



Dear Reader,

I have the pleasure to announce that we proceed with our series of “Policy Briefs”. Please find more information below.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Briefs

Transition from Work to Retirement in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Rastislav Bednárík from the Institute for Labour and Family Research of our Slovak National Liaison Official and Jan Škorpík discuss the Policy Brief by Asghar Zaidi and Michael Fuchs on “Transition from Work to Retirement” (December 2006) from the perspectives of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

For further information please contact: [Rastislav Bednárík](#)

Time Poverty or Time Welfare in Austrian Families? Impact of Family Factors on Children’s School Achievements

In this Policy Brief, Renate Kränzl-Nagl and Martina Beham analyse Austrian and international data on parental time use and its impact on children’s school achievements by taking into account the views of mothers, fathers and their school-aged children.

These findings are based on the empirical studies “PISA & Patchwork-Childhood” and “Do Children Count?”, carried out by the European Centre (commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection).

Read more about: Policy Brief – [English version](#), [German version](#)

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



Projects

New Project: EU-Study on Indicators Measuring the Implementation, Protection, Respect and Promotion of Children's Rights in the European Union, Mapping and Assessment of Available Relevant Data Resources

We are pleased to report that the EU-Tender for a "Study on Indicators Measuring the Implementation, Protection, Respect and Promotion of Children's Rights in the European Union, Mapping and Assessment of Available Relevant Data Resources" has been awarded by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union.

This study aims at developing a set of indicators to monitor the implementation of children's rights (in accordance with the UN-Convention) in the EU Member States and at mapping relevant data and available information sources. The project is coordinated by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights in Vienna and the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and Law at the University of Liverpool. For the purposes of specific sociological, empirical and statistical expertise, parts of the study will be covered by the European Centre. Furthermore, Jonathan Bradshaw (University of York) will be involved as external, independent evaluator and supervisor of the project.

Read more about: [the project](#)

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

Involvements

2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Bernd Marin, Executive Director, and Asghar Zaidi, Director Research, attended the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities", 5-8 November 2007, held in León, Spain. The conference had the objective of reviewing the implementation of the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). The 4-day Conference has considered findings of national reviews of ageing-related policies, in order to share experiences and good practices and to identify priorities for future action. The Conference adopted a ministerial declaration at the end.



Asghar Zaidi spoke in one of the plenary sessions of the Research Forum on this first day about “Poverty of Older People and Its Links with Pension Policies”. Asghar Zaidi has also been chairing one of the Research Forum sessions.

Bernd Marin was the keynote speaker and Asghar Zaidi a panelist in Session D. Bernd Marin spoke about “Living Longer, Working Longer: Challenges for Education, Labour Market and Social Protection”, and the title of Asghar Zaidi’s talk was “Key Strategies to Encourage Longer Working Careers”.

On the final day, Bernd Marin had been the rapporteur of the ministerial session on “Adjusting Social Protection Systems to Population Ageing” and Asghar Zaidi had the task of serving as the rapporteur of the final ministerial session on “Work and Education in Ageing Societies”.

Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi also organised a side event for the European Centre to promote its work progress as well as proposed work plan of the MA:IMI project. The details of the side event can be found at the event website.

Read more about: [event](#) (with presentations and details), [project](#), [project website](#)

For further information please contact: [Bernd Marin](#), [Asghar Zaidi](#) if you wish to know more and/or require any background documents/presentations of the conference.

International Journal of Child Rights and Research

Renate Kränzl-Nagl has become a member of the editorial board of a new global, bi-annual Journal titled “International Journal of Child Rights and Research” (IJCRR), published in collaboration with Serial Publications, New Delhi, India.

IJCRR is an inter-disciplinary forum for child research and aims to publish papers on all aspects relating to child rights and research across geographical boundaries, disciplines, socio-economic and cultural contexts, and applied and basic research. It invites contributions that explore international and inter-disciplinary research committed to increasing understanding of child rights. It welcomes submission that explores the changing nature of child rights in developed and developing countries and under socio-economic and cultural contexts and that illuminate the complex, globally articulated risks and possibilities that affect children today, which may include topics such as cultural values, ethics, conflicts, social policy, programme design, supervision, education, training etc.

It is planned to launch the inaugural issue of IJCRR in March 2008. Deadline for submitting papers: 31 December 2007.

For further information please contact: [Renate Kränzl-Nagl](#) or the editor directly:

[Dr. Falendra K. Sudan](#), Editor, IJCRR, Jammu and Kashmir Child Rights and Research Trust



Events

Upcoming Events

3-4 April 2008, Vienna: International Conference “Tax-benefit Microsimulation in the Enlarged Europe: Results from the I-CUE Project and Perspectives for the Future”

The aim of the conference is to explore perspectives for the future in tax-benefit microsimulation, to present and discuss work in progress and plans for model applications, as well as to present results from the I-CUE (Improving the Capacity and Usability of EUROMOD) project, based on the enlarged European tax-benefit microsimulation model.

Keynote speaker: Sir Anthony Atkinson, Nuffield College, Oxford

We have started the “Call for Papers” phase.

Read more about: [Call for Papers](#), [event’s website](#)

For further information please contact: the [conference secretariat](#)

Past Events

30 November 2007, Prague: Meeting of the Childwatch International Regional Study Group for CEE Countries

Renate Kränzl-Nagl has been invited by the Secretariat of Childwatch International to participate in a meeting of its regional study group for Central and Eastern European countries. The overall aim of the meeting is to discuss future collaboration in this region.

Read more about: Childwatch

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

15 November 2007, Bratislava: European Science and Technology Week

Orsolya Lelkes was invited to a scientific conference within the European Science and Technology Week organized by the Institute for Labour and Family Research of our Slovak National Liaison Official. She gave a presentation on “Child Poverty among Migrants in European Union Countries”.

Read more about: [Institute for Labour and Family Research](#)



10 November 2007, Vienna: AIM-AP Project Team Meeting

Experts from Athens University, Modena University, Central European University, Budapest and Orsolya Lelkes from the European Centre have discussed work progress related to estimating the incidence of income tax evasion in Greece, Italy and Hungary.

Read more about: [AIM-AP](#)

8-9 November 2007, Vienna: I-CUE Workshop

Workshop participants included project partners from Estonia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia, together with Euromod developers from the University of Modena, Essex University, and the IHS, Vienna. Orsolya Lelkes and Michael Fuchs from the European Centre hosted the event.

The aim of the workshop was to

- discuss the progress of developing Euromod in these four New Member States,
- enhance the use of the model by these teams,
- develop joint research projects,
- prepare the final conference to be held 3-4 April 2008 in Vienna.

Read more about: [I-CUE](#)

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

24-25 October, Madrid: Conference “Ageing of Population”

Asghar Zaidi delivered the keynote speech on “Features and Characteristics of Population Ageing Using the European Perspective” at the Conference on “Ageing and Population”, held at the CES (Consejo Económico y Social). The key messages emerging from his presentation are (a) Population ageing could be considered a disaster or it could offer new opportunities depending upon how well we prepare for it; (b) employers in the private sector, trade unions and the civil society are very much key factors along with the State, in coming up with innovations that could provide solutions to population ageing challenges.

Read more about: [full speech and the presentation slides](#)

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



Publications

Working Paper

Anderson Stanciole (2007) “Health Insurance and Life Style Choices: Identifying the Ex Ante Moral Hazard”, IRISS Working Paper 2007-10, CEPS/INSTEAD, Differdange, Luxembourg

Abstract

There is extensive debate in the literature about the practical significance of the concept of ex-ante moral hazard. This paper uses data from the 1999-2003 PSID waves to estimate a structural model of individual choice of insurance coverage and four life style related decisions: heavy smoking, heavy drinking, sedentariness and obesity. The results show that health insurance has significant incentive effects on life style choices, increasing the propensity to heavy smoking, sedentariness and obesity. Somewhat surprisingly, however, health insurance decreases the propensity to heavy drinking. There is also significant correlation among the errors of each equation. The results might also have implications for the design of health financing policies.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

For further information please contact: [Anderson Stanciole](#)

Peer-Reviewed Journals

Mattia Makovec and Asghar Zaidi (2007) “Life-course Disruptions and their Impact on Income and Living Conditions in EU Member States”, European Papers on the New Welfare, No. 8

Abstract

An important objective for social welfare policy has always been to provide safeguards against reductions in income and living standards that result from unemployment, disability, separation, widowhood and other such life course events. This paper examines the effect of such life course disruptions – unemployment, disability, separation and widowhood – on the income and living conditions of those living in EU Member States.

The risk of experiencing such a disruption is first outlined and the effects on income are then analysed, followed by consideration of the role of public policy in alleviating these effects. Empirical evidence shows that unemployment is closely linked to low income and high risk of poverty. In terms of policy, the widespread shift from passive to active labour market measures has contributed to reducing unemployment in the EU. This includes increasing incentives to return to work and training programmes for the young unemployed and retraining for the long-term unemployed, which have been developed in almost all Mem-



ber States. The Nordic countries provide the major example of how State involvement and an extensive social security system can facilitate re-entry into the labour market and maintain living standards of those experiencing unemployment.

Review of existing studies indicates that labour market events are critical to an individual's risk of entering into poverty and the chances of escaping it. There is a clear gender differential in the effect of the labour market events, with women's loss of employment often buffered by the employment of their partner. Among family-related events, widowhood seems to double the chances of women's income falling to poverty levels as compared with men, while separation appears to have an adverse effect on the income of women alone. By contrast, the effects of having children and cohabitation on the risk of poverty do not show much variation between men and women. These findings suggest a need for greater gender mainstreaming of social policies and the provision of a safety net that takes into account the often different situations of men and women.

In the case of separation, the evidence suggests — not surprisingly — that women with better education and those who work full-time before separation tend to have higher income afterwards, while income declines with the number of children. The effect of different types of social welfare systems seems to be relatively weak, though post-separation income in the more 'liberal' countries (such as the UK and Ireland) seems to be higher than in more 'corporatist' countries (such as Austria, Germany and France). This, however, could reflect the greater participation of women in the labour force in the former or a different composition of women becoming separated — i.e. those with higher education levels in full-time work.

Read more about: [article](#)

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

Article by our Research Affiliate Yitzhak Berman

Menachem Monnickendam and Yitzhak Berman (2007) “An Empirical Analysis of the Interrelationship between Components of the Social Quality Theoretical Construct”, *Social Indicators Research Journal* (online)

Abstract

Social quality has been presented as a theory that can explain economic and social progress of the daily life of a population. The components of social quality include: socio-economic security, social inclusion, social cohesion and social empowerment. The social quality perspective views people as interacting within collective identities that provide the contexts of self-realisation. The paper tests the social quality theory by focusing on the relationship between social inclusion and social cohesion, the notion of social relations, to socio-economic security using the context of the family as a facilitator of self-realisation. Using data from the Israel Social Survey 2003, six indicators of socio-economic security were analysed. There was a small but positive and significant relationship between social inclusion and socio-economic security.



We found no relationship between socio-economic security and social cohesion. These findings tend to undermine those aspects of social quality theory that posit close connections between these elements on a conceptual level.

Read more about: [article](#)

For further information please contact: [Yitzhak Berman](#)

Book contribution

By our Research Affiliate Horacio Levy

Horacio Levy, Christine Lietz, and Holly Sutherland (2007) 'A Guaranteed Income for Europe's Children'. in: Inequality and Poverty Re-examined, S.P. Jenkins and J. Micklewright (eds.), Oxford University Press, Oxford

Read more: [book](#)

For further information please contact: [Horacio Levy](#)

Newspaper Articles

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

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



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