



Dear Reader,

This month we welcome Maria M. Hofmarcher – our new Director Health & Care. Please find more information about Maria as well as about Ina Wagner, whom we welcome, too, on pages 10-12.

In September we bid farewell to Frédérique Hoffmann – Researcher in our Health & Care Pillar and International Liaison Attaché, and to Giovanni Lamura – visiting scholar seconded from INRCA, the Italian National Research Centre on Ageing, Ancona, Italy, and acting Director Health & Care. As well as to Annette Hexelschneider – Head of the Knowledge and Information Support Unit. You will find more about them on pages 9-10.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatiou
Publications Officer

Projects

Programme Catalogue 2011/12

The new Programme Catalogue (i.e. Report of Activities) is now available for download. It summarises starting, ongoing and completed events, projects and publications of the European Centre during 2011/12.

Read more about: [Programme Catalogue](#)

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

Consultancy to the Government of Ukraine, on pension reform issues, funded by UNDP

Asghar Zaidi has been invited as a consultant to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to serve as an expert on pension systems in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project “Support to the Social Sector Reform in Ukraine”, involving home-based research and missions to Ukraine, Kiev, during September – November 2011.



The task will be undertaken in close cooperation with Bernd Marin and Alexander Sidorenko. The consultancy will develop a strategic paper with recommendations to the Ministry of Social Policy regarding the further reform of the pension system. The research will require close coordination with UNDP, which funds the work of the consultants.

For further information please contact: [Asghar Zaidi](#), [Bernd Marin](#), [Alexandre Sidorenko](#)

INTERLINKS Project – Final Conference

The final conference of INTERLINKS will take place 12-14 October 2011 in Baden near Vienna (Austria).

Registration is closed. There might be some remaining places. Please send a mail to: [Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano](#)

Read more about: [conference information](#)

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

Events

Upcoming Events

28-30 September, Gävle (Sweden): Annual Conference of Swedish Directors for Social Services

Kai Leichsenring will present results of the project “Contracting for Quality” at the Annual Conference of Swedish Directors for Social Services.

Read more about: [event](#), [Contracting for Quality](#)

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

5-8 October, Bad Gastein (Austria): 14th European Health Forum

Kai Leichsenring will present the INTERLINKS project at the Round Table Session on “What social innovation platforms and operating environment are needed to improve quality of life and wellbeing? What kind of research agenda is required?”.

Read more about: [event](#), [INTERLINKS](#)

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



**11-13 October, Nicosia (Cyprus):
18th Regional Social Insurance, Pension and Provident Funds Conference,
“Meeting Today’s Challenges in Social Protection and Retirement Systems”**

The Muhanna Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus, and in association with the International Social Security Association is organizing the regional conference to bring forward and define challenges and outline future looming troubles that social protection and retirement systems in the region will have to face under the new realities.

Asghar Zaidi will contribute with a presentation on “Poverty in Old Age: Current Situation and Future Perspectives”.

Read more about: [event](#), [agenda](#)

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

**18 October, Brussels (Belgium): FUTURAGE Road Map Launch Conference.
Meeting the Grand Challenge of Ageing: the European Research Agenda**

This conference launches the FUTURAGE Road Map, which will provide a European research agenda for ageing research for the next 10 years. The Road Map will be presented in the European Parliament at this conference hosted by the Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel of the Members of the European Parliament. Drawing on two years of work, eight stages of consultation with over 700 contributors, the Road Map will shape the ageing research agenda in Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Asghar Zaidi has been invited to participate in this launch event.

Read more about: [FUTURAGE Road Map](#)

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

**29 November 2011, Vienna (Austria): Investoren auf Partnersuche –
Strategien für den Erfolg im Wachstumsmarkt Pflege (Investors Looking
for Partners – Strategies for Success in the Growth Market of Care)**

The Vincentz Network GmbH & Co. KG CARE Invest at its conference looks into the following topics:

- Pflegemarkt aktuell (The Care Sector today), with a presentation by Kai Leichsenring on “Europas Pflegemärkte: Long-term Care in European Benchmark-Countries” (Europe’s Care Sector: Long-term Care in European Benchmark-Countries),
- Best practice,
- Investoren auf Partnersuche - Was macht einen guten Betreiber aus? (Investors Searching for Partners – What Constitutes a Good Operating Company?),
- Vision Lebensraum – Komplette Neuentwicklung einer sozialen Stadt (Vision Living Environment – Holistic Development of the Social Town).

Read more about: [event](#)

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



Past Events

5-8 September, Madrid (Spain): FLARE Summer School

The Summer School united two cohorts of FLARE – the Future Leaders of Ageing in Europe post-doctoral programme – run by the ERA-AGE consortium. Around 35 post-docs from a broad range of disciplines, including non-FLARE researchers, gathered and explored the theme “Navigating Research Career Transitional Stages”. In addition, the programme included lectures on a range of disciplinary issues. Asghar Zaidi gave the lecture on “Population ageing and financial and social sustainability challenges in Europe”.

Read more about: [agenda](#)

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

7 September, European Centre Vienna: International Seminar

Rocio Fernández-Ballesteros, Professor Emeritus of Social Psychology and Geropsychology, Department of Biopsychology, Autonomous University of Madrid, held an International Seminar on “Active Ageing. Conceptual and Methodological Issues”.

Active ageing and other related terms (healthy, successful, productive, optimal, positive ageing) are viewed as scientific concepts, most of them operationally described by a broad set of bio-psycho-social factors, assessed through objective and subjective indicators and referred to a certain unit (that is, at different levels, from individuals to populations). Although there is a large corpus of empirical data coming from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies, there is no consensus about whether these concepts refer to the same or to different conceptual entities. Moreover, there is major confusion with other concepts such as quality of life. In addition there is no clear distinction between predictors and outcomes of active ageing, among other problematic issues.

After a historical review of these concepts, their empirical support (mainly at a European level), and the most important problematic issues, a set of indicators and measures of active ageing (mainly developed from Geropsychology) will be proposed trying to outline their basic methodological conditions.

Read more about: [other International Seminars, presentation](#)

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

26 July, Brussels (Belgium): Income through Work after Retirement

Asghar Zaidi participated as a panellist in the discussion “Opportunities (Labour Market & Working Conditions) versus Motivations (Need & Interest) to Work after Retirement”, organised by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

Read more about: [agenda](#)

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



18 May, London (UK): FUTURAGE Stakeholder Workshop

The event was the final high-level stakeholder workshop to define and discuss the priorities for European ageing research. FUTURAGE has responsibility for creating the definitive Road Map for Ageing Research, which is intended to guide European research in this field over the next 10 to 15 years.

This workshop was intended for national and regional research policy-makers and funders to give them an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Road Map.

Asghar Zaidi chaired the Break-out Group 2 - Social Protection / Social Participation, led by Giovanni Lamura.

Read more about: [documents and presentations](#)

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



Publications

Book Contributions

Zaidi, Asghar (2011) 'Population aging and financial and social sustainability challenges of pension systems in Europe: A cross-national perspective', in: Bovenberg, A.L., van Ewijk, Casper, Westerhout, E. (eds.), The Future of Multi-Pillar Pensions, Cambridge University Press, (forthcoming 2011).

Other contributors to the book include Nicholas Barr, Professor of Public Economics at London School of Economics; Zvi Bodie, Professor of Finance and Economics at Boston University and Richard Hinz, Pensions Team Leader, Social Protection & Labor, World Bank.

Abstract of the contribution:

This chapter examines the economic and demographic factors that threaten the viability of European pension systems over the next 50 years. In the short to medium term, the principal challenge is indeed a structural rebalancing of public finances, by applying austerity measures and reducing reliance on debt-financing, while at the same time promoting jobs growth and minimizing adverse impacts on vulnerable population groups. In the longer term, population aging remains the key challenge, although its magnitude, speed and timing vary across the European countries under review. Longevity gains and falling fertility levels, especially in Central and Eastern European countries where emigration is another contributing factor, imply that the cohorts of elderly are growing in number just as the cohorts of working popula-



tion supporting them are starting to decline. The implications on the size and shape of public services and finances as well as on future growth and on living standards are considerable. This chapter argues that a review of fundamentals is required, for all concerned – individual countries as well as EU institutions – in moving forward, by examining whether, and how, recent policy reforms compromise the pension income adequacy of future retirees, and what policies can improve the prospects for both the financial and social sustainability of public pension systems.

Read more about: [contribution](#)

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

Zaidi, Asghar (2011) 'Exclusion from Material Resources: Poverty and Capability Deprivation among Older People in EU Countries', in: Scharf, Thomas/ Keating, Norah (eds.), From Exclusion to Inclusion in Old Age: A Global Challenge, The Policy Press

Abstract of the contribution:

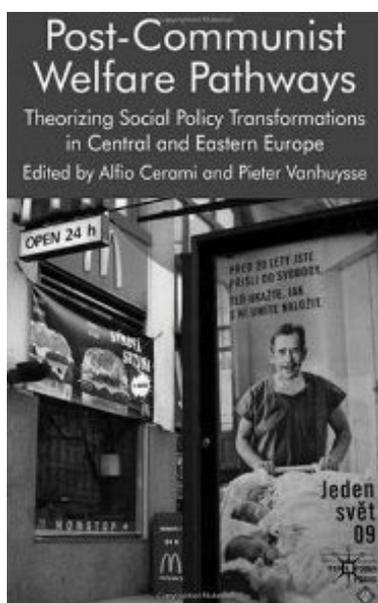
The contexts in which the future generation of elderly will be living are precarious. The European pension systems still have a long way to go to reach the goal of securing financial sustainability and at the same time offering adequate pension income entitlements, making it difficult to be completely optimistic about the future. The financial crisis of 2008/2009, the economic recession that followed, and the most recent public finance and Eurozone debt crisis, all have had an impact on employment, income and personal welfare of households (including older people and other members of their households). The declining income of many of the households will render them to take help from the cheerful plight of the Dickensian character, Wilkins Micawber, whose guiding life principle “something will turn up” was indeed the expectation of a better fortune in due course. This chapter examines the picture for the current generation of older people, with particular reference to their exclusion from material resources, an absence which triggers and identifies other forms of exclusions for older people. This provides us a proxy for the base situation, and it remains of particular interest to observe how contexts are changing across EU countries, regarding adequacy of pension provision, as a result of various different sorts of shifts and policy reforms happening in the EU countries. Income is used as a primary measure of exclusion, but also other aspects emphasising agency freedom and capability aspects of welfare are adopted. What emerges is a degree of variation in the relative ranking of countries according to which of the two measures is adopted. Eastern European EU countries fare much worse in terms of capability deprivation of older people, while the Western European countries improve in their relative standing. What emerges is the clear methodological implication that income-based measures provide only an incomplete picture and must be complemented with non-monetary measures for a more satisfactory snapshot of the material conditions of older Europeans.

Read more about: [contribution](#)

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



Book Reviews



Pieter Vanhuyse's co-edited book, *Post-Communist Welfare Pathways* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), has been reviewed in the journal *Social Policy & Administration*, Vol. 44, No. 7, pp. 865-867 (5-year ISI impact factor 1.122).

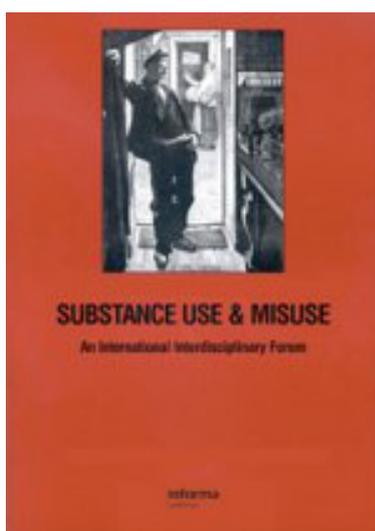
Excerpts of the review:

(This) edited collection is an ambitious conspectus of the principal changes taking place in countries in the Central and Eastern regions of Europe. The focus is on the experience of the nine newer members of the EU. ... This cluster of countries forms what Offe in his closing chapter calls 'terra incognita', in terms of their welfare states. The editors' intention is to chart similarities and diversities in the pathways of the development of the latter. ... Vanhuyse makes reference to them in his attempt to bring in power politics into the picture, deploying the categories of 'voice' and 'exit', which Hirschman (1970) developed in his seminal work. The dense aggregation of analyses in this book will repay dipping into and re-visiting, as there is much to digest here.

Read more about: [review](#), [book](#)

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

Journal Articles



Allamani, Allaman/ Voller, Fabio/ Decarli, Adriano/ Casotto, Veronica/ Pantzer, Karin/ Anderson, Peter/ Gual, Antoni/ Matrai, Silvia/ Elekes, Zsuzsanna/ Eisenbach-Stangl, Irmgard/ Schmed, Gabriele/ Knibbe, Ronald A./ Nordlund, Sturla/ Skjælaaen, Øystein/ Olsson, Börje/ Cisneros Örnberg, Jenny/ Österberg, Esa/ Karlsson, Thomas/ Plant, Martin/ Plant, Moira/ Miller, Patrick/ Coghill, Nikki/ Świątkiewicz, Grażyna/ Wiczorek, Lukasz/ Anaheim, Beatrice and Gmel, Gerhard (2011) 'Contextual Determinants of Alcohol Consumption Changes and Preventive Alcohol Policies: A 12-Country European Study in Progress', in: *Substance Use & Misuse*, Vol. 46, No. 10, pp. 1288-1303.

Beginning with France in the 1950s, alcohol consumption has decreased in Southern European countries with few or no preventive alcohol policy measures being implemented, while alcohol consumption has been increasing in Northern European countries where historically more restrictive alcohol control policies were in place, even though more recently they were loosened. At the same time, Central and Eastern Europe have shown an intermediate behaviour. We propose that country-specific changes in



alcohol consumption between 1960 and 2008 are explained by a combination of a number of factors: (1) preventive alcohol policies and (2) social, cultural, economic, and demographic determinants. This article describes the methodology of a research study designed to understand the complex interactions that have occurred throughout Europe over the past five decades. These include changes in alcohol consumption, drinking patterns and alcohol-related harm, and the actual determinants of such changes.

Read more about: [article](#)

For further information please contact: [Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl](#)



Lelkes, Orsolya/ Zólyomi, Eszter (2011) 'Poverty of Migrant Children in the European Union', in: Forum21 European Journal on Child and Youth Research, No. 17, June, pp. 90-95

The article analyses the occurrence of risk-of-poverty among migrant households with children. Children with migrant background are exposed to a particularly high risk of poverty, reaching over 30% in the majority of countries. In general, the higher poverty risk of migrant children is not attributable to their larger share. Non-EU migrant children tend to have the largest relative disadvantage. In Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg, non-EU migrant children have a poverty risk six times higher than local children. Taking the EU as a whole, children with lone parents tend to be most at risk of poverty, although “large” households with three or more children among the non-EU migrants are also affected by a high poverty rate (52%).

Read more about: [journal](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2011\) Various articles in: Der Standard, in: Die Presse, in: Format, in: Format, in: Kleine Zeitung, in: Salzburger Nachrichten, in: Der Falter, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg, 2011](#)

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



Personnel Matters

Leaving Staff

It's not good-bye, it is 'till I see you again', Annette Hexelschneider, October 2004 to September 2011



It is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to Annette Hexelschneider, who has been a great colleague at the European Centre, serving as the Head of the Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit (KIMSU), for the period October 2004 to September 2011. Her work areas spanned from provision of demand-driven knowledge and information to the European Centre staff to a wider dissemination of information and knowledge in serving international social policy and welfare professionals, especially European policymakers, researchers, civil society practitioners, and international organisations. She contributed towards raising work standards for many of us at the European Centre, particularly when advising how best to present and disseminate our work, and we will greatly miss her professional expertise at the European Centre. She has also been a very good friend to many of us, and it is therefore a pleasure to know that she moves happily onwards to discover new horizons in her professional life. We wish her all the success and happiness in the future.

Au revoir, Frédérique Hoffmann, April 2008 to September 2011

"Don't be dismayed at goodbyes, a farewell is necessary before you can meet again and meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends" – Richard Bach



Frédérique Hoffmann has been a researcher in the "Health and Care" pillar from April 2008 to September 2011, and she has also been serving as "International Relations Attachée" of the European Centre since 2010. Most notably, she brought a fresh perspective to the European Centre international relations activities, by undertaking liaison work with UNECE countries with great enthusiasm and pleasure. She contributed very effectively in promoting a higher participation of member and non-member countries in the activities of the European Centre, and her role as our young ambassador to many countries will be hard to replace. She has also been a competent researcher and produced high quality work in the Health and Care pillar, in particular in highlighting the importance of informal carers in the long-term care of older people in European countries. Above all, she has been one of the most pleasant colleagues to work with, and many of us were dismayed (almost tearful) in hearing that she wants to move on to a next career and leave European Centre. We wish her all the happiness and success in her next phase of professional and personal life.



Arrivederci, Giovanni Lamura, September 2010 to August 2011

“Man’s feelings are always purest and most glowing in the hour of meeting and of farewell.” – Jean Paul Richter



Giovanni Lamura worked with us first as a Consultant (from February 2010 to August 2010) and then as a Seconded from National Institute of Health and Science on Aging (INRCA) for the period September 2010 to August 2011. He served as Senior Researcher in the “Health and Care” pillar of the European Centre, acting also as Director “Health and Care” from March 2011 to August 2011. It is great news for us that Giovanni will continue to collaborate with the Centre as a Consultant, most definitely for the period September 2011 to April 2012 but hopefully for much beyond. He has been a great asset to the European Centre during the last two years, not just as a professional but also as one of the most pleasant and dedicated co-workers. He contributed to many areas of work within the Health and Care pillar, and also in overall management of the work programme of the same pillar. He has become a lifetime friend to many of the European Centre colleagues during what seems to be a short period between his

‘welcome’ and ‘farewell’. We wish him all the success and happiness that he deserves, and look forward to many different avenues of working with him and his institute in the future.

New Staff

Maria M. Hofmarcher joins the European Centre Vienna as new Director Health & Care in September 2011



Maria M. Hofmarcher-Holzhaecker, Economist, was a Senior Researcher at the Austrian National Research and Planning Institute for Healthcare (Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, GÖG). Prior to this she was a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Advanced Studies before and after a two-year appointment at OECD. Earlier in her career she was a practicing registered nurse for more than ten years. She earned her degree in economics from the University of Vienna and a degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University. She has acted as a consultant to the World Bank and provided technical and scientific assistance to public health research at the European Commission. She regularly teaches, has published many papers, is a regular contributor to the *Health Policy Monitor* and is the principal author of the *European Observatory Publication, Health System Review Austria*.



Maria, you have broad experience in health- and care-related research, could you be so kind as to introduce yourself to our readers?

In the course of my career I could gain a broad knowledge of national and international aspects of the organization and financing of health and social care systems. I am excited about health and care as a policy area because of its multidisciplinary character and increasing importance in policy-making. As health and care sectors are increasingly significant in generating jobs including high-skilled labour, I would like to see health and care becoming a darling of general economic policy. Health and care sectors everywhere have a tremendous productive capacity and I would like to contribute to make this visible for progressive future policy-making through research and policy advice in this area.

What do you see as the three most important health and care challenges in the UNECE Region today?

Health and care face joint key challenges to ensure future financial sustainability and quality care provision which is responsive to the needs of patients.

- First, health promotion and prevention including “Healthy Aging” policies need better focus in all policy areas in particular for children and elderly to reduce dependency in later life.
- Second, capacity needs to be improved in care settings outside hospitals and institutions through improved care coordination within and between health and long-term care sectors.
- Third, efforts must be intensified to overcome administrative fragmentation of financing and care delivery especially for those who often need health and care systems.

What are your plans for your work at the European Centre?

All current projects in the area of health and care at the Centre are unique in helping to improve the knowledge base to address all key challenges for policy-making. I would like to strengthen economic analysis of delivery models and financing. This includes efforts to enhance and to broaden the knowledge base through research and through synthesis of existing and new knowledge to better aid decision-making in these areas on the national and on the international level.

Thank you very much!

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](mailto:maria.hofmarcher@euro.unece.org)

Welcome, Professor Ina Wagner, Consultant starting autumn 2011



It is with great pleasure and honour that we welcome Professor Ina Wagner in our European Centre team. She will work with the European Centre as a consultant and is a Professor at the Vienna University of Technology and Head of the Institute for Technology Assessment and Design. She holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Vienna. She was previously Chair of the Equal Opportunity Commission of the Austrian Ministry of Science, Research, and Culture (from 1995 to 1997); and a Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (from 1997 to 2000). She has been member of the Austrian Bioethics Committee since 2001. She currently also holds an Adjunct Professor II position in the Informatics Department, University of Oslo. Professor Wagner brings vast experience to the European Centre, as is obvious from numerous books she has written and edited but she also authored in excess of 150 papers on a variety

of technology-related issues, most prominent among them are on computer-support of hospital work and of architectural design and planning, a feminist perspective in science and technology, ethical and political issues in systems design. A focus of her research on the implications of IT for the practice and quality of health care within hospitals is particularly relevant to the European Centre, and we all look forward to working with Ina.



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