



**Dear Reader,**

Next month two new EC book publications will be presented in Vienna:

**“Revolution in der Alterssicherung – Beitragskonten auf Umlagebasis”** (Pension Reform. Issues and Prospects for Non-Financial Defined Contribution [NDC] Schemes). Edited by Robert Holzmann, Director Social Protection at the World Bank, Washington D.C. and Edward Palmer, Professor at the University of Uppsala in Sweden and father of the Swedish Pension Reform.

And **“Mainstreaming Ageing – Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies”** edited by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi from the European Centre.

Background information on these two major publications is given in this Newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

**Annette Hexelschneider,**

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

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## Projects

### Peer Review – The Future of Social Services of General Interest

Manfred Huber was the thematic expert for the Peer Review “The Future of Social Services of General Interest” that looked into the situation of long-term care services in nine EU countries. A synthesis report and a discussion paper have now been published and provide an overview on this topic.

Read more about: [project](#)

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



## Involvements

### International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)

Renate Kränzl-Nagl participated in the first meeting of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet) that was held 14-15 September 2007 in Cyprus and attended by experts from 12 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Malta, The Netherlands, Palestine-Israel, Russia, Spain, Slovenia, United Kingdom). The objectives of this kick-off meeting were to discuss the aims and activities of the network, its organisational structure, the contents of the website as well as the plans for 2008. The network is coordinated by the “Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence” <http://www.casca.org.cy>, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation based in Cyprus. As of today, 30 national and international organisations are members of this recently established network, entitled “International Childhood and Youth Research Network”.

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

Contact at Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence, Cyprus: [Dr. Spyros Spyrou \(director\)](#)

## Events

### Upcoming Events

#### **4-5 October 2007, Munich: Conference “Staat, Experten, Privatheit – Kindheit zwischen Fürsorge und Zugriff” (The State, Experts, Privacy – Childhood between Welfare and Grasp)**

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Section Sociology of Childhood (of the German Sociological Association) deals with different issues of children’s welfare, e.g. child care, education, child poverty, discourses in welfare theories and childhood research, etc. Renate Kränzl-Nagl has been invited to comment two lectures on child poverty.

Read more about: [Conference programme](#)

[Website of the German Section Sociology of Childhood](#)

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



## 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” will be presented at the “Presseclub Concordia”. Editors Robert Holzmann, Ed Palmer, Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi will introduce their books.

### **“Revolution in der Alterssicherung – Beitragskonten auf Umlagebasis” (Pension Reform. Issues and Prospects for Non-Financial Defined Contribution [NDC] Schemes).**

Pension reform is a worldwide issue. Reform drivers across countries and across regions share three main commonalities: Short-term fiscal pressures and the need for long-term reform due to population aging; socio-economic changes that necessitate a rethinking of system design; and the challenges and opportunities of globalization, which require countries to pay more attention to the economic effects of pension schemes. Amidst the debate between the pros and cons of unfunded versus funded reforms a new dimension was added in the 1990s: Non-financial or notional defined contribution (NDC). NDC provides a mechanism for addressing all these issues. As an individual account scheme NDC mimics the logic and arithmetic of financial defined contribution plans, but remains largely unfunded. This book presents 19 state of the art papers on the conceptual foundations and issues surrounding NDC, country implementation of NDC (Italy, Latvia, Poland and Sweden) and case-studies for countries where NDC figures in the reform debate. This book is intended to be a handbook for academics and policy-makers who want to become informed about what NDC is and to learn about the pros and cons of this attractive reform proposal.

### **“Mainstreaming Ageing – Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies”**

What indicators of achievement are available to monitor effective policy-making in ageing societies, to review sustainable progress in mainstreaming ageing, and to assess the impact of the United Nations global Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS)? How do the 56 countries of the UN-European Region across Europe, North America and Central Asia cope with population ageing? How many decades, even centuries, in time-space differences are there between countries in birth rates, infant or oldest-old age mortality, or other demographic and development indicators within the region? How does Europe differ from the US and Canada in ageing pace, fertility and migration patterns? Why have regional policy priorities such as balancing financial and social sustainability of welfare systems, extending working life, and providing and assuring quality services in long-term care have not been met so far? Are there reliable measures of material and other forms of well-being of the elderly? Are comparative advantages shifting between age groups or cohorts? How many older people are poor and what might be underlying pension policy parameters? Where do they live best and worst? Are there new forms of income volatility during retirement, redefining income adequacy as well as income certainty within the Third Age phase of life? How come that almost 80% of European pensioner households have more than four, on average up to eight income streams? What determines the quality of life and happiness or misery over the life cycle? What countries are top, what ages and groups lowest in life satisfaction? Is positive acceptance of ageing life-prolonging? Do more satisfied individuals live longer? How does health including mental health expectancy and disability-free life expectancy relate to residual life expectancies at certain ages? What explains failures and success in turning-around ever earlier labour



market exit? Is the European early retirement pandemic self-inflicted, a home-made welfare flaw most difficult to cure? What are the costs of unused productive capacity, penalizing taxes on work, and pension insolvency? Are there robust sustainability indicators on implicit pension debt and other age-related unreported public liabilities? How can actuarial accounting help in calculating inter-generationally fair and stable life-cycle contribution rates and provide automatic fiscal balancing? Can notional defined-contribution (NDC) systems and sustainability factors reduce the ageing burden in the long-term? Is NDC less fair to short-lived persons than other less actuarially fair pension systems? Does general generosity in pensions also benefit the poor more than targeted safety nets or flat-rate social pension systems? What are the best fiscal gap measures available? Can generational accounting avoid the fiscal relativity inherent in conventional financial measures of sustainability? What indicators of pension entitlements and pension wealth are useful? How do changes in retirement age, pension valorization and indexation, and in residual life expectancy impact on the pension wealth of average citizens in different countries of the UN-European region?

This book edited by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi includes contributions by many of the most renowned international experts on ageing addressing these queries. The book is an outcome of the project Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI) of MIPAA and RIS for the first review and appraisal cycle of the United Nations Regional Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Read more about:

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

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

For further information please contact: [Werner Bregar](#) (assistant to Bernd Marin)

## Past events

### 20 September, Vienna: 5th Annual ESPAnet Conference

Orsolya Lelkes presented her joint research with Dora Benedek (CEU, Hungary) on tax evasion in Hungary. The paper argues that tax evasion has profound implications for social policies: it has an impact on fiscal sustainability, but also on the redistributive outcome of cash policies, on equity and on social rights. The authors estimate income tax evasion on the basis of administrative tax records of 360 thousand individuals, which have not been accessible for research before. Comparing gross incomes in the administrative tax records and a nationally representative income survey, they find significant underreporting by entrepreneurs.

### 25 September, Brussels: Annual Seminar of the European Observatory on Demography and the Social Situation

Results of the comparative European research by the European Centre team on the patterns and causes of poverty were presented to the representatives of the European Commission by Orsolya Lelkes.

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



## Documents of International Workshop “Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies”

The summary report of the International Workshop “Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies” that was held 28- 29 June at the European Centre in Vienna (jointly organised by the European Centre/Vienna, Norwegian Social Research – NOVA/ Oslo and the Institute for Labour and Family Research/ Bratislava) is available from the European Centre’s website.

Read more about: Berman, Yitzhak/ Kraenzl-Nagl, Renate/ Sandbaek, Mona/ Gerbery, Daniel: [Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies](#). Summary Report of an International Workshop. European Centre:Vienna.

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

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed Journals

**Lelkes, Orsolya (2007) “Tax-benefit microsimulation models in Eastern Europe”, The International Journal of Microsimulation, Volume I, Issue I, Autumn 2007**

Read more about: [article](#)

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

**Renate Kränzl-Nagl & Martina Beham: Zeitwohlstand oder Zeitnotstand in Österreichs Familien? Die Sicht von Müttern, Vätern und Kindern (Time welfare or time poverty in Austrian families? The views of mothers, fathers and children) . In: Zeitschrift “Kinderschutz aktiv”. Vienna, 2007 (published in the September issue)**

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

### Book contribution

Experts from different European countries including Renate Kränzl-Nagl, formed a two-year working party that contributed a chapter on “particular problems and needs of parents and children in situations of social exclusion” recently published in the book Parenting in Contemporary Europe: A Positive Approach (2007), Strasbourg: Council of Europe, Publishing Division, Directorate of Communication.

Read more about: [book](#)

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



## Working Papers

IZA Discussion Paper No. 3004 co-authored by our Research Affiliate Herwig Immervoll

### **How Tight Are Safety Nets in Nordic Countries? Evidence from Finnish Register Data by Olivier Bargain, Herwig Immervoll, Heikki Viitamäki (August 2007)**

Abstract:

The non-take-up of social assistance benefits due to claim costs may seriously limit the anti-poverty effect of these programmes. Yet, available evidence is fragmented and mostly relies on interview-based data, potentially biased by misreporting and measurement errors on both benefit entitlement and income levels used to assess eligibility. In this paper, we use Finnish administrative data to compare eligibility and actual receipt of social assistance by working-age families during the post-recession period (1996-2003). Possible errors due to time-period issues and discretionary measures by local agencies are carefully investigated. Non take-up is found to be substantial – between 40% and 50% – and increasing during the period. Using repeated cross-section estimations, we identify a set of stable determinants of claiming behaviour and suggest that the increasing trend is mainly due to a composition effect, i.e. a decline in the proportion of groups with higher claiming propensity. We finally discuss the targeting efficiency of the social assistance scheme.

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

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

## Radio

On 5 September Michael Fuchs participated in a live discussion on the non-take-up of social assistance and its consequences on the Austrian radio (Ö1: “Von Tag zu Tag”).

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

## Newspaper Articles

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

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



## Personnel Matters

### New staff:

#### Catherine Keppel

In July, Catherine Keppel joined the “Work, Wealth and Welfare” pillar of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research as a researcher. She studied Economics at the University of Vienna and is expected to receive her university degree in November 2007. At the European Centre she will be involved in the MA:IMI and the Pension Observatory projects, contributing to pension risk analyses and the collection of data on indicators. She has a keen interest in specializing on pension issues; in particular, she intends to study the usefulness and feasibility of social pensions in Eastern and South Western Europe, Central Asian and Caucasian countries.

Read more about: [Catherine Keppel](#)

For further information please contact: [Catherine Keppel](#)



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

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