



Dear Reader,

This month the General Assembly Meeting of the European Centre took place. It is the annual meeting of Board Members, NLO, EC staff and observers. More information and a link to our Programme Catalogue 2007/8 can be found in this Newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Projects

The Social Situation in the European Union

The European Commission (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) has just released the 2005/2006 edition of the report “The Social Situation in the European Union”, focusing on aspects of the balance between generations in an ageing Europe. The report contains contributions written by European Centre researchers (Asghar Zaidi, Orsolya Lelkes, and Marius Rummel) in the context of the project “The European Observatory on the Social Situation”. The European Centre is one of four partners in the Social Inclusion Network of the Observatory managed by the European Commission (the work is coordinated by Applica, Brussels).

Read more about: [project](#), [report](#)

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

European Centre Programme Catalogue 2007/8

Our annual Report of Activities can be downloaded [here](#).

For further information please contact: the contact persons mentioned in the Catalogue



Involvements

ChildONEurope: Working Group “Children’s Participation”

The ChildONEurope Network established a working group on “Children’s Participation” that consists of experts from different European countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and The Netherlands).

Renate Kränzl-Nagl from the European Centre has been invited to join this working group. The main task of this group of experts is to conduct a survey on this topic in different EU Member States as well as to prepare an international seminar on “children’s participation” (to be held in January 2008 at the premises of the Innocenti Research Institute in Florence, Italy).

Read more about: [ChildONEurope website](#)

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

Events

Upcoming Events

30 November 2007, Vienna: International Seminar

The next International Seminar at the European Centre will be held by Dr. Pieter Vanhuyse of the School of Political Sciences and Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel: ‘Are Mature Welfare States on the Path to the Politics of Gerontocracy? Evidence from 18 OECD Democracies, 1980-2002’.

Please note that the starting time of the seminar is 15:00 pm.

The seminar is by invitation only, and there are a limited number of places available for those who register by sending an email to Andrea Hovenier. The seminar is part of the series of international seminars organised at the European Centre, debating the fiscal and social sustainability of social welfare systems.

Read more about: [International Seminars of the European Centre](#)



10 – 11 December 2007, Krems: “Gesünder länger leben”

Bernd Marin is member of the symposium committee and will speak about ‘Was heißt “gesünder länger leben”?’ Demographische, ökonomische und sozialpolitische Aspekte’ (What does it mean to live healthy to live longer? Demographic, economic and social policy aspects) at the symposium “Gesünder länger leben” (Live Healthy, Live Longer) at the Danube University Krems.

Read more about: [symposium website](#)

For further information please contact: [Irene Wild](#) (conference secretariat, Danube University Krems), [Georg Ruppe](#) (symposium head, Danube University Krems)

Past Events

16 – 17 October 2007, Taipei: First Indicators Social Quality Workshop for the Asian Region in Taipei

EC Research Affiliate Yitzhak Berman attended the First Indicators Social Quality Workshop for the Asian Region. The goal of this two-day workshop was to identify domains and sub-domains that can be used to develop social quality indicators in the Asian region. The European participants to the workshop who gave presentations were Professor Peter Herrmann of the University of Cork (‘History and Concept of Social Quality’) and Yitzhak Berman (‘Social Quality: Theory and Pragmatism’ and ‘Social Quality and Social Policy’). An additional presentation was given by Professor Nancy Chen of the National Chengchi University on ‘Social Indicators Research in Asia’. The workshop developed a list of domains and sub-domains for the four conditional factors of social quality.

It should be pointed out that as a result of the growing interest for social quality in Asia, the European Journal of Social Quality has been transformed into *The International Journal of Social Quality*. The long-range goal of the international work on social quality indicators is to submit a proposal to the United Nations that a Social Quality Index be implemented within the United Nations comparable to the present UN Human Development Index.

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

22 – 24 October 2007, Vienna: General Assembly Meeting 2007

In our annual meeting with Board members, NLO, EC staff and observers,

- the management report by the Executive Director,
- the thematic sessions with transversal papers written by staff members and commented by NLOs, informed about last year’s work performed by the EC. Moreover, they highlighted possibilities for further activities

Read more about: [event’s website](#)

For further information please contact: the contact persons mentioned on the event’s website



24 October 2007, Vienna: EC Book Presentation

The two new EC publications “Revolution in der Alterssicherung. Beitragskonten auf Umlagebasis” and “Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies” were presented at the “Presseclub Concordia”. Editors Robert Holzmann, Ed Palmer, Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi introduced their books.

Read more about: the books

[“Revolution in der Alterssicherung. Beitragskonten auf Umlagebasis”](#),

[“Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies”](#)

For further information please contact: [Willem Stamatiou](#) (Publications Officer)

Publications

Book contribution

Bernd Marin (2007) ‘Pas de “modèle social européen”? Une déclaration polémique’, in: B. Geremek / R. Picht (Eds.), Visions d’Europe. Paris: Editions Odile Jacob.

Read more about: [book](#)

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

Peer-Reviewed Journals

Michael Fuchs / Christine Lietz (2007) ‘Effects of Changes in Tax/Benefit Policies in Austria 2003-2005’, Czech Sociological Review 43 (3): 611-636.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to evaluate whether policy reforms in Austria between 2003 and 2005 were successful in meeting redistributive objectives and in reducing poverty. The authors use the tax/benefit micro-simulation model EUROMOD for this analysis. In the period under review, the 2004-2005 tax reform was introduced and contributions to health insurance were raised. On the benefit side no major changes took place, the main family benefits were not even indexed to inflation. The authors find that the measures had no significant impact on poverty and income distribution. However, in total they increased the disposable income of almost all groups of the population.

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



By our Research Affiliate Horacio Levy

H. Levy with C. Lietz and H. Sutherland (2007) ‘Swapping Policies: Alternative Tax-Benefit Strategies to Support Children in Austria, Spain and the UK’, *Journal of Social Policy* 36 (4).

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

Working Papers

Michael Fuchs (August 2007) EUROMOD Working Paper EM04/07: ‘Social Assistance – No, Thanks? Empirical Analysis of Non-take-up in Austria 2003’.

Abstract

Based on the comparison of detailed micro-data (EU-SILC), official figures on recipients and expenditure as well as potential entitlements simulated with the tax/benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD, the paper estimates the size of non-take-up of monetary social assistance benefits in Austria in 2003. To account for likely measurement errors both in the reported income data as well as in the simulation of household needs, participation rates are calculated for various scenarios of the underlying parameters. It was found that more than half of all households potentially entitled to the benefit do not claim. The determinants of non-take-up analysed in different regression models controlling for possible endogeneity of independent variables – significant higher participation rates, inter alia, in case of higher amounts entitled to, a non-employed head, living in Vienna – confirm hypotheses derived from theoretical models of take-up related to pecuniary determinants, information and administration costs as well as psychological costs.

Read more about: [working paper](#)

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

Dissertation

By our Research Affiliate Mirco Tonin

Essays on Labour Market Structure and Policies, Stockholm University, 2007

Read more about: [dissertation](#)

For further information please contact: [Mirco Tonin](#)



Websites

www.MonitoringRIS.org updated

We are pleased to announce that a new update of the Monitoring RIS Website is now online. 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: [update content](#), [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](#)

Publication of the Slovak National Liaison Official Institute

Barbora Holubová (2007) 'Sexuálne obsažovanie na pracovisku ako forma diskriminácie a rodovo podmieneného násilia. (Výsledky empirického výskumu)' (Sexual Harassment in the Workplace as a Form of Discrimination and Violation Based on Gender), *Bulletin Family and Labour* 4/2007, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava, by our Slovak National Liaison Official Kvetoslava Repková

Read more about: [Bulletin](#) (in Slovak, annotation in English on the first page and conclusions/summary on the last page)

For further information please contact: [Kvetoslava Repková](#)



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

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