



Dear Reader,

On the occasion of our [General Assembly Meeting 2009](#) our new [Programme Catalogue 2009/10](#) has been published. The most recent new projects will be highlighted in this Newsletter.

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Brief

Welfare-to-Work Programmes in the UK and Lessons for Europe

Welfare-to-work programmes have long been pursued in European countries, and the so-called Nordic model of the active labour market policies had served as a role model in the mid-1990s, offering policy learning to the rest of Europe. The UK had shown more interest in learning from the US workfare model than its European neighbours, and its policy design and the experience of the past 10 years offer a number of insights for other countries. This Policy Brief summarises the New Deal programmes pursued in the UK since 1997/98 and draws some generic lessons for other countries.

Read more about: [Policy Brief](#)

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

Projects

EuroREACH – A Handbook to Access Health Care Data for Cross-country Comparisons of Efficiency and Quality

The last ten years have witnessed an increased investment in European and international initiatives and projects to improve health data for cross-country research. The major goals have been to help national policy-makers, on the one hand, to better assess the health status of their populations and on the other hand, to monitor how health care systems of their countries perform compared to other countries. There are, however, limits to what can be learnt from comparisons at the aggregate, health care sys-



tem level of analysis. Disease level analysis has therefore been receiving increased attention (e.g. OECD, 2003). This approach is of particular interest when studying health care for chronic diseases. Indeed, a large share of health care resources and public and private expenditure is presently spent on health care services for patients with a chronic illness, the majority of which are usually 50 years old or more. Due to ageing populations and medical-technological progress, European countries have experienced a shift in the burden of disease towards chronic diseases.

The objective of EuroREACH is to provide tools to health care researchers to better enable them to access well-organised health care data that allow for comparability at European level. These tools will be made available in the form of a handbook containing a toolbox of guidance to national and international health information systems, which will be one of the major tangible outcomes of the project.

Read more about: [project](#)

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

Comparative Analysis of European Pension Policies and their Impact / Belgian EU Presidency 2010

To investigate the outcomes of European pension policies and reforms, both in terms of social (adequate pensions) and financial sustainability of pension systems, as well as the complex interaction between various institutional actors, the European Centre team will develop a framework for comparative analysis. The framework will have a dynamic feature showing the direction in which reforms of the last decade or so have generally taken place. This framework will provide the basis for further evaluation of how policy responses to the current financial crisis both in the European and in a global context might affect the future allocation of means and alter the balance of risks between individuals, employers and the State in securing retirement incomes.

Read more about: [project](#)

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

Contracting for Quality

The social services sector today is, increasingly, a competitive environment in which care providers compete for public contracts or payments by service users. In this changing context, it is a growing challenge for social directors working in local authorities to find new ways of working with service users and providers to improve the quality of services. Quality assurance and quality development have been part of the discourse in the sector for some years: standards of various types have been set or are being developed. However, a dialogue between the different stakeholders, in particular between public purchasers and the different types of providers, has still not been installed.



The research question of this project, which has been commissioned by the European Social Network (ESN), is therefore of specific importance:

How can a well-managed market and well-managed contract procedures contribute to improving the quality of care services, and therefore, the quality of life for service users, within an overall quality model?

Read more about: [project](#)

For further information please contact: [Kai Leichsenring](#)

Events

Past Events

2 October, Linz (Austria): 10 Jahre SOMA Sozialmarkt Linz [10 Years SOMA Social Market Linz]

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the first Sozialmarkt in Linz – offering shopping and lunch facilities for people with little income – SOMA invited all its supporters, sponsors and partners to a symposium to commemorate the successful work and that from Linz, these markets spread throughout Austria.

Bernd Marin spoke about “Verteilen statt vernichten: Armut und Sozialmarkt-Wirtschaft” [Distribution instead of Destroying: Poverty and Social Market-Economy].

Read more about: [SOMA](#)

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

29 September – 1 October, Vienna (Austria): 1st Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Forum 09

Bernd Marin was the keynote speaker of the event with his speech on “Easy Ageing: Who Needs and Who Wants What Assistance for Well-Being? Demographic, Economic and Social Aspects of Greying Europe”.

Read more about: [event](#)

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



24 – 26 September, Luxembourg-Kirchberg (Luxembourg): Time Out. 11th European Congress of the E.D.E. (European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly)

Bernd Marin delivered the keynote speech on “Time-Off for Care. Services for Seniors in Times of Uncertainties” and Kai Leichsenring presented research findings on “How to Describe, Assess and Improve the Quality of Care Homes with Results-oriented Quality Indicators”.

Read more about: [event](#) (by clicking on the speakers’ photo you can download their presentations or other additional information)

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

2 – 5 September, Lisbon (Portugal): European Society or European Societies? 9th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

The 9th Conference of the ESA took place early September in Lisbon and while the range of topics addressed under the general theme of the conference was wide (“European Society or European Societies?”), a particular emphasis was placed on ageing and how societies are coping with it.

Included in the session on “The Influence of Family Structures on Providing Informal Care”, Ricardo Rodrigues presented an overview of informal care arrangements in Europe, drawing on some of the findings of the forthcoming publication “Facts and Figures on Long-term Care”. He highlighted some of the commonalities and differences in the provision of informal care across Europe and North America, while discussing links with public policies such as cash for care benefits and gender issues.

Read more about: [conference website](#) and [abstract of presentation](#)

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

Publications

Bernd Marin

Marin, B.:

**Seeing what nobody sees until everyone can see it. Peter F. Drucker Centennial.
In [English](#), [French](#), [German](#).**



Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2009\)](#) Various articles in *Der Standard*, in *Die Presse*, in *Format*, in *Kleine Zeitung*, in *Salzburger Nachrichten*, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2009

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

Personnel Matters

Alexandre Sidorenko

Alexandre (Sasha) Sidorenko joined the European Centre as a Senior Advisor in October 2009. Sasha is expected to employ his United Nations experience in working in such areas as international and national policy on ageing and developing national capacity on ageing in various nations, particularly in the CIS countries.

Sasha was trained as a medical doctor in Kiev, Ukraine, and received his PhD in cellular immunology at the Kiev Medical University. He spent ten years doing research in the area of experimental gerontology at the Kiev Institute of Gerontology. Since 1988 and until his retirement in August 2009, Sasha was a member of the United Nations Programme on Ageing. Among his assignments were Head of the UN Programme on Ageing and Coordinator of the International Year of Older Persons (1999). He also led substantive preparations of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid (2002), including the drafting of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

His professional interests include evidence-based policy development, monitoring and assessment, and development of national capacity on ageing.

Sasha speaks Ukrainian, Russian and English.

Read more about: [Alexandre Sidorenko](#)

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



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