



Dear Reader,

We are very glad to announce the completion of the Spanish translation of our handbook “Measuring Progress: Indicators for Care Homes” (EU PROGRESS Programme of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) by our long-standing partner “Observatorio de Personas Mayores del IMSERSO”, under the responsibility of our Board Member Maria Luz Cid Ruiz, please see the below entry for further information.

Sincerely yours,

Willem Stamatiou
Publications Officer

Projects

Quality Management by Research-oriented Indicators – Spanish Handbook

The main target audience of this handbook are the key stakeholders of care homes, which include its management, staff, clients and relatives, as well as policy decision-makers, regulators and sponsors. The handbook contains a set of 94 selected result-oriented indicators that have been developed on the basis of the exchange of experiences and existing tools in selected EU Member States.

Thanks to the efforts of the Spanish “Observatorio de Personas Mayores del IMSERSO”, under the responsibility of our Board Member Maria Luz Cid Ruiz, the Handbook is now available in four languages: [English](#), [German](#), [Dutch](#), and [Spanish](#).

Read more about: [project](#)

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



Creation of the European Observatory of Inequality – European Centre joins the Inequality Watch

Associations and research centres from all over Europe created the first European independent network of information on inequality, i.e. *Inequality Watch*, the European Observatory of Inequality. The objective of *Inequality Watch* is to improve knowledge about inequality in Europe between and in each country. Analyses of *Inequality Watch* members are available on www.inequalitywatch.eu Many public events will also be organized to debate about inequality in Europe.

Europeans benefit more from better living conditions than other populations in the World, analyses Anna Barford, Inequality Watch Executive Council member from the British Organization *The Equality Trust*, but European societies are very diverging. For example, wealth per inhabitant in 2009 was about 29,300 Euros in Austria against 10,900 Euros in Romania; a French woman is supposed to live 84,1 years against 76,7 years for a Bulgarian one. Inequality levels in each country are very different, pursues Renato Carmo, Portuguese sociologist from the Observatório das Desigualdades and member of the Inequality Watch Executive Council. We have to understand why inequality is so high in Portugal and so low in Sweden!

The official launch took place during a public conference titled “Inequality in Europe” on 7 October 2011 in Paris.

Read more about: [Inequality Watch](#), [European Observatory on the Social Situation](#)

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

Project “Mobile Sexuality” (SafeSex) – New Ways in Sex Education

The project “Safesex – Mobile Sexuality: Towards A New European Strategy in Sex Education and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)” is sponsored by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers to provide sex information and education to young people aged between 13 and 18 years. It is implemented in 6 European countries, i.e. Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Italy, and Lithuania.

The objectives are to stem the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies among adolescents, and to support young people towards a responsible handling of their sexuality.

Young people are addressed in an age-, gender-, and culture-sensitive way. Themes that usually do not (cannot) get much room in the classroom, such as feelings, sexual practices, relationship issues, are also dealt with. The project uses two innovative approaches: First, workshops are being offered to schools that are held by trainers in the age of 20 to 28 years. These young adults can serve as a role model and are accepted by the pupils very well. Second, an application for mobile phones, iPhones and Android phones is being provided, which is available free of charge – it contains a dictionary on the subject of sexuality, practical tips, information about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases (in Austria called: Handy Sex



Guide). If necessary, young people can also ask questions to experts, free of charge and anonymously. In Austria, this guide has been downloaded over 5,600 times, and the possibility to receive individual advice is often used.

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

For further information please contact: [Gabriele Schmied](#)

Project “Evaluating Care Across Borders / ECAB” – New Link to Website

There is a new link to the website of the “Evaluating Care Across Borders” / ECAB [website](#).

Evaluating care across borders



European Union Cross Border Care Collaboration

This project is co-funded by the EU through the FP7 Cooperation Work Programme: Health (contract number 242058; contract acronym EUCBCC)
2010-2013 EUCBCC consortium

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

Events

Upcoming Events

Challenges of the Ageing Societies in the Visegrad Countries, 17-18 November 2011, Budapest, Hungary

At this conference, organised by the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service, Kai Leichsenring will present theoretical considerations and examples of innovative practice in constructing long-term care systems in Europe.

Read more about: [website](#)

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



Countdown to the European Year for Active Ageing: Meeting the Challenge of Europe's Ageing Population. Integrating the European Knowledge, 23 November 2011, Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels, Belgium

At this conference, organised by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, Kai Leichsenring will present opportunities for integrating the provision of long-term care services for older people and best practices from Europe, based on results of the INTERLINKS project.

Read more about: [website](#), [INTERLINKS project](#)

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

Conference “The Logics of Change – Poverty, Place, Identity and Social Transformation Mechanisms”, 24- 25 November 2011, ifz – International Research Center Salzburg, Austria

At this conference, Orsolya Lelkes will present her paper ‘Measuring Well-being on a National Level: Pros and Cons of “Happiness Economics” ’.

The aim of the conference is to encourage local people, businesses and institutions to come up with and put forward ideas that will tackle social and cultural problems of poverty, identity and social institutions in their local communities. It is hoped that social commitment both at the local and regional level can be increased, thus contributing towards improving the ‘quality of life’ for those hit by (suddenly) changing circumstances.

Read more about: [conference](#)

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

Social Situation Observatory – Network on Income Distribution and Living Conditions, Seminar “Unpaid Work and Volunteering in the Context of Active Ageing”, Tuesday 29 November 2011, Bruxelles

The ageing of the population has become a topic of central political concern within the European Union. The number of people aged 60 and over is now rising in the EU by more than two million every year. The contribution of the elderly to the economy through paid and/or unpaid work is therefore a central topic for discussion.

This seminar aims to review the current state of research and knowledge on the issue of unpaid work and volunteering of older adults by:

- assessing their productive potential;
- explaining the determinants of productive ageing.



This is the sixth of a series of biannual seminars organised by the Network on Income Distribution and Living Conditions (including the European Centre), which cover various aspects of the social situation.

[Orsolya Lelkes](#) and [Eszter Zólyomi](#) will participate and represent the European Centre at the Seminar.

Read more about: [Seminar](#)

Past Events

INTERLINKS Final Conference, 12-14 October 2011, Baden near Vienna

With more than 100 participants from 23 countries, the final Conference of INTERLINKS became an important international event to further promote the notion of long-term care in Europe. Plenary sessions, working groups and in particular the interactive market-place served to communicate the key-results of the project and to inspire participants from policy, practice and research to work towards integrated systems of long-term care for older people.

All presentations can be downloaded at <http://interlinks.euro.centre.org/news>

More than 100 practice examples to illustrate the INTERLINKS Framework for Long-term Care as well as all other results of this FP7 project can be consulted at the [website](#). Visit the website and provide comments and/or your own practice example!

More impressions from the conference also at: <http://www.hospiz.at> – Aktuelles

INTERLINKS was also featured in the October Newsletter of the European Association for Directors and Providers of Long-Term Care Services for the Elderly (EDE): <http://www.ede-eu.org/>

and in the October Newsletter of the European Social Network (ESN): <http://www.esn-eu.org> – Newsletter October 2011

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

Peer Review “Effects of Life Courses on Women’s Pension”, 3-4 November 2011, Berlin

Michael Fuchs participated in the Peer Review as an independent expert for Austria.

Read more about: [peer review](#)

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

Ukrainian Reform Club Symposium, 20 October Kiev, Ukraine

In the presence of Mr Sergei Tigipko, Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, Bernd Marin took part in the Ukrainian Reform Club Symposium. In two separate sessions, the symposium dealt with the “Modernisation of Pension Legislation in Ukraine” and “Perspectives of a Two-Tier Pension System”.

Read more about: [website](#)

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

Long-term Care – “Aktiv Altern und Betreuung” – Widerspruch oder Zukunftsszenario?, 10 November 2011, St. Pölten, Austria

At this conference, Georg Ruppe and Kai Leichsenring presented “INTERLINKS: Rahmenbedingungen und präventive Potentiale für Long-term Care analysieren und gestalten – Ein Überblick mit Praxisbeispielen aus Europa” [INTERLINKS: Analysing and Designing Framework Conditions and Preventive Potentials for Long-Term Care. An Overview with Practice Examples from Europe].

Read more about: [website](#)

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

Publications



Book

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Christine Reidl, Gabriele Schmied (2011) Notquartier und Spritzentausch. Die Wiener Drogenszene im Gespräch

Die gesellschaftlich dominierende Vorstellung von Suchtkranken ist seit vielen Jahren dieselbe: Sie werden als sozial isolierte, desintegrierte, teils verwahrloste Personen wahrgenommen.

Ein wesentlicher Teil der Alkoholkranken und von illegalen Substanzen abhängigen Personen ist aber für die Bevölkerung unauffällig weil wohnversorgt, gesellschaftlich integriert und berufstätig.

Die vorliegende Studie untersucht charakteristische Merkmale der Suchtkranken im öffentlichen Raum, ihre Lebenssituation und wie man



sie im Sucht- und Drogenhilfenetzwerk gezielter erreichen kann. Zu Wort kommen nicht nur ExpertInnen, sondern auch die KlientInnengruppe selbst.

Soziologie, Bd. 70, 160 S., 19,90 €, br, ISBN 978-3-643-50321-3. For orders: [Bestellung](#)

For further information: [Weitere Informationen](#)

Read more about: [project](#)

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

Book Contribution



Lutz Leisering (Hg.)

DIE ALTEN DER WELT

Neue Wege der Alterssicherung
im globalen Norden und Süden

campus

Zaidi, Asghar and Gasior, Katrin (2011) 'Armut und Deprivation Älterer Menschen in Europa. Muster und Entwicklungstendenzen' ('Poverty risk and material deprivation of older people. Patterns and trends'), in Lutz Leisering (ed.), 'Die Alten der Welt. Neue Wege der Alterssicherung im globalen Norden und Süden' (Old people of the World. New ways of security in old-age in the global north and south), Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, forthcoming 14th November 2011.

The World's population is ageing, in Germany (where the editor is from) but also in other parts of the world. While older people in the global South are perceived as vulnerable groups, older people in the North seemed to be secured by the social welfare systems for a long time. Nevertheless, demographic change and pension reforms have

tended to increase the risk of poverty in old age for those in the global North as well. The volume sees itself as part of a new sociological discourse, focusing on both older people in the global South and the global North. Different problems, approaches and the impact on relationships between the two regions are discussed in the book.

The contribution of Asghar Zaidi and Katrin Gasior to this volume focuses on the poverty risk of older people in European Union countries. It provides evidence on how EU countries differ in terms of poverty risks for older people, which is on average higher than that of the total population. The higher poverty risks of older people are often the result of pension system inadequacies but they are also linked to the gender- and cohort-specific labour market histories. In general, countries with low poverty risk rates for older people have a good social safety net in the form of a basic pension (such as the Netherlands) and/ or they offer strong redistribution in the earnings-related contributory pension schemes in the form of minimum guaranteed pensions (such as Austria). A broader picture is furthermore provided by the wider measure of material deprivation rate, which measures deprivation in more absolute terms, and it depicts the countries in Central and Eastern European countries more often poor.

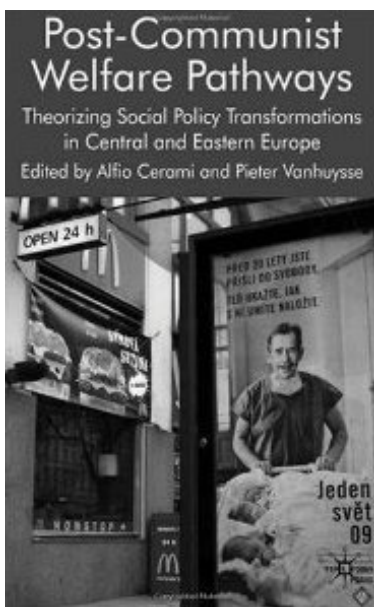
For further information please contact: [Asghar Zaidi](#), [Katrin Gasior](#)

Book Reviews

Ageing, health and pensions in Europe: An economic and social policy perspective – Edited by Lans Bovenberg, Arthur Van Soest, Asghar Zaidi (pp. 121–124) – has been reviewed by Karl Hinrichs in the International Social Security Review, Volume 64, Issue 4, pp.121-124.

Read more about: [full review](#)

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



Pieter Vanhuyse's co-edited book Post-Communist Welfare Pathways (Palgrave MacMillan 2009), has been reviewed by Filip Kostelka from the Ecole Sciences-Po Paris in the Revue Française de Science Politique, 2011, Vol. 6, No. 2.

Excerpts:

“The great merit of this book is that it offers a mass of new information on the evolution of postcommunist welfare states and proposes a wide range of instruments and concepts to understand it. The volume impresses by its historical depth and empirical richness. Its theoretical coherence and the debate engaged in by the different contributors are proof of excellent work by the editors. ... (it) represents a necessary starting point for all those who want to understand the evolution of the postcommunist welfare states.”

For the book contents and contributors and the editorial introduction, see: [website](#)

For Pieter's chapter on the power politics of welfare states and social cleavages in Hungary, Poland, Estonia and Latvia, see: [website](#)

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



Article

Dóra Benedek and Orsolya Lelkes (2011) 'The Distributional Implications of Income Under-Reporting in Hungary', *Fiscal Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 4

The ability and inclination of specific social groups to evade tax vary widely, and this leads to considerable variation in the actual tax burden on individuals with similar levels of income. Thus, ignoring tax evasion can be seriously misleading in terms of the distributive and fiscal effects of the tax system.

This paper estimates the distributional implications of income tax evasion in Hungary, based on a random sample of the administrative tax records of nearly 230,000 individuals. Gross incomes declared in the administrative tax returns are compared with incomes stated in a nationally representative household budget survey. Our estimates show that the average rate of underreporting is 9-13 per cent, though this conceals a big difference between the self-employed (who hide the greater part of their income) and employees. The estimates are likely to be lower bound.

These rates are used in a tax-benefit microsimulation model to calculate the fiscal and distributional implications of under-reporting. Tax evasion reduces households' personal income tax payments by about 16-20 per cent. While the poverty rate increases only slightly, income inequality rises significantly, suggesting that high-income households tend to evade tax proportionately more. Finally, we find that tax evasion largely reduces the progressivity of the tax system.

Read more about: [article](#)

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

Working Paper

Reforming Austria's Highly Regarded but Costly Health System, *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, by Rauf Gönenç, Maria M. Hofmarcher, Andreas Wörgötter (2011)

The highly regarded Austrian health system delivers good quality and easily accessible services, but is costly. Its governance and funding structure is highly fragmented and it makes too much use of inpatient care in hospitals. Entry and competition opportunities are de facto limited in most health markets. The system operates therefore on a supply-driven basis, and does not have clear mechanisms to optimize spending on a cost-benefit basis. Population lifestyles are also not supportive of good health outcomes and suffer important differences between social groups, raising risks for the future.

This Working Paper reviews Austrian authorities' responses to these challenges, and makes recommendations based on OECD countries' experiences. The suggested priorities are: (i) more clearly assigning the performance, financing and spending responsibilities in the system, (ii) enforcing a national capacity plan



for publicly-funded inpatient and outpatient care, (iii) introducing performance-based payment mechanisms in all services, (iv) promoting the transition to “integrated care” by better balancing preventive, outpatient, inpatient, rehabilitation and long-term care, (v) emphasizing healthier lifestyles and monitoring progress against national health goals (such as targets for obesity and overweight rates), and (vi) better clarifying the medium-term fiscal outlook and scenarios of the system. This working paper is a slightly revised and completed version of the special chapter of the 2011 OECD Economic Survey of [Austria](#).

Read more about: [Working Paper](#)

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

TV

Sunday Evening TV Debate “Der Schwindel mit den Frühpensionen”

Bernd Marin was one of the discussants in the Sunday evening TV debate “Der Schwindel mit den Frühpensionen” – The Fraud with Early Retirement Pensions. The debate took place on 30 October and was broadcasted by Austrian Television ORF2.

See more about: [TV debate](#)

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

Newspaper Articles

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

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



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