the phenomenon of a “cliff-edge” fall from full-time work directly into retirement that many of them face.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#), [Project](#)

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



Events

13-15 November – Segovia (Spain): 1st Meeting of National Focal Points

The Focal Points are the national contacts in the 55 European Centre / UNECE countries regarding issues on “Mainstreaming Ageing” and on the follow-up to the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA, 2002). Therefore, this network plays a key role in the follow-up process, and for the MA:IMI project. In this context, the UNECE Population Activities Unit and the “Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO)” of Spain, with support from the “United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)”, organized the Meeting of National Focal Points on ageing in Segovia, Spain. Barbara Lipszyc presented MA:IMI, and explained how this EC project serves and facilitates the RIS follow-up process, while Asghar Zaidi presented EC recent work on pension policy in EU-25.

15-16 November – Segovia: Technical Meeting to Follow-up MIPAA “Older Persons Facing Loneliness and Insufficient Economic Resources”

Barbara Lipszyc and Asghar Zaidi represented the European Centre at the technical meeting on the MIPAA follow-up that took place right after the focal point meeting at the same venue, organised by IMSERSO. Asghar Zaidi talked about “Poverty of the Elderly” and the most revealing indicators, with a focus on elderly living alone.

Read more about: [MA:IMI](#), [Monitoring RIS web page](#)
For further information please contact: [Barbara Lipszyc](#)

14 November – Vienna: Arbeitszeitmodelle und “Pflegegeld neu” (Working Time Models and “Care Allowance New”)

In collaboration with the Austrian Ministry of Finance the EC organised this workshop in order to stimulate a discussion about the growth and quality of life potentials of working time policy as well as about sustainable steering- and financing possibilities of long-term care provision through international best-practice examples and national dialogue.

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



19-21 November – Vienna International Centre (VIC): European Centre General Assembly Meeting 2006

The General Assembly Meeting is the annual meeting of Board Members, NLOs, EC staff and observers. The management report by the Executive Director and thematic sessions with transversal papers written by staff members and commented by NLOs inform about last year's work done by the EC. Moreover they highlight possibilities for further activities.

Read more about: [Agenda and abstracts](#)

I December – London: Funding Long-term Care: Recent Evidence and Analysis

The London School of Economics organises this seminar to mark the launch of its report for the Nuffield Foundation on paying for long-term care for older people in the UK. Manfred Huber will be one of the panellists to summarize the topic at the end of the seminar.

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

Involvements

Students' Project: Client-Oriented Knowledge Dissemination

The Fachhochschule Wien (University of Applied Sciences Vienna) study courses of the Wirtschaftskammer Wien (Austrian Federal Economic Chamber Vienna) offers a practice-oriented vocational training with strong scientific background at university level. The core topic of the study course Knowledge Management is to raise efficiency through development, usage, storage and evaluation of knowledge.

The alumni facilitate and support the information and knowledge flow in companies and find and develop professional solutions to use existing knowledge more efficiently. Companies benefit from the optimised knowledge basis as well as from the innovation strength and an increased client satisfaction.

In the framework of a practice project at the end of their four years' training the students analyse in close cooperation with the European Centre the information needs of special stakeholders of our research institute in order to develop concepts for the following optimisation of the transfer of research findings.

Another group of students looks at the information needs of the stakeholders of the tourist sight Schloß Schönbrunn, which shows the broadness of the practice field for knowledge management.



Details of the students' cooperation with the European Centre:

Client Needs Analysis "Research Community"

The five students of the subgroup "Research Community" are going to do a needs analysis with researchers through concept engineering in order to explore whether there is need for action to raise the efficiency of knowledge exchange and expand communication. And they would like to research whether there is potential for a Community of Practice or Social Software tools.

Planned are occasional interviews with researchers and research affiliates of the European Centre. The analysis of these interviews will lead to a definition of communication means.

Client Needs Analysis "Social Practitioner"

The student subgroup "Social Practitioner" developed a series of ideas to explore clients' needs, among others a satisfaction panel idea. The European Centre decided to use the development of a survey including an accompanying introductory letter to raise clients' interest and look at contacts beyond the Centre's stakeholders.

The goals are to find out more about the needs and expectations of this target group, to classify social practitioners and to expand the network with this group.

Client Needs Analysis "National Liaison Officer (NLO)"

The NLOs are the key link between the European Centre and its Member States. They act as intermediaries representing both the interests of their nations within the European Centre as well as those of the European Centre in their countries. The NLOs and the European Centre jointly collaborate for the effective exchange of experiences and cross-national project development.

The task for this student subgroup is to see where the communication between EC and NLOs could benefit from further improvements and in which ways efficiency can be raised.

A survey and a social network analysis are the means for this research.

The benefit of the cooperation between the Fachhochschule Wien study course "Knowledge Management" of the Wirtschaftskammer Wien and the European Centre, is that the EC can make use of the up-to-date insights in the field of knowledge management and the work of the students and get suggestions for further improvements. And the students benefit from the usage of what they learned in a real practice example and from the work together with the European Centre.

Read more about: [Information about the study course Knowledge Management](#)



Publications

Websites:

Monitoring RIS Website update

We are pleased to announce that the fourth update of the Monitoring RIS Website is now on-line. You can consult it at: www.MonitoringRis.org

Main changes:

- both the Focal Points and the NGO networks have been consequently enriched, as you will see on the Regional Networks page,
- more national Policies and Strategies,
- the page Global Normative Frameworks has been restructured, with new documents available.

The next update is planned for December, with more information on indicators.

You can register to get the announcement for the next update on the "[Next update](#)" page.

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

For that purpose, please use the on-line forms you will find on the webpage or communicate directly to the following address: risweb@euro.centre.org

Newspaper Articles:

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



Contact for general newsletter/web site comments, suggestions or questions:

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