



Dear Reader,

We would like to draw your attention to the publication of the second edition of our report on *Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care. Europe and North America*. It covers data and information on demography, the social situation of older people, health, informal care, migrant care workers, public long-term care policies and expenditure for the countries of the UNECE region. It has been made available as a free download from our website, please see below under “Publications”.

We thank you for your continued interest in our work and look forward to keep you well informed about us during 2013.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatou
Publications Officer

We wish you a good start into the year 2013

www.euro.centre.org





Events

From Visions to Actions: Closing Conference for the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012, 10 December, Nicosia, Cyprus

This one-day event brought together high-level EU and national policy makers, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of these months and to announce follow-up activities to ensure a lasting impact of the Year.

Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi participated in Session A in which recent evidence from research was presented, including results of the Active Ageing Index (AAI). The AAI is being developed in a joint project with the United Nations Economic Committee for Europe (UNECE) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, on behalf of the European Commission. The index will measure different dimensions of active ageing and quantify untapped active ageing potentials for each country, thus showing how much progress could still be made.

Read more about: [Agenda](#)

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

“Active Ageing in Centrope”: Regional Cooperation Management / RECOM Multilateral Network Meeting AT-HU-SK-CZ, 4 December, Vienna

Bernd Marin delivered the keynote speech on “The Concept of Active Ageing, the Active Ageing Index (AAI), and the Crucial Significance of the Labour Market for Active Ageing”.

Read more about: [Agenda](#)

For further information please contact:

Mag. [Birgit Peters](#), MA 27, International Relations, Municipality of Vienna

OECD Expert Workshop on Improving Health Expenditure Forecasting Methods: Informing Policy Makers about Future Health Spending, 28 November, Paris

Maria M. Hofmarcher was invited delegate to this workshop where experts gathered to discuss background papers produced by the OECD and to comment on the future direction for a work plan in this area. This workshop convened leading experts from health and finance backgrounds in government, academia and international organizations to take stock of progress in health expenditure forecasting and to discuss future directions, in light of policy needs and recent advancements in techniques, detailed data and



computing power. The workshop presented views of senior health and finance officials about the information they require for decision-making. It concluded with highlights from the OECD's comparative review of health expenditure forecasting methods, followed by presentations from experts regarding their views of what are the most important shortcomings in current efforts and what should be the future direction of health expenditure forecasting efforts.

Maria M. Hofmarcher has been involved in developing medium-term expenditure scenarios for the Austrian health care systems which in the context of recent reform efforts will be implemented in 2014 to contain cost growth and promote efficiency.

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance / BMF – Workshop on “Employability of Older Workers”, 27 November, Vienna

Bernd Marin, Pieter Vanhuyse and Michael Fuchs held a Workshop on “Employability of Older Workers” for government officials of the Federal Ministry of Finance.

For further information please contact: [Michael Fuchs](#), [Bernd Marin](#), [Pieter Vanhuyse](#)

Did Europe Forget about Its Poor? The Europe 2020 Strategy and the Economic Crisis

Orsolya Lelkes in her presentation at the University of Salzburg on 27 November talked about the issue of poverty as part of current EU strategies and empirical calculations on the size of the poor population in the context of the economic crisis. She showed that the extent of poverty in a subjective sense (difficulties with making ends meet) correlates with monetary poverty using an EU poverty line, suggesting that individuals have an absolute sense of basic needs. In contrast, the current standard EU poverty indicator (“population at risk of poverty”) is relative and country-specific, thus the poverty threshold is higher in richer countries.

Lelkes expressed her concern that the new economic governance at EU level (with its focus on fiscal stability and surveillance) may be in conflict with the earlier priorities of the EU 2020 Strategy and in particular, with that of inclusive growth (the reduction of poverty and social exclusion). Inequality remains a key issue for current and future growth and economic growth itself will not eliminate poverty without an efficient redistribution system.

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



What is the Social and Economic Situation in Hungary today?

On 22-23 November, Orsolya Lelkes and Pieter Vanhuyse commented on various chapters and participated in the panel discussion at the official presentation of the bi-annual TARKI Social Report on Hungary. The workshop to launch the Social Report 2012 was organized by TARKI and was financed by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. It provided a wide-ranging and comparative overview of social, political, and economic conditions in present-day Hungary. Other external commentators included Heinz-Herbert Noll (GESIS Mannheim), Max Haller (University of Graz) and Krzysztof Zaworski (University of Warsaw)

For more details see: [Website](#), [Programme](#)

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

Fifth meeting of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing (WGA), 22-23 November, Geneva

Eszter Zólyomi participated in this Working Group meeting in the context of the European Centre's special activity "MA:IMI – Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (II)". The meeting was meant to conclude the second cycle of review and appraisal of the RIS [Regional Implementation Strategy] / MIPAA [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing]: Regional Report to the 51st session of the UN Commission for Social Development by the UNECE WGA and to decide upon the WGA work programme beyond the 2012-2013 period.

Read more about: [RIS Special Activity](#)

For further information please contact: [Vitalija Gaucaite](#) (UN-ECE) and [Eszter Zólyomi](#)

Closing Day of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012, 21 November, Zaragoza, Spain

Prof. Bernd Marin delivered the keynote speech on "Realizing a society for all ages: the role of older people in decision-making" at the Closing Day of the European Year 2012 conference.

This activity carried out by Spain in the European Year 2012, has served to encourage communication and develop synergies between the social partners, institutions and relevant public and private agencies on ageing and intergenerational relations. This day, in addition to highlighting the importance of social participation of the elderly as a fundamental part of a society for all ages, was meant to officially close the activity during this European Year and make a commitment to continuity for the future.

The meeting was organized by IMSERSO – Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales / Institute for the Elderly and Social Services, and coordinated by Maria Luz Cid Ruiz, Coordinadora de Estudios y Apoyo Técnico.

Read more about: [Agenda](#)

For further information please contact: [Maria Luz Cid Ruiz](#) (IMSERSO)



Annual Meeting of the Health Systems Policy Monitor (HSPM) Network 20-21 November, Rome

As Austrian correspondent Maria M. Hofmarcher attended the 2012 annual meeting of the Health Systems Policy Monitor (HSPM) network where she also presented progress of the FP 7 project [EuroREACH](#). The HSPM network was established in early 2012 through a merger of the Health Policy Monitor Network, since 2002 led by the Bertelsmann Foundation, and the recently established network of National Lead Institutions to the Observatory on Health Care Systems. Since their establishment Maria M. Hofmarcher has been member in both networks and resumes now the role of the Austrian correspondent of the newly established HSPM-network. She is also the principal author of the book *Health System Review Austria* which will be published in the first half of 2013.

The main goal of this network is to enhance the evidence base for health systems analysis. This will be facilitated through a webplatform “Living HiT” where network members are encouraged to regularly disseminate health system information through up-dating relevant chapters of the book series “Health Care Systems in Transition”, which largely exists for all WHO-Europe Member States. In addition, the web platform will also be a portal for health reform news. Moreover and to promote more indepth discussion of poliy reforms, articles about health system developments and reforms may be submitted to a special section of the journal “Health Policy”.

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

European Centre International Seminar, Roland Sigg (ex ILO and ISSA): “From Ageing as a Crisis to a Long-Life Society: The Evolving Ageing and Longevity Paradigm and Impact on Policies”, 19 November 2012

In the last 30 years, since the first conference on ageing in Vienna in 1982, the debate on ageing has evolved considerably, and so has the proportion and status of elderly people both in industrialized and developing countries. While ageing is often seen as a problem, recent trends tend to place the debate on longevity on another level, i.e. that of the development of a long-life society.

The characteristics of such a society will be explored as well as the consequences on the policy level. The greying of society is inevitable; it may just as well be regarded as an opportunity to redefine issues like work and leisure, intergenerational solidarity systems, health requirements as well as housing policies. All this will shape a new society, driven by a new generation reaching old age – the baby boomers – that has already once changed the world.

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

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



“So wirkt Case Management in Österreich” / Case Management in Austria

5. Internationale Fachtagung der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Care & Case Management / Fifth International Expert Meeting of the Austrian Society for Care & Case Management, University of Salzburg, 16 November

Maria M. Hofmarcher was invited to give a talk at this conference where she addressed issues related to the impact of case management in Austria. While case management is increasingly adopted in various settings, e.g. discharge management, no commonly agreed concept exists as to where and how case management should be applied in the Austrian health care system. Thus, evidence about the impact of case management is either not existent or patchy. However, with the role-out of the Disease Management Programme Diabetes 2, clinical trials are used to evaluate the effectiveness of case management in this area. In this context it was found that quality care provision was enhanced through better case management. The impact of case management on cost-effectiveness is however not yet clearly isolated. There is potential in Austria to implement case management on a broader scale through standards for effective case management including the necessary skill-mix to improve patient care. Finally, objectives for case management need better alignment with system-wide policy goals.

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

“eHealth in Österreich – Realität oder Zukunftsmusik?” / eHealth in Austria

Panel discussion organised by Bayer Austria in cooperation with the Industriellenvereinigung, 15 November, Vienna

Maria M. Hofmarcher participated in this discussion where she flagged the statement: “eHealth must raise productivity in the health sector and must promote innovation – Austria needs both badly”. Only recently important legislation passed to incrementally build the technical infrastructure for a wide-ranging use of the electronic health record in Austria. In this context discussions during this event were very timely as resistance from medical providers to comply with reporting standards and the use of ehealth has been and is expected to remain strong. This piece of legislation will be an important step to improve patient safety but also patient rights as individuals will have the choice to opt-out from storing medical information on the e-card, the electronic key to access care. Also, patients will decide which health care providers are permitted to look-up medical information stored on their e-card.

For further information please contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

For the Wellbeing and Dignity of Older Persons – WeDO Final Conference

“As the EU population is ageing rapidly, the provision of care services in old age will have to be improved and a common response at EU level is required to make sure people can age in dignity everywhere in Europe. We hope the WeDO EU Quality framework will be a first step in that direction and towards better quality long-term care in the European Union”, stated Anne-Sophie Parent, Secretary-General of AGE platform Europe, prior to the closing event of the WeDO project at the European Parliament on 14 November, in which the EU Quality Framework for Long-term Care Services was officially presented.



The event was chaired by the Austrian MEP Heinz K. Becker who discussed the framework with stakeholders from the European Commission, the Social Protection Committee and EUROCARERS. Kai Leichsenring commented on the framework from a research perspective. Underlining the importance of such frameworks for further policy development, he recommended to monitor 'areas of action' defined in the framework and to produce evidence on the implementation of quality principles and their outcome. Furthermore, the quality principles of the framework should be translated into pro-active quality management (providers) and quality assurance measures (regulators). Finally, the quality principles should be used to develop new job profiles, training and quality standards across European long-term care systems.

The [EU quality framework for long-term care services](#) is available in 10 languages.

Read more about website: [WeDO Final Conference](#)

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

EDRC Review Austria 2012/13, Expert Mission, 7-8 November, Federal Chancellery, Vienna

In the context of the OECD Economic and Development Review Committee (EDRC) Austrian review, the Executive Director Bernd Marin participated as an expert in two Thematic Meetings, i.e. TM 6 – “Making work/retirement decisions actuarially neutral” and TM 3+4 – “Is making individual life trajectories more resilient a new public policy objective? Does preserving Austrian well-being call for stronger public services?”

For further information please contact: [Andreas Wörgötter](#) (OECD)

“It’s important to see that innovation is feasible” – Sharing Active Ageing Policies between Austria and the Czech Republic

The European Commission has selected 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations but what does it take to put in place policies or initiatives to enhance Active Ageing? To discuss and provide some answers to this question was the aim of a workshop on “Innovative Policies to Support Healthy, Active and Dignified Ageing” (Linz, Austria, 5-7 November) hosted and organized by the European Centre on behalf of the Czech Ministry of Health and CELLO (Czech Centre for Expertise in Longevity and Long-term Care, Charles University, Prague).

The workshop highlighted what can be achieved by partnership work – for example between different municipalities – or empowerment of volunteers in the areas of health and long-term care but also how good practice can be transferred on a local level. The workshop included a one-day study visit of care facilities (day-care, housing units) demonstrating that cooperation and networking beyond traditional pathways are necessary to react to challenges of ageing societies.



The discussions held during this workshop will help to put together a Policy Paper on Active Ageing that will be used as an input for the Czech partners for their National and Local Strategies for Active Ageing. It will provide broad policy guidelines on issues around coordination of health and long-term care and multi-level governance as well as a brief overview of plans and strategies for Active Ageing at the EU level and in European countries. A final workshop where the Policy Paper will be presented and disseminated will take place in February 2013 in Prague.

For further information please contact: [Ricardo Rodrigues](#), [Kai Leichsenring](#) or [Juliane Winkelmann](#)

“An organisational change of care cultures is possible” – implementing prevention and rehabilitation strategies to retain and regain independence

The European Social Network dedicated its Autumn Seminar 2012 (24-25 October, Stuttgart) to innovations in the design of social and health services to assist older people in retaining and regaining independence and inclusion in later life. Kai Leichsenring presented a European overview on prevention and rehabilitation in long-term care based on results from the INTERLINKS project. One of the most impressive presentations came from the municipality of Fredericia (Denmark) where an organisational change towards “early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation” has been implemented.

Similar success stories from the Netherlands and valuable first steps towards integration of services in Portugal showed that prevention and rehabilitation are high on the agenda, but without proactive measures to guide organisational change it will be impossible to scale up and mainstream positive results from single initiatives. This is particularly true for rural areas, where the vicious circle of lack of opportunities, depopulation and ageing creates a general lack of services and further isolation. Active strategies for community-based social innovation are therefore heavily needed.

For further information and download of presentations: [ESN Autumn Seminar](#)

Publications

Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care Europe and North America

This publication from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (ECV, Vienna) is the result of the joint effort of a group of authors from the ECV, the Istituto Nazionale di Ricovero e Cura per Anziani (INRCA) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

This 2nd edition of the earlier “Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care” provides information on the ageing phenomenon across the UNECE region. It covers data and information on demog-

raphy, social situation of older people, health, informal care, migrant care workers, public long-term care policies and expenditure for the countries of the UNECE.

It is meant as a tool to inform policy debate and decision-making by policy-makers. It provides easily accessible information on data and facts for academic experts and researchers to aid comparative analysis of healthy ageing and long-term care. It hopes to foster debate and raise awareness of the differences in ageing across the UNECE region and what they entail for citizens.

Rodrigues, R., Huber, M. & Lamura, G. (eds.) (2012) *Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care. Europe and North America*. Vienna: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

To view and download the report please go to: [Website](#) or contact: [Ricardo Rodrigues](#)

Outcomes and Effects of Social Monetary Benefits and Benefits in Kind



Geld- versus Sachleistungen



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The study “Geld- versus Sachleistungen. Wirkungsweisen und Effekte von Geldleistungen und Sachleistungen im Sozialbereich” was published on the website of the MA 24, City of Vienna. It evaluates the outcomes and effects of social monetary benefits and benefits in kind (in German).

Fuchs, M., Leichsenring, K., Marin, B., Ruppe, G. & Vanhuyse, P. (2012) *Geld- versus Sachleistungen. Wirkungsweisen und Effekte von Geldleistungen und Sachleistungen im Sozialbereich*, Wiener Sozialpolitische Schriften Band 5 edited by City of Vienna – MA 24, Vienna.

For further information and download see: [Website](#), [Publication](#) or contact: [Michael Fuchs](#), [Kai Leichsenring](#), [Bernd Marin](#), [Pieter Vanhuyse](#)

Radio

“Im Klartext. Krank oder nur krank geredet? Der Patient Gesundheitswesen” – Radio discussion about the Austrian health reform, 21 November

Maria M. Hofmarcher was invited participant of a one-hour broadcast about health reform debates in Austria. Other panelists were Alois Stöger, Minister of Health, Sigrid Pils, patient advocate in Vienna and Karl Forstner, Austrian Chamber of Doctors.

For further information: [Broadcast](#) or contact: [Maria M. Hofmarcher](#)

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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