



Dear Reader,

This month, the European Centre published a new book on “Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies”. Please find more information within the Newsletter.

Next month we will publish new issues in our Policy Brief series as well as a book on juvenile alcohol scenes.

Annette Hexelschneider

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

Policy Briefs

The following issues of our Policy Brief series are now available in Spanish too:

“Features and Challenges of Population Ageing: The European Perspective” (March 2008) –
[“Características y retos del envejecimiento de la población: La perspectiva europea”](#).

“Poverty of Elderly People in EU25” (August 2007) –
[“La pobreza de las personas mayores en la Europa de los 25”](#).

“Challenges in Guaranteeing Adequate Pension Incomes for Women” (March 2007) –
[“El desafío de garantizar pensiones adecuadas para las mujeres”](#).

For further information please contact: [Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano](#)

Involvements

Editorial Board of “Childhood.A Journal of Global Child Research”

Renate Kränzl-Nagl has become a member of the Editorial Board of “Childhood.A Journal of Global Child Research” (Sage Publications) for a two-years period.

Read more about: [journal's website](#)

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



Events

Past Events

13 September 2008, Bamberg (Germany): 12. Bamberger Gespräche 2008, Deutsche Kontinenz Gesellschaft (12th Bamberg Talks, German Society for Continenence)

Bernd Marin gave the keynote speech “Was bedeutet demographischer Wandel für uns alle?” (What does demographic change means for all of us?) at the current Bamberg Talks.

Read more about: [website of the society](#)

For further information please contact: [Werner Bregar](#)

8-9 September 2008, Bratislava (Slovakia): Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children’s Lives and their Well-being and Childwatch International Regional Network Meeting of Central Eastern European Countries

In total, 25 experts from 16 countries (different European regions, the Middle East and the USA), including 6 international organisations (EUROCHILD, OECD, UNIFEM, UNICEF Office for CEE /CIS, Childwatch International and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research) participated in this international workshop on the impact of poverty and social exclusion on children’s lives and their well-being, jointly organised by the European Centre and the Institute for Labour and Family Research in Bratislava, the hosting institute. Immediately after the workshop a meeting of the CWI Regional Network of Central and Eastern European countries took place which was attended by 16 participants. During both events numerous presentations were given and discussed.

A meeting report is currently under preparation and will become available soon. Presentations and papers of the workshop as well as other information are provided at the workshop website.

Read more about: [workshop website](#)

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



Publications

Book

Zaidi, Asghar (2008) Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies. Public Policy and Social Welfare Volume 30. Aldershot (UK): Ashgate / European Centre Vienna

Great strides towards rising human longevity in recent times pose new challenges to policy-makers worldwide, particularly in maintaining the financial sustainability of old age pension systems. Individuals in their own financial planning for retirement also face critical challenges: they need to safeguard against risks of falling into poverty during an increasing longer duration of retirement. To this end, this book provides new insights into how ageing factors such as ill health and disability become ever more important in determining the personal well-being of older people, and these factors have financial implications not captured by an analysis of pension income alone.

Another important policy implication arising from this book is the extent to which people are exposed to income risks in their retirement. While individuals and governments already safeguard against such hazards, this research shows that these measures will need to be strengthened further in light of the increasingly longer time spent in the post-retirement phase of life and in view of greater reliance by retirees on diverse and potentially volatile sources of income.

The empirical work reported also highlights the importance of cross-national research on income dynamics during retirement: the results provide important pointers towards how different social security systems affect the income risks associated with various attributes and life-course transitions experienced while ageing.

Read more about: [book](#)

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

Working Paper

Tepe, Markus/Vanhuyse, Pieter (2007) "Educational Business Cycles: The Political Economy of Teacher Hiring Across German States, 1992-2004". Yale University: Leitner Program in Political Economy Working Paper 2007-24.

The paper has recently been accepted for publication by "Public Choice", the flagship journal of The Public Choice Society, founded by the likes of Gordon Tullock, James Buchanan, Kenneth Arrow and George Stigler:

**Abstract:**

Strong institutional constraints and better-informed voters may lead re-election seeking incumbents to shift the use of political business cycle mechanisms away from monetary and fiscal policy towards other policy domains that are more easily manipulable, targetable, and timeable. We investigate teacher employment patterns at the state level in Germany and find strong evidence of cycling mechanisms, in the form of electioneering and honeymooning. Against a backdrop of a continuously shrinking total teachers' pool, German state-level incumbents accelerate the hiring of new teachers during election periods and partly reverse this during politically safer points in the electoral cycle. Cycles are mediated by issue salience: heightened attention to German public schooling after the notorious PISA-2000 tests further strengthens the manipulation of new teacher hiring for electoral purposes.

Markus Tepe from Oldenburg University will present on this during an the International Seminar at the European Centre, 3 October 2008.

Read more about: [Yale Working Paper](#), [final Public Choice article](#), [International Seminar with Markus Tepe](#)
For further information please contact: [Pieter Vanhuysse](#)

Peer Reviewed Journal

Vanhuysse, Pieter (2008) 'Review Essay: The New Political Economy of Skill Formation', in "Public Administration Review", September/October 2008, Vol. 68, No. 5, pp. 954-958.

This essay discusses work on human capital policy by Alan Krueger and James Heckman, the 2000 Economics Nobel Prize laureate, as well as Torben Iversen's influential book "Capitalism, Democracy, and Welfare", which is possibly the most innovative, and definitely the most ambitious, new theory of social policies in advanced welfare states since Esping-Andersen.

Read more about: [essay](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2008\) Various articles in Der Standard, in Die Presse, in Format, in Kleine Zeitung, Salzburger Nachrichten, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2008](#)

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



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

Annette Hexelschneider
Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Berggasse 17
A-1090 Vienna (Austria)
Tel: +43-1-319 45 05-23
Fax: +43-1-319 45 05-19
hexelschneider@euro.centre.org

Contact for general research questions: ec@euro.centre.org

Contacts for Activities & Products are listed on the website.

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