



Dear Reader,

Please find below information on a new project that the European Centre will be working on, i.e. “Winners and Losers of the Crisis in Latvia”.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatou
Publications Officer

Projects

New Project: Winners and Losers of the Crisis in Latvia

In a short-term consultancy contract for the World Bank, the European Centre team will explore how poverty and inequality have changed during the crisis and how social spending and taxation influenced these outcomes.

The Baltic States have been amongst the worst hit by the global financial crisis. In 2007 the Latvian unemployment rate stood at 6%. By 2009, the figure had risen to 17.1%, and the youth unemployment rate to 33.6%, giving Latvia the highest rate of unemployment growth in the EU. In 2010, 38% of the population was at risk of poverty.

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



Events

Intergenerational Solidarity in the Austrian Long-term Care System? MOMENTUM Congress 2012, 27-30 September 2012, Hallstatt, Austria

More than 250 researchers, students, policy-makers, civil society representatives and politicians came together in Hallstatt at the Momentum Congress 2012 to shed lights on aspects of “Democracy” in the areas of economics, social policy, education, elites, or arts.

Aspects of intergenerational solidarity were discussed in a paper by Andrea Schmidt, illustrated by an analysis of the Austrian long-term care system. Three categories were given special attention: the financing structure of the system, the provision of services, and the political economy of care in Austria. In this context the discussion provided useful inputs for further policy options, e.g. on reforms of the Austrian care allowance (“Pflegegeld”) system.

Read more about: [Congress](#)

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

European Centre International Seminar: “What Kind of Welfare State Is Emerging in China?”

On Thursday 27 September, Professor Stein Ringen, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at Green Templeton College, Oxford University, gave an International Seminar at the European Centre on “What Kind of Welfare State Is Emerging in China?”

The present Chinese regime claims to represent a unique model, both in project – a socialist market economy – and in capacity – to lead China in a rapid and exceptional transition to affluence and power. In this lecture, social policy is used as a prism for state analysis.

The provisions contained in the Chinese welfare state as it stands today and is evolving were reviewed by Professor Ringen, up against the main theories of welfare state typologies. This evidence was then used as a basis for the interpretation of the Chinese state. As manifested in social policy, Ringen asked, is the Chinese state a normal state, a state among states, or can it claim uniqueness in its model in project and capacity?

To register for future international seminars please go to: [Website](#)

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



CE Ageing Strategy Development, Third Thematic Expert Workshop

In the light of current and future population aging, what policies and pilot initiatives are to be recommended to the public authorities at the regional level throughout Central Europe, Southern Germany, Northern Italy and Austria?

To discuss these issues with regional authorities from across the region, Pieter Vanhuyse joined experts Dragana Avramov, Dimiter Philipov and Jürgen Wolf in the CE Ageing Strategy Development Third Thematic Expert Workshop on 17 September.

The workshop was organized by the Central European Knowledge Platform for an Ageing Society consortium at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (BMASK), and funded by the EU's Regional Development Fund.

Read more about: [Central European Knowledge Platform for an Ageing Society](#)

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

Publications

Book Contribution

Are we doing to right thing to support carers?

Policies to Support Carers

by Ricardo Rodrigues, together with Frédérique Hoffmann and Manfred Huber in Moreno Mínguez (ed), *Family Well-Being – European Perspectives*. Springer

Informal care-giving to older people has traditionally been a women's world, with women – mostly daughters and daughters-in-law – making up for the majority of carers between the age of 45 and 65.

However, this portrait is unlikely to hold in the future due to demographic and societal changes. In a preview of informal care in the future, we can expect family carers to become older, potentially less healthy and to be mostly spouses of those in need of care. Alternatively, family care may also be outsourced from the realm of the family to (mostly female) migrant care workers – a move already taking place in some European countries.

What public policies are in place today to help family carers? It seems that most take the form of cash benefits, while care leaves aimed at working carers, for example, remain scarce. The same can be said of respite care facilities.



This book chapter discusses the implications of these different public policies for family carers. It seeks also to provide insights into the questions “Are current public policies well suited to deal with the challenges of ageing informal carers?” and “Are we placing a too heavy burden on informal carers?”.

Read more about: [Book Chapter](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2012\) Various articles in: Der Standard, in: Die Presse, in: Format, in: Kleine Zeitung, in: Salzburger Nachrichten, in: Der Falter, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2012](#)

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



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