<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Activities 2007 / 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Programme Overview 2007 / 2008: Review and Outlook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Projects in Detail by Research Pillar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Research Pillar “Work, Wealth, Welfare”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Research Pillar “Health and Care”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Special Activity “Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Implementation” (MA:IMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Index of Research Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>European Centre Publications 1990 – 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Functional Responsibilities of Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>National Liaison Officials (NLOs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153</td>
<td>The Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Research Pillar “Work, Wealth, Welfare”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>First General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Study of the Compilation of the Disability Data from the Administrative Registers of the EU Member States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Challenges in Combating Pensioner Poverty. What Alternative Options for a Policy Direction in EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>European Observatory on the Social Situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>In-Work Tax Credits: Support towards Consultation with the UK Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>OECD Project on the Distribution of Household Incomes 2005/06 Wave: Consultation of Poverty and Income Distribution Data for the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>“ChildONEurope”. European Network of Observatories, Centres and Places of Observation of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Parenting of Children at Risk of Social Exclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>AIM-AP: Accurate Income Measurement for the Assessment of Public Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>I-CUE: Improving the Capacity and Usability of EUROMOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>AUSTROMOD/EUROMOD: An Adaptation of the Tax/Benefit Microsimulation Model EUROMOD to Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Schwerarbeit und Lebenserwartung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Die weitere Erwerbsbiographie von ungelerneten Arbeiter/Innen, deren Antrag auf Pension wegen geminderter Arbeitsfähigkeit abgelehnt wurde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Invalidität im Wandel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Das Besoldungssystem der Pharmazeutischen Gehaltskasse und seine positiven Externalitäten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Research Pillar “Health and Care”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>The Situation of Social and Health Services of General Interest in the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Peer Review Belgium: “The Future of Social Services of General Interest”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>International Comparisons of Prices and Volumes in Health Care among OECD Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services: HealthQUEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Intervention to Increase Health Systems Performance among Socio-economically Disadvantaged Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Multi-city Study on Quantities and Financing Behaviour of Illicit Drug Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Qualitative Research on Juvenile Alcohol Scenes to Develop Effective Prevention Instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Die Wiener Drogenpolitik der letzten 30 Jahre im Urteil ihrer Adressaten und Akteure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Female Drug Users in European Prisons – Follow-up Based Guidelines for Relapse Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Prevention in the Area of Sexual and Reproductive Health: Developing Strategies to Enhance Adolescent Boys’ Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Improving the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Living with HIV in Europe (EUROSUPPORT V)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Special Activity “Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Implementation” (MA:IMI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>International Seminars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities 2007 / 2008

Completed, Ongoing and Planned
Status as of November 2007
Research Pillar
“Work, Wealth, Welfare”

Head of Research Pillar:  Asghar Zaidi  
Research Staff:  Jason Allman  Michael Fuchs  Herwig Immervoll  Catherine Keppel  Renate Kränzl-Nagl  Kai Leichsenring  Horacio Levy  Orsolya Lelkes  Bernd Marin  Peter Melvyn  Marius Rummel  Isilda Shima  Eszter Zólyomi

International Conference  
First General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association
(funded by the sponsorship of many Austrian and international organisations)
20-22 August 2007, Vienna

International Research Project  
Study of the Compilation of the Disability Data from the Administrative Registers of the EU Member States
(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
2006 –

International Research Project  
European Observatory on the Social Situation
(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
2005 – 2008

International Networking and Consultancy  
ChildONEurope.  
European Network of Observatories, Centres and Places of Observation of Children
(coordinated by the Istituto degli Innocenti, Florence)
2002 –

International Networking and Consultancy  
Parenting of Children at Risk of Social Exclusion
(coordinated by the Council of Europe)
2005 – 2007
International Workshop
Children's Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies
(funded by Childwatch International and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth)
2007

International Networking
International Childhood and Youth Research Network
(coordinated by the Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence, Cyprus)
2007 –

International Research Project
AIM-AP: Accurate Income Measurement for the Assessment of Public Policies
(funded by the European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme)
2006 – 2009

International Research Project and Network
I-CUE: Improving the Capacity and Usability of EUROMOD
(funded by the European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme)
2005 – 2009

National Research Project
(funded by the Austrian National Bank / ÖNB)
2005 – 2007

National Research Project
Schwerarbeit und Lebenserwartung
(Hazardous Work and Life Expectancy)
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection)
2007 – 2009

National Expertise
Die weitere Erwerbsbiographie von ungelernten Arbeiterinnen, deren Antrag auf Pension wegen geminderter Arbeitsfähigkeit abgelehnt wurde
(Further Employment Biography of Unskilled Workers whose Application for Invalidity Pension was Rejected)
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection)
2008
National Consultation
Invalidität im Wandel
(Invalidity in Flux)
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance)
2007 – 2008

National Expertise
Auswirkungen der Pensionsreformen 2003 / 2004 und
Möglichkeiten des Verlustausgleichs für Spitalsärzten und Spitalsärzte
(Effects of Pension Reforms 2003 / 2004 on Hospital Doctors
and Alternatives for a Loss Compensation)
(funded by the Federal Curia of Salaried Physicians of the Austrian Medical Association)
2007

National Expertise
Das Besoldungssystem der Pharmazeutischen Gehaltskasse und seine positiven Externalitäten
(Positive Externalities of the Salary System of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund)
(funded by the Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund)
2007 – 2008

National Consultation
In-Work Tax Credits: Support towards Consultation with the UK Experts
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection)
2007

International Consultation
OECD Project on the Distribution of Household Incomes 2005/06 Wave:
Consultation of Poverty and Income Distribution Data for the UK
(funded by OECD, Paris)
2007

International Expertise
(funded by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA)
2007
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  Anderson Stanciole  stanciole@euro.centre.org

International Research Project
Study on the Situation of Social and Health Services of General Interest in the European Union (SHSGI)
(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
2006 – 2007

International Research Project
International Comparisons of Prices and Volumes in Health Care among OECD Countries
(funded by the OECD)
2006 – 2007

International Research Project
Access to and Quality of Health Care (HealthQUEST)
(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
2007 – 2008

Technical Assistance and Consultancy
Peer Review Belgium: “The Future of Social Services of General Interest”
(Thematic expertise for this Research Strand funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
2007

National Case Study
Intervention to Increase Health Systems’ Performance among Socio-economically Disadvantaged Groups
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth)
2007
International Research Project
Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe
2005 – 2008

International Research Project
Multi-City Study on Quantities and Financing Behaviour of Illicit Drug Consumption
(funded by and in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime / UNODC)
2005 – 2007

National Research Project
Qualitative Erforschung jugendlicher Alkoholgeschen zur Entwicklung effektiver Präventionsinstrumente
(Qualitative Research on Juvenile Alcohol Scenes to Develop Effective Prevention Instruments)
(funded by the Fonds Gesundes Österreich / Austrian Health Fund; Municipality of Vienna; Province of Lower Austria)
2006 – 2008

International Meeting
Binge Drinking in Europe: Myths, Realities and the Implication for Policy and Practice
(funded by the European Forum for Reponsible Drinking / EFRD)
(in cooperation with Middlesex University, Institute of Social and Health Research)
2008

Publication
Die Wiener Drogenpolitik der letzten 30 Jahre im Urteil ihrer Adressaten und Akteure (Arbeitstitel) / Viennese Drug Policy of the last 30 Years Seen by its Addressees and Actors (Working title)
(Co-funded by the Addiction and Drug Coordination Vienna)
2007 – 2008

National Research Project
Gesundheitsförderung und Prävention im Bereich sexueller und reproduktiver Gesundheit: Entwicklung von Strategien zur Förderung der Teilnahme männlicher Jugendlicher
(Health Promotion and Prevention in the Area of Sexual and Reproductive Health: Developing Strategies to Enhance Adolescent Boys’ Participation)
(funded by Fonds Gesundes Österreich / Austrian Health Fund; Province of Tyrol; Province of Styria; Vienna Municipality; Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection)
2006 – 2008

International Research Project
Improving the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Living with HIV in Europe (EUROSUPPORT V)
(funded by the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection)
(coordinated by the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium)
(Austrian Partner)
2005 – 2008
Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

Heads of Programme:  
Asghar Zaidi  
Bernd Marin

Research and Technical Staff:  
Jason Allman  
Silvia Fässler  
Michael Fuchs  
Manfred Huber  
Catherine Keppel  
Kai Leichsenring  
Marius Rummel  
Eszter Zólyomi

Expertise, Monitoring, and Evaluation
Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)
Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
(in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe / UN-ECE)
2003 – 2008 (Follow-up and Monitoring)

Meeting of the Expert Group for the UNECE Conference on Ageing (joint meeting with the Task Force)
February 2007, Vienna, Austria

Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the UNECE Conference on Ageing
July 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

UNECE Conference on Ageing
November 2007, León, Spain

Follow-up and Future Meetings for the Second Review and Appraisal Cycle 2008 – 2012 still to be determined.

International Research Project
Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems
(funded by the Spanish Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
2007

International Exchange
International Seminars
http://www.euro.centre.org (link homepage)
2005 – 2008
Knowledge and Information Services for the European Centre. Project and Dissemination Support

Research and Policy Advice
Policy Briefs
http://www.euro.centre.org (link homepage, left column)
2006 –
Programme Overview 2007 / 2008: Review and Outlook


Work, Wealth, Welfare is one of the two pillars within which the research programme of the European Centre has recently been organised, and the staff allocation and recruitment has continued during the course of 2007. The research objectives for the pillar “Work, Wealth, Welfare” mentioned below are likely to develop further during the near future.

Overarching aim:

To develop and take forward work in the overlapping research fields of Work (e.g. employment promotion; earnings differentials; social protection for labour market absences; in-work benefits and their usefulness for work incentives); Wealth (including income maintenance; accumulated income; physical as well as pension wealth; impact of wealth on personal welfare etc.); and Welfare (e.g. design and implementation of social security and welfare programmes and their impact on reduction of poverty and social exclusions; social rights and entitlements). This research programme – to be undertaken by working closely with national policy-makers and international (research) organisations, and with the help of the commissioned research, internal research as well as conferences and seminars – will help us identify and advise on key social welfare policy reforms that are necessary within the European countries.

Specific objectives:

• To improve our understanding of the working of the labour market, and drawing out the implications for future policy developments, so as to achieve a more flexible and better performing labour market, which supports goals such as achieving sustainable economic growth, with additional and better jobs and greater social inclusion of people at the margin of the labour market.

• Identify and explore sources of income and wealth generation within and across countries, and within and across generations, by studying key research issues and policy developments (such as home ownership and its impact on the improvement of relative income status of home owners; shifts in pension policies and their impact on pension wealth and retirement incomes; risks of poverty and social exclusions across countries and the mainstreaming of ageing and social inclusion policies and their impact).

• Inform future policy developments by understanding the design, implementation and impact of social welfare policies; and by identifying good policy practices across countries (in particular those which had resulted in reducing poverty and social exclusions amongst vulnerable groups of societies); and
• To work out and support the development of the analytical tools that are required in assessing policy developments across different fields of social welfare policy and research (e.g. maintenance and extension of the microsimulation models and other such tools and data sources; and by developing social indicators so as to monitor progress and policies).

We anticipate organising our work programme within various research areas. The broad description of the research areas is set out below.

I. Ageing & Generations

This research area seeks to facilitate a dialogue across generations within a multidisciplinary setting so as to study implications of ageing of societies. The intergenerational and interdisciplinary perspective allows us to better understand and prepare for challenges and opportunities associated with demographic changes that European countries are experiencing. Within this research area, work in understanding linkages across different stages of life has also been envisaged.

Most notable work during 2007 includes the work under the project Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI). The researchers in the pillar WWW provided work in many different forms. We supported the MA:IMI team in participating in the international meetings and the technical workshops, and in organising meetings of experts, we supported in constructing and recommending a list of indicators that will support the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Research contributions were also made towards the publication of the book *Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies*. In addition, our work for the Spanish Government project “Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems” on the current situation with respect to pension policy in selected EU countries provides insights on challenges faced by these societies in reforming their social protection systems. Our work within the European Observatory on the Social Situation provided insights into many different areas of poverty and social exclusion and also in the intergenerational transfer of disadvantages. The key examples are our work on poverty amongst children of migrant families and in identifying high poverty risk groups within the EU countries.

II. Childhood, Youth & Families

In 2007, the international workshop “Children’s Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies” was a highlight in the research area “Childhood, Youth and Families”, jointly organised by the European Centre, the Norwegian Social Research Institute (NOVA) in Oslo and the Institute for Labour and Family Research in Bratislava. The workshop aimed at bringing together experts from different European regions in order to exchange research findings on child poverty
and social exclusion from the viewpoint of children and to discuss the links between research and policies. We are pleased to report that experts from 16 countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom) including four international organisations (Council of Europe, OECD, UNICEF and UNIFEM) attended this event which was held in June 2007 in Vienna. A summary report is available at the European Centre’s website, a publication based on the presentations and discussions during the workshop is planned for 2008.

Poverty and social exclusion were also topics of another activity in this research area, namely the two-year involvement in the Working Party Parenting for Children at Risk of Social Exclusion, set up by the Council of Europe. This group of experts from different European regions contributed to the Council of Europe’s recommendations on “Positive Parenting”, relevant for Family Ministers in the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe as well as to a recently published book, entitled Parenting in Contemporary Europe: A Positive Approach.

During the period under review, we also concentrated on the dissemination of the three empirical studies that were completed last year (see last Programme Catalogue), namely the evaluation of the Children’s Rights Amendment Act 2001, with particular reference to the introduction of joint custody in Austria, and the two studies on “Parental Time Use and Children’s School Achievements” (e.g. by preparing policy briefs, articles in peer-reviewed journals and book contributions or giving presentations etc.). A publication based on the results of the research projects “PISA and Patchwork Childhood” as well as “Do Children Count?” is under preparation (scheduled for 2008).

In spring 2007, Johanna Mierendorff from the University of Halle, Germany, visited the European Centre for four weeks in order to work on her post-doctoral thesis (“Habilitation”), entitled “‘Western’ Childhood and the Welfare State.” The European Centre provided not only a working place and access to our library but also support by discussing the theoretical framework of her thesis.

The involvement of the European Centre in the European Network of National Observatories on Childhood, called ChildONEurope (based at the Istituto degli Innocenti in Florence/Italy) remains to be a core activity. For the period 2007 to 2008, staff of the European Centre has been invited by the Secretariat of ChildONEurope to join a working group on Children’s Participation which consists of experts from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands. The main tasks of this working group are to prepare a questionnaire on this topic which will be sent to the EU Member States as well as to prepare an international seminar on children’s participation, to be held in January 2008 in Florence, Italy.
In addition, the European Centre becomes a member organisation of the recently established International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet) which is coordinated by the Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence in Cyprus (funded by the United Nations Development Programme – Action for Cooperation and Trust). As stated in the mission statement, the overall objective of this network is to internationally promote the interdisciplinary study of children and young people in order to raise awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being. The European Centre will support the network in the preparatory work of an international conference (to be held in spring 2008 in Cyprus) which aims at bringing together researchers, academics, practitioners and policy-makers to address issues related to children and childhood in contemporary societies. As of September 2007, the network consists of 30 member organisations from different European regions, the USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Joining this network will increase our contacts at the international level, in particular to Eastern Europe, the circum-Mediterranean, and the Middle East, as well as our opportunities for collaboration with other organisations dealing with children's issues in the future.

With respect to fund raising activities in the area “Childhood, Youth and Families”, for 2008 and beyond, the European Centre has been invited to join the following two EU-tenders: (1) a tender for a comparative study on adoption procedures in the Member States of the European Union, practical difficulties encountered in this area by European citizens in the context of a European area of justice in civil matters, and options available for resolving such difficulties and protecting children’s rights (coordinated by the Secretariat of the ChildONEurope Network) and (2) a tender for a study on indicators measuring the implementation, protection, respect and promotion of children’s rights in the European Union, mapping and assessment of available relevant data resources (coordinated by the Liverpool Law School and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights). The decision for both tenders is pending.

III. Incomes, Poverty & Social Exclusions

This research area addresses the following analytical questions: How best to improve income measurement for the assessment of public policies; how to improve our understanding of people’s experiences of poverty and social exclusions; what are good policy practices in combating risk of poverty and social exclusions; and what recommendations can be made for policy reforms that will help countries improve incomes and combat poverty and social exclusions.

During 2007, the European Centre continued work on the international project AIM-AP, financed by the European Commission DG Research, which is a programme of interlinked activities aiming to improve the comparability, scope and applicability of
methods for the measurement of income and the analysis of the effects of policies on inequality and poverty. The project includes (1) the distributional effects of non-cash incomes (such as health, education, home production and imputed rents) and the implementation of a more comprehensive income definition; (2) the implications of (and methods to account for) errors in targeting social benefits, tax evasion, and measurement error in income data; and (3) incorporation of the effects of indirect, as well as direct taxes and social benefits in redistribution analysis. By the end of 2007, the European Centre’s researchers will complete their work within the project, using the case studies of Austria, Hungary, Italy and Finland.

An international consultation has also been provided to the OECD project entitled “OECD project on the distribution of household incomes 2005/06 wave: Consultation of poverty and income distribution data for the UK”. The work provided statistics and analyses on the situation of income and poverty in the UK.

**IV. Labour Market & Social Policy**

This research area focuses on the analysis of the functioning of the labour market, and reviewing of the labour market and other social policies to boost employment and incomes. A particular focus is placed on the understanding of the institutional set-up within which labour market and social policies are implemented. Here, a notable project has been the support of the Ministry of Social Affairs in devising its policy on in-work benefits so as to provide greater incentives to work for those reliant on out-of-work benefits. A fact-finding mission to London was organised, in which we accompanied a Ministry official to meet analysts within the UK government and experts from academia. We will also accompany a high-level delegation from the Austrian Government to the UK so as to provide additional advice on the introduction and design of working tax credits in Austria.

Moreover, one project for the European Commission, entitled “Study of the Compilation of the Disability Data from the Administrative Registers of the EU Member States” collects statistics and analyses of the labour market integration of persons with disability into the formal labour market in member countries of the EU27.

**V. Pensions & Social Security**

This research area looks into how pensions and other forms of social security provisions ensure income protection against common social risks such as absences from labour market, divorce, widowhood, and other forms of life course disruptions. A particular focus is placed on how recent pension reforms in many countries are likely to impact on retirement incomes of future pensioners.
Within the Spanish Government project “Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems”, we investigate how European pension reforms have an impact on the balance of risks between individuals, employers and the state in securing an adequate income in retirement. This research adopts a comparative approach, thus it will be able to analyse how a single country fares in comparison to another within a European context.

Ongoing and planned research for Austria includes an analysis of the relation between hazardous labour and life expectancy and the further biography of unskilled workers whose application for invalidity pension was rejected, both commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, as well as a consultation on invalidity in flux in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance.

VI. Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling

Here, we focus on our specific research interest of developing tax-benefit types of models as analytical tools to evaluate ex-ante the impact of policy reforms. The most salient aspect of these so-called microsimulation models is that they analyse the redistributive impact of taxes or benefits on individuals or households, answering questions such as “who are the winners and losers” of a particular policy reform. Emphasis has been placed on working with the international network that has developed EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit micro-simulation model.

During 2007, the European Centre’s researchers continued working on the new EUROMOD-related project I-CUE, that started in May 2005 and is supported by the FP6 Research Infrastructures Action as a design study. The work included the expanding of EUROMOD to cover the 10 new Member States, to establish the feasibility of bringing them into EUROMOD. We established collaboration with Malta during 2007, which is currently completing the Feasibility Study. For the other nine countries, we published the Studies on the website of the European Centre. They contain (1) key features of national tax-benefit systems, (2) identification of appropriate data sources which meet the data requirements for tax/benefit-micro-simulation, (3) considerations of specific modelling issues (e.g. tax evasion, non take-up of benefits, etc.). We have worked closely with the four countries that have been selected (Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) in order to integrate their tax-benefit systems into EUROMOD as part of I-CUE. We are currently preparing the final conference of the project to be held in April 2008 in Vienna, which would not only present past achievements, but also discuss future perspectives. As a number of other countries have also expressed interest in collaboration, we are seeking ways of funding future work in this field. In the meantime, these countries are offered training and scientific collaboration. Some of them have ventured on developing a national micro-simulation model, which we regard to be a positive spill-over effect of this project.
The tax-benefit model EUROMOD is also used for a project that assesses the
distributional effects of implemented and hypothetical tax-benefit policy changes in
Austria. The impact of policy changes implemented between 1998 and 2005 (e.g.
introduction of a universal child-care benefit, tax reform 2004/5) on the one hand and of
proposed measures to combat poverty (e.g. harmonisation of social assistance benefits)
on the other, with a focus on income distribution, poverty and inequality, is analysed. First
results show that changes were clearly redistributive and especially in favour of single
parents and families with three or more children.

Within the AIM-AP-project in the 6th Framework Programme of the European
Commission, an analysis of non-take-up of monetary social assistance benefits in Austria
was conducted. For Austria this represents the first research of this kind based on
detailed empirical data and the use of the specially adapted tax/benefit microsimulation
model EUROMOD. This model was also used in a project on the distributional
consequences of changes in tax/benefit policies in Austria between 1998 and 2005 funded
by the Jubiläumsfonds of the Austrian National Bank.

VII. Welfare Society

Our focus is to evaluate different types of welfare societies and their success in
addressing social issues that a country is facing. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis
of attributes of the European Social Model and how it offers lessons for countries to
reform their welfare states.

Research Pillar “Health and Care”

The focus of work on health policy topics continued to be on health promotion and
disease prevention, covering a range of topics on addiction and drug policies, health
behaviour research, and on socio-economic determinants of health. Moreover, work has
considerably expanded in the research area of health and disability policy, with the major
HealthQUEST project. In addition, work has continued in the new research area on
health economics and indicators that was recently added to the European Centre’s work
programme.

I. Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

Addictions and misuse of alcohol and drugs are increasingly considered to be a scourge
to industrialised countries and respective research questions and studies have since many
years been a core part of the activities of the European Centre. Last year the research
area “Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction” was established as part of the Health and Care pillar.
Important partners of the respective research are international organisations like the
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, but also local drug organisations such as the Addiction and Drug Coordination of the City of Vienna.

Among the projects in the research Area “Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction” was the one-year project on “Female Drug Users in European Prisons – Follow-up Based Guidelines for Relapse Prevention” to which the European Centre contributed as partner. The project was coordinated by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research of Hamburg University (ZIS-Hamburg). This project was completed at the end of 2006 and the final report has been submitted to the European Commission.

The two-year project in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) entitled “Multi-City Study on Quantities and Financing Behaviour of Illicit Drug Consumption” (started in autumn 2005), was successfully continued: the final report will be available at the end of this year, and a book publication is planned. The project work during the last year included 100 interviews with a second sample of frequent drug users in each site (each of the six cities Amsterdam, London, Prague, Turin, Vienna and Warsaw), the comparative analysis of the results of the interviews with both samples of frequent drug users (the marginalized and the socially integrated ones) and the presentation of the respective chapter drafts at the fourth and last meeting in Baden bei Wien, end of September 2007.

Also the project on binge drinking among young people in Vienna and Lower Austria – the rural state surrounding the Austrian capital – that started in 2006 was successfully continued. Excessive drinking of young people has in recent years become a topic of growing importance in Austria as well as in other European countries. This project on the situation in Austria is an innovative qualitative case study whose results will be presented at an international workshop organised at the European Centre in early summer 2008. In the course of the study face to face and telephone interviews with police and youth workers have been carried out, observations of selected groups of excessive youth drinkers in different settings (in the streets as well as in discotheques), group discussions with male and female members of the respective groups were organized and narrative interviews with selected boys and girls.

On the basis of the results from this study, preventive measures will be developed during the next months and the final report will be available in early summer 2008. The project is jointly funded by the Austrian Fund for Health Promotion, by the Addiction and Drug Coordination of the City of Vienna and by the State Government of Lower Austria. It is carried out in cooperation with the Universities of Applied Sciences in St. Pölten (Lower Austria) and Vienna, Study Programme Social Work.
II. Health Promotion and Prevention

This research area has a focus on improving knowledge about health determinants, e.g. access to health care, social inequalities and health behaviour, and how to enhance public health in general. It investigates several fields, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, with a number of target groups focusing on disadvantaged people.

The European Centre continues to be the Austrian Partner in a three-year international research project on “Improving the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Living with HIV in Europe” (EUROSUPPORT V), which received funding from the European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection. The project is coordinated by the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Under the project “Health Promotion and Prevention in the Area of Sexual and Reproductive Health: Developing Strategies to Enhance Adolescent Boys’ Participation”, a pilot project in the area of sexual and reproductive health together with a service provider has been designed. A main outcome of this project will be guidelines for the development and implementation of projects outside of the school education sector to facilitate adolescent boys’ access to health prevention and promotion services will be developed. This project is jointly funded by the “Fonds Gesundes Österreich” (Austrian Health Fund), the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the provinces of Vienna, Styria and Tyrol.

III. Health Economics and Indicators

In the new research area of health economics and indicators, work continued on “International Comparisons of Volumes and Prices in Health Care among OECD Countries” as input for an Eurostat-OECD initiative to improve health-specific purchasing power parity indices for improved comparison of health expenditure between countries.

In addition, in the area of health indicators, a meeting was jointly co-organised with WHO Europe and the World Bank to support Health Accounting Initiatives in South-East European countries.

IV. Health and Disability Policies

A major project on “Quality in, and Access to Health Care Services” has started in 2007 in cooperation with the European Health Management Association and other partners. This project is funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities.
Most European countries provide its citizens with universal and mandatory health coverage, requiring little cost-sharing at the point of use. Nevertheless, significant barriers to access have been identified which still compromise access to health care for extensive segments of the population. This study aims to improve knowledge at European level on barriers to access to health care for people at risk of social exclusion, and to identify potentially effective policy initiatives in this area that have been taken in Member States. The experience of eight countries is reviewed and analysed in terms of a sequence of barriers, their interplay and policy responses, with a focus in particular on three vulnerable groups: migrants, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, older people with functional limitations and people with mental health problems.

V. Long-term Care and Personal Social Services

Work on long-term care and personal social services has continued in 2007 with a number of major projects led by the European Centre.

Issues of long-term care policy are prominent in the ongoing project on “Rescaling Welfare Policies” where draft reports have become available on the part of the project dealing with long-term care.

Moreover, the major research project on “The Situation of Social Services of General Interest in the European Union”, has besides long-term care for older persons covered four additional sectors of social services: social housing, labour market integration for disadvantaged persons, integration services for migrants, and child care services. This study will provide input to the first report of a new biennial monitoring and dialogue tool on the future of social services of general interest of the European Commission, to be published from end of 2007 onwards. The study maps the situation of social services in eight EU Member States, including trends of modernisation, quality assessment, and the interplay with EU-level legislation and case law. Best practice examples have been collected for all of these areas. The results of the study were presented in Brussels at a meeting in June 2007, organised by the European Commission.

Under the new seventh framework programme on research, the European Centre has submitted a tender for a major research project to analyse models of social and health services for older persons, and their interlinkages.
Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, an inter-governmental organization affiliated to the United Nations, has been mandated and undertaking various follow-up activities to the so called “Madrid Process” and “Berlin Process”, both since 2002. This work was done in accordance with the mandate given to the United Nations regional commissions by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), April 2002, and by the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) as adopted, together with the Berlin Ministerial Declaration “A Society for all Ages in the UNECE Region”, by the Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MiCA), Berlin September 2002. A “Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and the Government of the Republic of Austria”, signed in late January 2004 in Vienna, specified the terms of this follow-up work performed by the European Centre, Vienna and its assistance to the UNECE, Geneva. It provided material support for the European Centre through earmarked funds from the Host Government Austria (in particular its Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection and its Ministry for Foreign Affairs) and advice by an international Task Force set-up to guide its work programme.

In the first review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA and RIS in the period between 2003 and 2007/2008, the European Centre provided technical support and had helped to review the implementation of the Plan by the United Nations Member States, without heavy reporting burden and by a monitoring process based on effective exchange of information, experiences and best practices, avoiding simplistic comparisons. The European Centre Vienna established, as required, a separate “Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation” (MA:IMI) unit within the Centre, with the consent of the Board of Directors. This unit was staffed with two full-time equivalents, and in the course of the project up to 14 researchers, administrative and technical staff provided the necessary support. While the programme of work would not have been possible without the generous support of the Austrian Host Government as well as that of the Spanish authorities and of UNFPA, the major part of the human resources operating was provided by the European Centre itself, and therefore more than doubling the basic endowment offered by the Republic of Austria to the European Centre.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and the mandate specified herein, the European Centre, in collaboration with the UNECE Secretariat and its Population Ageing Unit (UNECE / PAU), promoted an exchange of experiences in the field of policies related to ageing, carried out data collection, research and analyses in cooperation with agencies such as the World Bank, ILO, ISSA, EUROSTAT, OECD etc., with national authorities, NGOs and other concerned bodies. Briefly, the European Centre had undertaken the following tasks during the 1st phase of the MA:IMI project:
• prepared short annual reports and conference room papers to the UNECE Secretariat;
• promoted exchange of information among experts, policy-makers and civil society by (co-)organizing and participating in a series of more than a dozen conferences, workshops, Expert and Task Force meetings;
• developed a set of agreed-upon “indicators of achievement” (in particular in the areas of demographic changes, income and wealth, labour market and early retirement, sustainable social security, as well as economic growth, financial and social sustainability);
• collected and analysed data for these “indicators of achievement” and visualized the findings by charts;
• created “country profiles” using these “indicators of achievement” which are translating MIPAA and RIS objectives into operational measures and standards by which monitoring of progress in goal achievement can be assessed;
• organized the dissemination of Mainstreaming Ageing results by the creation of a special Website “Monitoring RIS”;
• produced many “Mainstreaming Ageing” and “A Society of All Ages” publications, including 11 book publications, 2 special reports, 6 policy briefs, and dozens of contributions to books and refereed economic and social science professional journals;
• disseminated findings also through newspapers, journals, magazines, radio, TV and press conferences;
• created, together with UNECE, several networks where experts, policy-makers and civil society could meet, such as, for instance, the “National Focal points on Ageing”, the “Task Force”, the “NGO Network on Monitoring RIS”, several European Centre External Expert Networks for Mainstreaming Ageing Indicator Work, etc.

In the Memorandum of Understanding with UNECE signed in January 2004 in Vienna, it was foreseen that “this initiative is initially planned within a time frame of five years of operation. During the fourth year of the initial five year period, the UNECE together with all stakeholders, including the Government of the Republic of Austria, will evaluate the status of the initiative and recommend whether it should be renewed, extended or scaled-back, or it should be phased-out”.

The MA:IMI project is nearing the end of the fourth year of its first, initial and take-off phase of work 2003 – 2008. The European Centre is looking forward to the evaluation envisaged and it is currently in search of financial support to continue the work foreseen as essential in the second 5-year review and appraisal cycle of MIPAA and RIS from 2008 to 2012. This second phase will beyond doubt be of historical importance and a most critical one, as the demographic bonus is now coming to an end in many UNECE Member States (in particular in most of the EU-27 countries) and a last window of opportunity to implement at least the core measures to live-up to the goals, objectives and 10 commitments formulated in 2002 will open between 2007 and 2011.
Our premise for a continuation of the MA:IMI programme is that the 1st phase of the projects has resulted in a very practical support to the national authorities and to UNECE by collecting data on ageing-specific indicators and in providing substantive research on salient issues faced by ageing societies in the UNECE region. The book *Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies* (edited by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi) is just one latest example of the work generated in the 1st phase of the MA:IMI project. The construction of the Monitoring RIS website is another notable example, as it has resulted in a dissemination tool for the UNECE Secretariat as well as for national policymakers. An active participation of European Centre researchers in all MIPAA and RIS-related events in the last five years is another remarkable contribution to the cause of the Regional Implementation Strategy of the UNECE European region and in raising awareness and in developing capacity in member countries. All in all, the MA:IMI project has fulfilled its stated objective of providing “information resources to all actors interested in ageing issues and mainstreaming ageing into economic and social policies, from governmental to local authorities, as well as NGO partners, media and the public at large”.

Below, we provide a very short overview of work proposed by the European Centre for the 2nd phase extension of the MA:IMI project. The European Centre wishes to undertake the tasks in continued collaboration with the UNECE Secretariat and with support from as many governments as possible from the UNECE and EC Members States. Already in the very first, sounding-out phase of explorations in September / early October 2007, we have quite firm and promising informal commitments by about half a dozen governments of Member States, far beyond the initially supporting countries such as Spain, Germany and Austria, who made their continuous support conditional upon a broadening and “Europeanization” of support.

The work proposed for the 2nd phase is divided into several work packages, and this proposal provides some sketch of the work to be undertaken within each of these packages. The work package 1 reports on the work proposed for the collection of data on ageing-related indicators and the analyses based on these indicators. The second work package proposes further work to be undertaken on the Monitoring RIS webpage. The third work package is geared towards organisation of seminars, workshops and international conferences. The fourth work package will generate publications on the research undertaken during the project. The fifth, last but not least, package will generate information dissemination by publication of newsletters.

The work proposed will be undertaken during the next five years (2008-2012) and it will be staffed by one additional full-time research analyst who will be fully devoted to the work of the MA:IMI project. The MA:IMI team will be further supported by the advice and the coordinating work of the Executive Director (Bernd Marin) and Director Research (Asghar Zaidi). The work on indicators will focus on the analyses...
of indicators already generated for the following four domains: Demography, Income and Wealth, Labour Market and Labour Market Participation, and Social Protection and Financial Sustainability. In addition, and more importantly, the 2nd phase of the MA:IMI project will design and develop indicators and collect corresponding data on gendering all Mainstreaming Ageing indicators as well as on long-term care and quality of life indicators.

Furthermore, the Knowledge and Information Management and Support Unit (KIMSU) of the European Centre will be involved in the webpage development and in generating newsletters alerts. Each year, the MA:IMI team will help organise a technical workshop to bring international experts together. Additionally, two international conferences will be organised and hosted by the European Centre to generate and disseminate scientific work for the MA:IMI project. The newsletters alerts will be generated monthly and they will contain summaries of major pieces of ageing-related research as well as a synopsis of policy changes that affect older people of the current and future generations of older people.

The Knowledge and Information Support Unit / KIMSU

The Knowledge and Information Support Unit / KIMSU supports the researchers as well as the Centre’s clients by increasing the efficiency in the acquisition, organisation and distribution of the Centre’s information and knowledge.

KIMSU aims in cooperation with the experts in the field to provide quality, in-depth information and knowledge with a view to better serve the international social policy and welfare professional, i.e. policy-makers, researchers, social practitioners, international organisations as well as citizens.

In 2007, KIMSU:

- Facilitated the European Centre’s national and international activities with graphics, publications, databases, websites, dissemination as well as with maintaining and improving the IT and library support.

- Increased the visibility of the EC website through informative content on interesting EC activities, with regular Newsletter issues, with Policy Briefs and via networking through international dissemination channels; and raised the average number of visitors per month by one third compared to 2006.
– Informed Board/NLO with a quarterly special Newsletter and topical mails, and did an NLO survey
  • to visualize the needs of the NLOs,
  • to analyse the communication flow and knowledge exchange between the NLOs and the Centre,
  • to find out how the NLOs can be assisted to increase their involvement in EC activities.

– Improved the country reports facility technically and developed deployment strategies.


– In addition to the ongoing project, event, publication and dissemination facilitation in 2007/8 KIMSU will
  • further improve the facilitation of the work of the NLOs in their countries,
  • improve graphics production,
  • finish the realignment of the library structure and information.
The First General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association

Type of Activity
International Conference, sponsored by many Austrian and international organisations

Research Areas
Pensions & Social Security; Ageing and Generations; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status
Completed

Duration
2007

European Centre Involvement
Exclusive responsibility towards hosting of the event; joint responsibility in funding the event.

Partners / Co-Organizers
- NATSEM, University of Canberra, Australia
- Department of Education, Science and Training, Government of Australia
- Department of Health and Ageing, Government of Australia
- Productivity Commission, Government of Australia
- European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
- ERSTE Foundation, Austria
- WIEN KULTUR, Austria
- Vienna Convention Bureau, Austria
- Radisson SAS Palais Hotel, Austria
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research
- Statistics Canada
- Statistics Norway
- Department for Work and Pensions, Government of the United Kingdom

Project Director
Asghar Zaidi

Project Team at the EC
Andrea Hovenier
Jason Allman
Annette Hexelschneider
Catherine Keppel
Marius Rummel
Eszter Zolyomi
Willem Stamatiou
Isilda Shima
Judith Schreiber
Erna Riemer
Sebastian Ruttner
Werner Bregar
Date / Location of Meeting  
20-22 August 2007, Vienna, Austria

Working Language  
English

Financed by  
A host of Austrian and international organisations provided sponsorship for this event (see partners).

Aims of the Project  
The conference was hosted by the European Centre during 20 to 22 August. The first two days were devoted to various papers on the application of microsimulation models to public policy-making and the third day was reserved to mini-workshops presenting the technical specifications of models in use.

The conference included almost 40 individual sessions, each of them containing up to 4 different presentations. The plenary talks were given by distinguished experts in the area of microsimulation modelling reporting on the progress and development of different kinds of microsimulation modelling and lessons that can be drawn from good practices.

There were in excess of 200 participants, who represented their work in over 30 countries of the world. Experts from many national governments attended the conference, including government analysts from the Australian Treasury, from various Canadian ministries and the Statistical Office Canada, from ministries and their affiliated research centres in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland and the modelling team of the UK’s Department for Work and Pensions. There were also many experts from academia, the international research centres and consultancy groups, in particular NATSEM (University of Canberra), ISER (University of Essex), WIDER (Helsinki), DIW (Berlin), the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy (Leuven), the Pensions Policy Institute (London), and the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (Oxford).

The topics included analyses of tax/benefit reforms and their impact, pensions, health and care, small area level estimations and modelling for spatial decision-making, modelling techniques and data challenges, labour markets and intergenerational redistribution. All the papers submitted to the conference as well as the slides will be made available at the conference website in the near future. Selected papers will be included in a book, to be edited by Asghar Zaidi and others.
The participants of the conference also discussed the future development of the International Microsimulation Association and elected its future office bearers. Ann Harding of NATSEM will be the president of the Association, and Asghar Zaidi of the European Centre will be the Vice President of the Association, for the period of the next two years. The members of the Association also approved that the 2nd General Conference will be held in Canada, under the auspices of Statistics Canada. We tried to capture the atmosphere and comments of the participants in a conference blog. Moreover, the International Microsimulation Association is looking into the blog idea for the microsimulation topic to network the community.

For information pertaining to the conference, please contact the conference coordinator, Asghar Zaidi by email (zaidi@euro.centre.org) or the conference Secretariat, Andrea Hovenier (hovenier@euro.centre.org).

For further information, the conference programme, presentations and papers and the conference blog, please visit:
Study of the Compilation of the Disability Data from the Administrative Registers of the EU Member States

Type of Activity
International Research Project

Research Areas
Labour Market & Social Policy; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion; Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling; Welfare Society

Status
Ongoing

Duration
2007

European Centre Involvement
Joint responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers
Applica, Belgium

Project Directors
Nirina Rabemiafara
Terry Ward
Asghar Zaidi/ Isilda Shima
Manfred Huber

Project Team at the EC
Michael Fuchs
Isilda Shima
Eszter Zolyomi

Contact Email
shima@euro.centre.org

Working Language
English

Financed by
European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Aims of the Project
The objective of the study is to collect data on people with disabilities through ‘administrative registers’ in each of the 25 Member States in order to provide a picture of their situation as well as to assess the quality and availability of the data.

For each Member State, the intention is to collect data from national administrative registers on the following five topics:
1. Prevalence of disability
2. Education
3. Employment, unemployment and inactivity
4. Cause (or origin) of disability
5. Access to services
Results

Two pieces of research had been undertaken within this project:

- to collect data on disability from administrative registers in Austria and Germany; and
- to provide a substantive research report on theme 3 mentioned above (viz. Employment, unemployment and inactivity), analysing the labour integration measures for persons with disabilities in EU25.

A brief description on the work undertaken for theme 3 is mentioned below:

This study is different from many other studies for the fact that the research is based on statistics on the employment status of people with disabilities drawn from administrative registers of the Member States.

The EU Member States have been going through a shift from passive measures towards (active) labour market integration policies. In addition to more traditional approaches – like sheltered employment, regulation and employment quota obligations – several new types of measures have been put into practice with the purpose of assisting people with disabilities to enter into the labour market. They include new vocational training and rehabilitation programmes as well as labour market measures facilitating the matching process between people with disabilities and employers, such as funds for the adaptation of infrastructures and workplaces, wage subsidies, tax incentives, etc.

People with disabilities are mainly part of those working age groups classified as unemployed or inactive; only a modest fraction is part of the employed working age population. Statistics from administrative registers show that the number of people with disabilities in ordinary employment has increased and that sheltered employment varies among the Member States.

The findings are that there is also variation in the number of registered unemployed: in some countries the number has increased, in others it has decreased and in some countries it has remained relatively stable. In both employment categories the number of males is generally almost twice as high as the number of female people.
Inactivity among people with disabilities is not only prevailing, but has slightly increased. Our findings demonstrate that the status of unemployed and inactive is substitute to each other, i.e. a longer duration of unemployment tends to lead to a shift to the status of inactivity rather than to employment.

With regard to labour market measures, one of our main findings is that some Member States try to implement the quota schemes only partially in the public sector, whereas some others extended them also to the private sector. Again other Member States have rejected to apply quota schemes.

Different experiences characterize the EU Member States regarding sheltered employment: some experimented successfully with this type of employment while others are only in the initial phase of implementation.

Some research questions addressed in the study are:

• Based on the evidence from administrative registers in different countries: What are good practice examples with respect to increasing employment, and decreasing unemployment and inactivity of persons with disabilities?

• What measures can be taken to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the labour market?

Any comments on the above should be directed to Asghar Zaidi (zaidi@euro.centre.org) or Isilda Shima (shima@euro.centre.org)
### Challenges in Combating Pensioner Poverty.
**What Alternative Options for a Policy Direction in EU**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
<th>International Conference under the Finnish EU Presidency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Areas</td>
<td>Incomes, Poverty &amp; Social Inclusion; Pensions &amp; Social Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Organisation during 2006, event taking place during December 2006.</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Centre Involvement</td>
<td>Joint Responsibility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Partners / Co-Organizers | • National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES, contact Marjaliisa Kauppinen, marjaliisa.kauppinen@stakes.fi),  
• The Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA)  
• The Finnish Centre for Pensions (ETK)  
• European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research  
• European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, contact Olivier Bontout, olivier.bontout@ec.europa.eu |
| Project Director | Asghar Zaidi |
| Project Team at the EC | Bernd Marin  
Andrea Hovenier |
| Contact Email | zaidi@euro.centre.org |
| Working Language | English |
| Date / Location of Meeting | 4-5 December 2006, Helsinki, Finland |
| Financed by | European Commission |
| Aims of the Project | The purpose of the conference has been to bring together international experts on poverty and pensions and debate future pension policy options in combating the risk of poverty amongst pensioners.  
High policy officials from all Member States of the European Union as well as experts from academia and other non-government organisations attended the above two-day conference “Challenges in Combating Pensioner Poverty” in Helsinki. |
On the first day of the conference, the discussions highlighted the key policy developments in the pension system across EU countries, such as the strengthening of the minimum income guarantee for pensioners, reforms in earnings-related public pensions, introduction of statutory funded pensions. It has also been discussed how these reforms are likely to impact on retirement incomes and poverty risk amongst pensioners.

On the second day, experts presented the synthesis of the discussion from the first day, outlining policy options for tackling the risk of poverty amongst future pensioners. These policy options were then discussed by selective groups of international experts and other participants. The conference was concluded by a roundtable discussion, which revolved around a list of questions arising from issues such as:

• What policy choices towards a fiscally as well as socially sustainable Europe?
• What lessons can Member States draw from pension policy experiences of other countries? What role of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of pensions?
• What role for international organisations in ensuring that good practices are identified and lessons learned are disseminated?
• What future research agenda to address the issue of how pension policy affects poverty risk of pensioners?

Further Information

The conference has been by invitation only and there were only a limited number of places available for those who were invited to register. For information pertaining to the conference, please contact the conference coordinator, Asghar Zaidi by email.

For further information, the conference programme and background reading material please visit:
http://www.eurocentre.org/pensionerpovertyconference
### European Observatory on the Social Situation

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<th><strong>Type of Activity</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>Incomes, Poverty &amp; Social Inclusion; Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling; Welfare Society</td>
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<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
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**European Centre Involvement**

Joint responsibility

**Partners / Co-Organizers**

- Applica, Belgium
- TARKI, Budapest

**Project Directors**

- Terry Ward
- Asghar Zaidi
- Istvan György Toth
- Holly Sutherland

**Project Team at the EC**

- Michael Fuchs
- Orsolya Lelkes
- Marius Rummel
- Eszter Zólyomi
- Catherine Keppel

**Contact Email**

zaidi@euro.centre.org

**Working Language**

English

**Financed by**

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

**Aims of the Project**

The European Centre is one of four partners in the Social Inclusion Network of The European Observatory on the Social Situation managed by the European Commission. The general task of the network is to monitor and report on trends in income distribution and social inclusion, i.e. the overall inclusiveness of European society, which incorporates the situation in terms of income and wealth, the impact of tax/benefit systems, the access to services, questions related to poverty and population groups facing a higher risk of exclusion.
The Centre undertakes the leading role in particular as regards monitoring developments and trends in social inclusion and income distribution in the 25 Member States, and in conveying new research results in the area of social inclusion and income distribution.

**Results**

In 2006/2007:

- Final report for 2006 prepared, with a major contribution of poverty and income distribution analyses from the European Centre.
- Presentation of results to the European Commission and representatives of other networks within the Social Observatory in September 2007 in Brussels.
- Work on poverty amongst migrant children and on identification of high poverty risk groups concluded.
- Work on the inter-generational transfer of disadvantages for the EU25 completed.
In-Work Tax Credits: Support towards Consultation with the UK Experts

Type of Activity
National Research Project

Research Areas
Labour Market & Social Policy; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status
Ongoing

Duration
2007

European Centre Involvement
Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director
Asghar Zaidi

Project Team at the EC
Michael Fuchs
Bernd Marin

Working Language
English; German

Financed by
Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Aims of the Project
In this project, technical services will be provided to advice on the introduction of working tax credit in Austria. Experts from the European Centre will accompany the high-level Austrian policy officials on a fact-finding visit to the UK. A brief report will be written to analyse what lessons Austria can draw from the policy experiences of the UK. Experts will also help the Austrian Embassy in London to identify experts in the UK for a Ministerial visit to London during December 2007. The Ministerial delegation will include representatives of social partners and academia from Austria.
**OECD Project on the Distribution of Household Incomes 2005/06 Wave:**
Consultation of Poverty and Income Distribution Data for the UK

**Type of Activity**
International Research Project

**Research Areas**
Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion; Labour Market & Social Policy; Pensions & Social Security

**Status**
Completed

**Duration**
2007

**European Centre Involvement**
Exclusive Responsibility

**Project Directors**
Asghar Zaidi

**Project Team at the EC**
Eszter Zolyomi

**Working Language**
English

**Financed by**
Social Policy Division; Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Division, OECD Paris

**Aims of the Project**
In this project, technical services were provided to advice on the statistics and analyses of poverty and income distribution in the UK. This work becomes a part of the OECD’s analyses of poverty amongst children and other population groups. These OECD analyses also provide trends in income inequality and poverty in the member countries.
**“ChildONEurope”**  
**European Network of Observatories, Centres and Places of Observation of Children**

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<th><strong>Type of Activity</strong></th>
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**European Centre Involvement**  
Joint Responsibility

**Partners / Co-Organizers**  
- Maria Orthofer, Austrian Federal Ministry of Health, Family and Youth (national partner)  
- Italian National Childhood and Adolescence Documentation and Analysis Centre, Italy (Secretariat)

**Project Directors**  
Joseph Moyerson, Erika Bernacchi, Roberta Ruggiero  
(Italian National Childhood and Adolescence Documentation and Analysis Centre, Florence, Italy)

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**Working Languages**  
English / French

**Date / Location of Meetings**  
- 28 June 2002, Preparatory Meeting in Madrid, Spain  
- 27 September 2002, preparatory meeting in Florence, Italy  
- 24 January 2003, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 4 July 2003, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 4 December 2003, Seminar “Unaccompanied Foreign Children” in Florence, Italy  
- 5 December 2003, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 28 May 2004, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 3 December 2004, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 17 June 2005, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 27 January 2006, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 9 June 2006, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 18 January 2007, European Seminar on “National Monitoring Systems of Child Abuse” and meeting of the Working group on Adoption in Florence, Italy  
- 19 January 2007, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy  
- 22 June 2007, ChildONEurope Assembly in Florence, Italy
ChildONEurope was created after two years of preparatory work in the context of the Permanent Intergovernmental Group L’Europe de l’Enfance and held its first official meeting on 24 January 2003.

ChildONEurope is a network among National Institutions (Observatories, Centres, etc.) indicated by EU Ministries holding responsibility for childhood policies.

It pursues the following aims:

- Exchange of knowledge and information among ChildONEurope members on laws, policies, programmes, statistics, studies, research, best practices regarding childhood primarily with reference to the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Exchange of knowledge on methodology and indicators in order to obtain comparability of information.
- Comparative analysis on specific subjects.
- Exchange of knowledge and information with other organisations working on childhood.

As of September 2007, ChildONEurope is composed of 9 Members (Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain) and 15 Associated Members (Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Sweden, The Netherlands and United Kingdom). The latter may decide to form part of the Network at any given time by nominating a national institution able to furnish official public data on the condition of children and adolescents. In 2002, the European Centre was nominated as national institution by the (former) Federal Ministry for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection.

Up to now ChildONEurope has prepared analyses and reports, normally through the compilation of questionnaires submitted to ChildONEurope Members and Observers, on the following issues: activities of National Observatories, data on demography and family composition, family mediation, unaccompanied foreign children, adoption (with reference to post-adoption services) and child abuse.
In January 2007, a European Seminar on national monitoring systems of child abuse and a meeting of the working group on adoption was held, followed by a General Assembly Meeting. A more in-depth survey on some specific issues of the CRC Committee Concluding Observation in EU Countries Reports based on the results of an analysis carried out in 2006, is on the agenda for 2007.

The guidelines on data collection and monitoring systems on child abuse were presented at the General Assembly Meeting in June 2007. Furthermore, “Children’s Participation in Daily Life” as topic for the next ChildONEurope Seminar was approved at this meeting. Renate Kränzl-Nagl was invited by the Secretariat to join the working group on this issue. This group of experts from different European countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Italy and The Netherlands) will support the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire on the subject that will be sent to all ChildONEurope partners as well as to prepare the next Seminar on this topic in January 2008.

Finally, the European Centre joined a EU tender for the service contract in relation with a comparative study on adoption procedures in the EU Member States (co-ordinated by the ChildONEurope Secretariat and submitted to the European Commission on 20 September 2007). Vice versa, we invited the ChildONEurope Network to join the EU-tender for a “Study on indicators measuring the implementation, protection, respect and promotion of children’s rights in the European Union, mapping and assessment of available relevant data resources” which was drafted by the Liverpool Law School, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute and the European Centre. This tender was submitted on 27 September 2007.
Parenting of Children at Risk of Social Exclusion

Type of Activity
International Networking and Consultancy

Research Areas
Childhood, Youth & Families; Ageing & Generations; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status
Completed

Duration
2005 – 2007

European Centre Involvement
Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers
- Elena Kremenlieva, Unit for Social Protection and Social Integration of Risk Groups, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Katre Pall, Ministry of Social Affairs, Department of Social Protection, Tallinn, Estonia
- Marie-Cécile Renoux, ATD Quart Monde, France
- Audra Mikalauskaite, Child and Youth Division, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Majerus Mill, Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la jeunesse, Luxembourg
- Angela Abela, Department of Psychology, Malta
- Marina Gordeva, Department of Family, Maternity and Childhood, Medical and Social Problems, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Moscow, Russian Federation
- Yuliya Galustian, International Relations Department, Ministry for Family, Children and Youth, Kiev, Ukraine
- Vera Kucharova, Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, Prague, Czech Republic
- Gilbert Berlioz, Grenoble, France
- Maria Kolankiewicz, Faculty of Pedagogy, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

Project Director
Vladimir Tchernega, Secretary to the Working Party, Council of Europe

Project Team at the EC
Renate Kränzl-Nagl

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Working Languages
English / French
Date / Location of Meetings

- 3-4 March 2005, 1st Meeting of the Working Party at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France
- 22 February 2006, Meeting with parents at risk of social exclusion (organized by the Council of Europe), Strasbourg
- 10 October 2006, 4th Meeting of the Working Party at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg
- 10-11 October 2006, Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Children and Families (CS-EF) of the Council of Europe

Aims of the Project

With respect to the Terms of Reference, the working party will look into parenting problems where children are at risk of social exclusion and how such problems affect the child-parent relationship and the child’s relations with the outside world, and school in particular. A particular effort will be made to clarify the connections between the individual children’s needs, interests, rights and creating equal opportunities and a favourable environment for children’s personal development.

The working party will go on to consider what short-, medium- and long-term measures should be recommended to Member States in various fields (social assistance and security, social services, health, etc.) for helping parents in their parenting functions with the aim of giving children a future outside poverty.

Taking as its starting point a basic aspect of the Revised Strategy for Social Cohesion, namely support for families and encouraging family solidarity as a way of counteracting the risk of social exclusion of children, the working party will decide by what practical means families and children should be assisted. With the assistance of Member States and NGOs, the working party will identify and assemble research material on the subject. It will study examples of good practice and examine a range of projects. It will likewise endeavour to obtain information about unsuccessful initiatives so as to draw conclusions from their mistakes.

The working party should develop its work in connection with the 28th session of the Conference of the European Ministers Responsible for Family Affairs (held in Lisbon, Portugal, May 2006).
Results

During the first meeting of the working party in 2005, rough guidelines for reports on the situation of parents and children at risk of social exclusion in the respective countries have been developed. After the meeting, a compilation of data and research findings on this topic and models of good practice has been prepared by the members of the Working Party. These reports as well as the next steps have been discussed intensively at the second meeting of the Working Party, which took place in September 2005.

In 2006, a contribution to the report on “Positive Parenting” has been developed in collaboration with the consultants and the Secretariat. Moreover, based on a meeting with parents from different European countries who have been faced with social exclusion as well as on the exchange of views during the 3rd Meeting of the Working Party, draft guidelines for providing support in parenting for families at risk of social exclusion have been prepared. Both products will be discussed at the last meeting of the Working Party and introduced to the Committee of Experts on Children and Families in October 2006. The key points were condensed into a draft recommendation for submission to the Committee of Ministers, through the CS-EF and the CDCS.

Dissemination / Publications

The working party supported the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on Children and Families (CS-EF) by contributing to the Committee of Minister’s Recommendation Rec (2006)19 on policy to support positive parenting.

Finally, the work of this group of experts resulted in a chapter on “The particular problems and needs of parents and children in situations of social exclusion” for the recently published book Parenting in Contemporary Europe. A Positive Approach. This book is an important element of the work which led to the adoption of this recommendation. It analyses the major changes affecting parenting in Europe, arising from legal situations, research and practice. This work addresses the core issues related to positive parenting and non-violent upbringing, with particular emphasis on parents’ entitlement to support from the state in carrying out their parental tasks.

Reference:
Parenting in Contemporary Europe: A Positive Approach. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2007 (edited by Mary Daly)
Children's Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion – Challenges for Research and Policies

Type of Activity: International Workshop

Research Areas: Childhood, Youth & Families

Status: Completed

Duration: 2007 (Workshop, Vienna, 28-29 June)

European Centre Involvement: Joint Responsibility

Project Coordinator: Renate Kränzl-Nagl

Project Team at the EC: Renate Kränzl-Nagl, Yitzhak Berman

Partners/Co-organizers: Mona Sandbaek, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) in Oslo, Norway
Daniel Gerbery, Institute for Labour and Family Research in Bratislava, Slovakia

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Working Language: English

Hosted by: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna

Financed by: Childwatch International Research Network, Norway and the Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth, Austria

Aims: The objectives of the workshop were:
- To build a platform for exchange and discussions of research findings on this topic and experiences in different European countries.
- To identify gaps in this field of research and therefore to contribute to the further development of the childhood research agenda at the international level.
- To strengthen interdisciplinary child research.
- To underline the importance of taking children's views and experiences in research and policies into account (in accordance with the UN-Convention).
- To contribute to policy debates about child poverty through providing information and research findings on child poverty and social exclusion from the viewpoint of children as well as by discussing innovative possible policy solutions.
• To discuss possibilities of preparing a cross-national research project on this topic.
• To contribute to the preparations of the 3-days Workshop “Rethinking Poverty and Children in the View of the Millenium: Linking Research and Policy” in Oslo/ Norway, 17-19 September 2007 (jointly organized by Childwatch International Research Network and CROP).

**Results**
The workshop was concerned with questions on how children experience (extreme) poverty and social exclusion. Families in poverty are correlated to children’s social isolation in general and among their peer groups specifically. The school does not recognise the problems of children who are in poor living conditions. At the same time it was demonstrated that the home-community-school triangle is seen as the key to coping strategies in the area of children’s poverty. The workshop saw the child poverty experience as a social phenomenon and not necessarily an economic one. It identified methodological issues of doing research “taking into consideration children’s views and experiences in research”. Topics for research proposals were put forward and discussed.

**Dissemination / Publications**
A workshop website has been set up at the European Centre’s homepage: http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=914

The programme, participants list, presentations, background readings and selected external links as well as the summary report of the workshop are available at this website.

A publication based on the presentations and discussions is planned for 2008.

Reference:
International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)

Type of Activity: International Networking
Research Areas: Childhood, Youth & Families
Status: Starting
Duration: from 2007 onwards

European Centre Involvement: Joint Responsibility

Project Coordinator: Spyros Spyrou and Christos Chrysanthou, Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence, Cyprus College, Nicosia, Cyprus

Project Team at the EC: Renate Kränzl-Nagl

Contact Email: kraenzl-nagl@euro.centre.org

Members of the Network:
- Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence (CSCA), Cyprus
- North Cyprus Mediation Association, Cyprus
- Center for the Study of Childhood and Youth, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
- Child Research Unit, Center for Development in Primary Health Care at the Al Quds University, Palestine-Israel
- Afaq for Research and Development, Palestine-Israel
- Department of Youth and Community Services, Faculty of Education, University of Malta
- Norwegian Centre for Child Research (NOSEB), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway
- Centre for Social Psychology (CSP), Faculty of Social Science, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- International Child Development Initiatives, Leiden, The Netherlands
- Aflatoun, Child Savings International, based in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Catalaan interdisciplinary network of researchers on children’s rights and their quality of life, coordinated by the University of Girona, Spain
• European Network of Masters in Children’s Rights, based in Berlin, Germany
• Chitalishte Development Foundation, Sofia, Bulgaria
• Eurochild AISBL, Brussels, Belgium
• Foundation of Social Initiatives Development “New Perspectives Foundation”, Moscow, Russia
• Institute for Educational Research, Serbia
• Lincoln School of Health and Social Care, United Kingdom
• Institute of Education, London, United Kingdom
• IUAES International Commission on Children, Youth and Childhood
• Engelbert Center for Children and Youth of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, Israel
• Children’s Research Centre, The Open University, United Kingdom
• Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies, University of Tasmania
• Child, Youth, Family and Social Development Programme (CYFSD), Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa
• The Children’s Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
• Children’s Issue Centre, New Zealand
• InSPE Sociology for the Person Group, Italy
• Center for Child and Youth Policy, University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.

Working Language English

Financed by United Nations Development Programme – Action for Cooperation and Trust

Date / Location of Meetings 14-15 September 2007, Kick-off Meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus

Aims The overall objective of this recently established network is to promote internationally the interdisciplinary study of children and young people in order to raise awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being. As of September 2007, 30 national and international organisations are members of this network. The Secretariat of the network is based at the Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation in Cyprus
Results Renate Kränzl-Nagl participated in the first meeting of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network 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.

For 2008, the following activities are planned: setting up a network website (still under construction) and a mailing list to facilitate the communication among the network members, preparing an international conference (to be held in spring 2008), drafting a bi-monthly newsletter, fund raising as well as preparing collaborative research projects.

The European Centre will support the Secretariat of the network in the preparation of the international conference (scheduled for spring 2008) which aims at bringing together researchers, academics, practitioners and policy-makers to address issues related to children and childhood in contemporary societies.
AIM-AP: Accurate Income Measurement for the Assessment of Public Policies

Type of Activity: International Research Project

Research Areas: Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status: Ongoing

Duration: 2005 – 2008

European Centre Involvement: Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers:
- University of Essex
- Centre for Economic Research and Environmental Strategy
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- Economic & Social Research Institute
- Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Berlin e.V.
- Universiteit van Tilburg
- Universität Autònoma de Barcelona
- Luxembourg Income Study Asbl
- National University of Ireland, Galway
- Universiteit Antwerpen

Project Director: Holly Sutherland, University of Cambridge

Project Team at the EC:
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- Herwig Immervoll
- Orsolya Lelkes
- Mattia Makovec

Contact Email: lelkes@euro.centre.org

Working Language: English

Financed by: European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme
Aims of the Project

This programme of activity will improve the comparability, scope and applicability of tools, methods and data for the measurement of income and the analysis of the effects of policies on inequality, poverty and social inclusion. It includes three linked projects on:

a) The distributional effects of non-cash incomes and the implementation of a more comprehensive income definition.
b) The implications of (and methods to account for) errors in targeting social benefits, tax evasion, and measurement error in income data.
c) Incorporation of the effects of indirect, as well as direct taxes and social benefits in redistribution analysis.

All three projects are designed to improve the degree of comparability of measurement and analysis across countries. Each project will develop methodologies within a cross-national perspective and demonstrate their applicability to a wide range of research questions in diverse scientific fields. The resulting data and method enhancements will be made generally accessible and re-useable by implementing them within the EU tax-benefit model EUROMOD, an existing research infrastructure used for policy analysis and evaluation.

Results

In 2006:

• Data acquisition, first results.
• Discuss methodology and present research results in workshops in Athens, Greece, and Antwerp, Belgium.

In 2007:

• Research completed on take-up of social assistance in Austria and Finland.
• Research completed: on the distributional effect of education, imputed rents, health care in Italy.
• First results on estimating income tax evasion in Hungary.
• Discuss methodology and present research results in workshops in Athens and Dublin.
The analysis on the extent and the determinants of non-take-up of monetary social assistance benefits in Austria (2003) was completed. Based on the comparison of detailed micro-data (EU-SILC), official figures on recipients and expenditure as well as potential entitlements simulated with the tax/benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD, it was found that more than half of all households potentially entitled to the benefit do not claim. To account for likely measurement errors both in the reported income data as well as in the simulation of household needs, participation rates were calculated for various scenarios of the underlying parameters. The determinants of non-take-up analysed in different regression models controlled for possible endogeneity of independent variables - significant higher participation rates, inter alia, in case of higher amounts entitled to, a non-employed head, living in Vienna - confirm hypotheses derived from theoretical models of take-up related to pecuniary determinants, information and administration costs as well as psychological costs.

The study will be published as a EUROMOD working paper (in English) and as a contribution to the “Handbook on Poverty in Austria” (in German). It is also planned to compile a scientific comparative paper on non-take-up in Austria, Germany and Finland.
I-CUE: Improving the Capacity and Usability of EUROMOD

Type of Activity  International Research Project and Network
Research Areas  Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion; Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling
Status  Ongoing
Duration  2005 – 2008
European Centre Involvement  Joint Responsibility
Partners / Co-Organizers  University of Essex
Project Directors  Orsolya Lelkes  Holly Sutherland
Project Team at the EC  Michael Fuchs  Herwig Immervoll  Horacio Levy
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Working Language  English
Financed by  European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme
Aims of the Project  The aim of this project is to upgrade an existing European social science research tool, the tax-benefit simulation model EUROMOD, in order to:

1) enhance its geographical coverage, from EU-15 to EU-25,
2) increase its capacity,
3) make it more accessible through improving ease-of-use,
4) improve the quality of results through enhancing comparability across countries,
5) make it easier to maintain and update,
and to do this in such a way as to take account of
6) inter-dependencies and synergies between the various tasks and
7) the needs of users and potential users of EUROMOD.

The European Centre has a main responsibility in (1).
Results

In 2006:

- Preparation of Feasibility Studies, which explore the feasibility of introducing EUROMOD in the new Member States, and thus provide the basis for enlarging the current EUROMOD which covers the 15 Member States before May 2004. Most studies contain sections on (1) the key features of national tax-benefit systems, and (2) the identification of appropriate data sources which meet the data requirements for tax/benefit micro-simulation.
- Workshops in Tallinn and Vienna, discussing the Feasibility Studies and future work with research partners in nine countries.
- Selection of prototype countries, who would be part of the second, in-depth phase of the project: Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia.

In 2007:

- Publication of Feasibility Studies on the website of the European Centre.
- Country meeting in Malta in May: establish cooperation with Malta.
- Close collaboration between the four “prototype” countries that have been selected (Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) in order to integrate their tax-benefit systems into EUROMOD as part of I-CUE.
- Organizing workshop in November for the four prototype countries.


**AUSTROMOD/EUROMOD: An Adaptation of the Tax/Benefit Microsimulation Model EUROMOD to Austria. Distributional Effects of Implemented and Hypothetical Tax-benefit Policy Changes in Austria 1998-2005**

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<td>Project director EC</td>
<td>Bernd Marin</td>
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<td>Project Team at the EC</td>
<td>Michael Fuchs, Orsolya Lelkes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Partner</td>
<td>Christine Lietz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:fuchs@euro.centre.org">fuchs@euro.centre.org</a></td>
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**Aims of the Project**

The target of this project is to evaluate whether policy reforms in Austria between 1998 and 2005 were successful in meeting redistributive objectives and in reducing poverty. The period under review is split into two parts: Important changes in the period 1998 to 2003 were the tax reform 2000, the introduction of the universal child care benefit as well as increases in family-targeted benefits. In the period from 2003 to 2005 the tax reform 2004/5 was introduced and contributions to health insurance raised. In a second step we aim to answer „What, If“ questions about hypothetical policies aimed at alleviating poverty and their potential distributional effects.

For the analysis we use the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD. It is based on representative household micro-data and designed to analyse the effects of changes for components of disposable household incomes. To carry out the study we adapted EUROMOD in two ways. Firstly, we integrated the latest available household micro-data for Austria (EU-SILC 2004). Secondly, we implemented the tax-benefit rules for additional policy years up to 2005.
Results

Changes in the tax-benefit system from 1998 to 2003 led in total to a significant increase in disposable household income (on average 1.1%). Gains in disposable income were the higher the lower the income. The progressive nature is also illustrated by decreasing overall poverty rates (based on a “retained” poverty line). A second characteristic of changes in the period 1998 to 2003 is their family friendliness.

Higher family benefits accounted for almost all the increases in disposable income. Tax reliefs targeted at families with children (increase of negative tax related to the single earner/ single parent tax credit) had some impact on single parents. However, for the general public of tax payers decreases in taxes (due to the tax reform 2000) were more than compensated by the following reduction of tax credits and by fiscal drag.

Changes in the tax-benefit system from 2003 to 2005 led in sum to an average gain of 0.4% in disposable household income. In general, the measures had no significant impact on income distribution and poverty. On average households without children profited more than households with children.

From the tax reform 2004/5 all population groups benefited (however, in future years this will be compensated by fiscal drag). These increases in disposable income were to a certain extent lowered by losses in benefits (in terms of real income) due to the fact that in Austria family benefits are not “indexed”. Some poverty reduction for single parents and couples with three and more children can be observed as the extension of the single parent/ single earner tax credit within the tax reform 2004/5 supported those vulnerable groups.

Another important part of the analysis related to the share of instruments paid/ received per income group (based on the assumption of full take-up of benefits – pensions are counted as original income). In 2005, the bottom (highest) quintile paid 6% (38%) of all social security contributions and 1% (61%) of all income taxes and received 32% (12%) of all cash benefits. To refine the assessment of the distributional effects of the instrument groups, we use a range of standard measures on income inequality. Cash benefits have the highest redistributive impact of the three instruments. In the period of the extension of family benefits (1998-2003) the progressivity
of benefits increased whereas the redistributive impact of income taxes was slightly raised in the line of the tax reform 2004/5. Social security contributions have even a slight regressive impact. In sum, the redistributive impact from high to low income classes reaches a considerable amount. Measured by equivalised household income, the Gini for original gross income stands at 0.34 in comparison to 0.24 for net disposable income.

The analysis was completed by the assessment of the redistributive impact of two hypothetical policy changes in favour of lower income groups: the continuous introduction of employees’ social security contributions above the lower threshold for contributions ("Geringfügigkeitsgrenze") and the yearly indexation of family benefits. From both measures, lower income groups would benefit more, gains would continuously decrease in the higher deciles. However, only the family benefit indexation would be able to reduce poverty rates significantly, namely for households with children.

Outcome
The final report was published as a EUROMOD-working paper (3/07), a shorter version in the Czech Sociological Review (3/07). The results were presented at the 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, Vienna, Austria, 20 to 22 August 2007.
Hazardous Labour and Life Expectancy

**Type of Activity**  National Research Project

**Research Areas**  Pensions & Social Security

**Status**  Starting

**Duration**  2007 – 2009

**European Centre Involvement**  Joint Responsibility

**Partners / Co-Organizers**
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Umbrella Organisation of the Austrian Social Insurance Associations
- Statistics Austria

**Project Director EC**  Bernd Marin

**Project Team at the EC**
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**Working Language**  German

**Financed by**  Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security and Consumer Protection

**Aims of the Project**
The research target is to verify the presumed relationship between hazardous labour and increased mortality by empirical data as far as possible. For this purpose available data from international panel surveys (e.g., the German SOEP), from the population census and the microcensus linked with death records as well as administrative data on persons falling under the law on night-work hazardous labour will be analysed. In addition, a comprehensive national and international literature analysis will be carried out.
Die weitere Erwerbsbiographie von ungelernten Arbeiter/Innen, deren Antrag auf Pension wegen geminderter Arbeitsfähigkeit abgelehnt wurde

Further Employment Biography of Unskilled Workers, Whose Application for Invalidity Pension Was Rejected

<table>
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**European Centre Involvement**  
Exclusive Responsibility

**Project Director EC**  
Bernd Marin

**Project Team at the EC**  
Michael Fuchs  
Catherine Keppel

**Contact Email**  
fuchs@euro.centre.org

**Working Language**  
German

**Financed by**  
Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security and Consumer Protection

**Aims of the Project**  
The research target is to survey the further employment biography of unskilled workers whose application for invalidity pension was rejected. The period of observation will be a limited time period after the year 2000 which is still to be specified. The further biography will be analysed according to its nature (employment episodes, unemployment episodes, etc.) and according to socio-demographic characteristics of people concerned, to elaborate certain profiles depending on these characteristics. For this, data on rejected applications (Pension Insurance Association) have to be linked with data on the further insurance history (Umbrella Organisation of the Austrian Social Insurance Associations).
Invalidität im Wandel

Invalidity in Flux

**Type of Activity**  National Consultation

**Research Areas**  Pensions & Social Security; Labour Market & Social Policy

**Status**  Ongoing

**Duration**  2007 – 2008

**European Centre Involvement**  Exclusive Responsibility

**Project Director EC**  Bernd Marin

**Project Team at the EC**  Michael Fuchs

**Contact Email**  fuchs@euro.centre.org

**Working Language**  German

**Financed by**  Austrian Federal Ministry of Finances

**Aims of the Project**  The Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations launched a working group consisting of social partners, government representatives and other experts, which should develop proposals for a reform of invalidity legislation till early 2008. Among others, important topics will be the possible introduction of partial pensions, the reform of the current regulations on occupational protection and the calculation formula for invalidity pensions. In close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finances, the European Centre will bring in its rich expertise in the field and compile possible solutions.
Effects of Pension Reforms 2003/2004 on Hospital Doctors and Alternatives for a Loss Compensation

Aims of the Project

Besides other changes the pension reforms 2003 and 2004 brought essential changes in the parameters accrual rate, calculation period and reduction for early retirement. The new pension formula stipulates that with 45 insurance years at the age of 65 80% of the assessment base are granted as pension. Physicians face the problem that with an average entry into professional life with 29 years they can only reach 36 insurance years at the age of 65 in the ideal case. However, doctors in hospitals feature long weekly working hours incl. night-work and work on the weekend. In response to this situation, the Austrian Medical Association suggested a so-called lifetime-working time model which should compensate for the relatively low pensions physicians would earn in the general pension system.

The expertise has three main targets:
1) a short overview on the scientific state of knowledge on burdens related to long, irregular and atypical working hours;
2) an evaluation of the lifetime-working time model proposed by the Austrian Medical Association in the light of current pension debates;
3) the development of possible alternatives for the betterment of physicians in the pension system by avoiding both fiscal objections and socio-political counter-arguments.
Das Besoldungssystem der Pharmazeutischen Gehaltskasse
und seine positiven Externalitäten

The Positive Externalities of the Salary System of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund

Type of Activity: National Expertise

Research Areas: Labour Market & Social Policy; Pensions & Social Security

Status: Ongoing

Duration: 2007 – 2008

European Centre Involvement: Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director EC: Bernd Marin

Project Team at the EC: Michael Fuchs
Catherine Keppel

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Working Language: German

Financed by: Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund

Aims of the Project: Within the project the positive externalities of the salary system in terms of length of employment over the life-course, effective pension age, share of women in employed persons, duration of parental leave and rate of re-entry will be analysed. The results will be presented at the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Salary Fund in 2008.
Research Pillar “Health and Care”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type of Activity</strong></th>
<th>International Research Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Areas</strong></td>
<td>Long-term Care &amp; Social Services; Childhood, Youth &amp; Families; Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC), Liège</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Institute for Social Work and Social Education (ISS), Frankfurt/Main</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Directors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manfred Huber (European Centre)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Sak (CIRIEC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathias Maucher (ISS)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Team at the EC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Manfred Huber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Fuchs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flip Maas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernd Marin</td>
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<td>Kai Leichsenring</td>
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<td>Asghar Zaidi</td>
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<td>Fabian Bahr</td>
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<td>Andrea Hovenier (Administration)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Working Language</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Financed by</strong></td>
<td>European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Aims of the Project**

To improve the knowledge of both operators and the Commission on the situation of social and health services of general interest in the EU and the application and impact of Community rules on the development of these services, the European Commission intends to establish a monitoring and dialogue tool in the form of biennial reports.

**Results**

The study contributes to this initiative by:

- Mapping the situation of social and health services of general interest within the European Union; this core element comprises the tasks of fact-finding and analysis with regard to the organisation, regulation, delivery and financing of social services and of reporting on major employment trends related to them.
- Describing the ongoing evolutions within these services across the European Union; this mainly refers to trends of modernisation in social services, the changing role of public authorities and modes of governance.
- Reporting on the uncertainties and debates on Community legislation and European Court of Justice case law, and its application.
- Contributing to an exchange of innovative practices within the European Union.
- Reporting on strategies and procedures for improving and monitoring quality assessment and quality management in social services, including a mapping exercise of initiatives regarding the establishment of quality standards throughout the European Union.

**Social service sectors in focus**

The study has a focus on the following five social service sectors:

- Long-term care, care for the elderly, care for disabled persons.
- Social integration and re-integration (with a focus on migrants).
- Labour market services focusing on disadvantaged and disabled persons.
- Child care (with a focus on services offered to families for children, including afternoon care for children of school age).
- Social housing.
Main Activities

• Identification of the state-of-the-art of social and health services of general interest with respect to modernisation and employment issues, debates regarding the application of Community law and policy, and the development of quality criteria.

• In-depth analysis of these issues in eight selected Member States, demonstrated and analysed on the basis of developments in different fields (e.g. long-term care, child care services, and social housing).

• Comparative analysis of modernisation trends and modes of governance in the field of social services of general interest.

• Bringing in expert views and reviewing debates on the application of Community rules, the impact of European Court of Justice jurisprudence and related policy issues, with a focus on missions of general interest and public service obligations, as well as on the modes of organisation and financing of social and health services of general interest.

• Comparative analysis of the development of quality criteria and exchange of good practice examples.

In-depth Country Studies

The study comprises eight in-depth country studies covering the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. These country studies have been conferred to experienced experts or expert teams from research institutes in the countries covered.

Inquiry Addressed to European-level Stakeholders

In order to obtain up-to-date information and opinions, a questionnaire has been distributed that addresses a broad range of EU-level stakeholders. These have been invited to activate and take on board the broad knowledge and experience available in their respective networks, i.e. within their national, topic- or group-specific member organisations.

Final Conference

The findings of the study have been presented and discussed at a conference in Brussels, in June 2007.

Conference programme, participants list, presentations can be downloaded from http://www.euro.centre.org/shsgi

It is foreseen that the study as well as the proceedings of the conference will be published by the European Commission before the end of 2007.
**Peer Review Belgium: “The Future of Social Services of General Interest”**

<table>
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<th>Type of Activity</th>
<th>Technical Assistance and Consultancy</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Research Areas</td>
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<td>Partners / Co-Organizers</td>
<td>ØSB Consulting, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Director</td>
<td>Manfred Huber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Team at the EC</td>
<td>Manfred Huber, Flip Maas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Email</td>
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<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financed by</td>
<td>European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Aims**

This Peer Review discussed the interaction of Community rules on competition and on the internal market with the provision of long-term care in the European countries. Experts from seven EU Member States, together with stakeholders and European Commission officials, discussed that issue at a Peer Review seminar hosted by Belgium on 29 May 2007.

Long-term care includes a broad array of services, ranging from care for people with severe disabilities, whether at home or in institutions, to respite care, day care and, increasingly, very active programmes to support families.

Community rules which may apply to long-term care include the rules on competition and state aid, freedom to provide services and freedom of establishment, as well as public procurement rules.
Peer Reviews are a key instrument of the Open Method of Coordination. A peer review is an event where a host country presents a policy or institutional arrangement (good practice) or a policy reform to a selected group of decision-makers and experts from other countries (peer countries) and to stakeholders’ representatives and European Commission officials. It is a forum for an open discussion on social inclusion policies.

**Results**

The European Centre contributed by drafting the background discussion paper and the final synthesis.

A summary, minutes and a synthesis report have been published on the Peer Review website.
International Comparisons of Prices and Volumes in Health Care among OECD Countries

Type of Activity
International Research Project

Research Areas
Health Economics & Indicators

Status
Ongoing

Duration
2006 – 2007

European Centre Involvement
Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers
OECD

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Financed by
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs

Aims of the Project
To develop indicators for the international comparison of volumes and prices of health care services in OECD countries, and to advance the methodology for health-specific purchasing power parities for international comparisons of real health care spending.

Results
A draft paper has been presented 4-5 October 2006 at a conference in London that was jointly organised by the OECD, the UK ONS, and the Government of Norway. A final version was presented at the meeting of the OECD-Eurostat Taskforce on Health-specific PPPs in Paris, 8 July 2007.

Conference Webpage
http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,2340,en_2825_495684_36450978-_1_1_1_1,00.html
Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services: HealthQUEST

Type of Activity
International Research Project

Research Areas
Health and Disability Policy

Status
Ongoing

Duration
2007 – 2008

European Centre Involvement
Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers
• European Health Management Association (EHMA), Dublin
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• Germany: Anette Riesberg, Technical University of Berlin
• Greece: John Kyriopoulos, National School of Public Health, Athens
• The Netherlands: Nicoline Tamsma, Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare
• Poland: Stanisława Golinowska, Jagiellonian University, Public Health Institute
• Romania: Miaora Predescu
• Spain: Ines Garcia-Sanchez
• United Kingdom: Maria Goddard, University of York, Centre for Health Economics
• EuroHealthNet: Clive Needle, Caroline Costongs

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Jennifer Bremner, European Health Management Association

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Financed by
European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Aims

The main objectives of this project are:

• To identify and analyse barriers of access to health care services which are faced by vulnerable groups in society, and especially those most exposed to social exclusion.

• To review the various policy initiatives taken by the Member States to realise the objective of access for all, including the analysis of good practice examples.

• To highlight and describe the most effective policy measures to ensure access to health care to the most disadvantaged (including a case study on people with mental health problems).

• To help to determine the extent to which increased access to and quality of health care services can contribute to combating poverty and social exclusion and increasing social inclusion.

Results

The study design includes a template for detailed country studies to address these questions. Countries covered are: Finland, Greece, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Romania, and United Kingdom.

All country reports have been delivered by October 2007, as well as the case study for people with mental health problems. An outline of the draft synthesis was submitted to the Commission by mid June. The draft final report is planned for mid November 2007 with a round of final revisions at the beginning of 2008.
Intervention to Increase Health Systems Performance among Socio-economically Disadvantaged Groups

Type of Activity: National Case Study

Research Areas: Health Promotion & Prevention

Status: Ongoing

Duration: 2007

European Centre Involvement: Exclusive Responsibility

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Project Team at the EC: Christine Reidl, Gabriele Schmied

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Working Language: German

Financed by: Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth

Aims of the Project: In the framework of the WHO Poverty and Health Technical Consultation 07 the case study for Austria will concentrate on under- and unemployed persons with the focus on a measure to increase health system performance among homeless persons ("Team neunerHAUSARZT"). The study will be introduced by a short general description on the access to health care in Austria containing both legal background and empirical evidence. Furthermore, it will present data and information on the number, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of homeless people, on inequities in health status and health system access as well as on policies to improve their socio-economic conditions and health system access.

The focus lies on the project "Team neunerHAUSARZT", in which four physicians offer medical care to residents of several homeless shelters in Vienna according to their needs. For the case study, available documents (concept, annual reports, etc.) will be analysed and an expert interview with a member of the medical doctor team will be carried out. On the basis of the analyses of the data, the documents and the interview, conclusions will be drawn regarding the success of the project, its main challenges and hindering factors and possible and reasonable future measures to improve the access to health care for homeless people.
Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Areas</td>
<td>Long-term Care &amp; Social Services; Incomes, Poverty &amp; Social Inclusion; Migration &amp; Integration</td>
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European Centre Involvement: Exclusive Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers:
- Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit Luzern (Switzerland)
- IMSERSO (Spain)
- Institut d’études Politiques de Strasbourg and Centre d’étude de l’emploi (France)
- National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (Finland)
- University of Urbino (Italy)
- Oslo University College (Norway)
- The Gdansk Institute for Market Economics and the Institute for the Development of Social Services (Poland)
- The Institute for Future Studies and Stockholm University (Sweden)

Project Manager: Kai Leichsenring

Scientific Coordinator: Yuri Kazepov

Project Team at the EC:
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- Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano (Administration)

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Working Language: English

Financed by: Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, Spain, Poland, Switzerland, European Centre
Aims of the Project

The aim of this project is to improve the information and knowledge base for assessing intended and unintended consequences of policies concerning multi-level governance (centralization/decentralization) in social welfare domains such as social assistance and local policies against poverty, employment policies, care for the elderly, and inclusion policies for migrants. The project is to describe different strategies and solutions in European countries which are facing similar challenges and could thus learn from each other.

A team of experts from 8 European countries, representing different welfare regimes and geographical areas, was gathered by July 2005 (kick-off meeting, Vienna).

The project then started on 1 September 2005 and is designed for a period of 30 months.

Results

During the first project period, the following tasks have been fulfilled:

- An internal website that serves as a database and a source for mutual exchange.
- National reports describing changes in multi-level governance and respective realities in the participating countries since the late 1980s. Different approaches, traditions and meanings of decentralization and governance structures in the context of welfare policies were identified as well as the different stakeholders (central state, regional, local, private, non-profit) and their role in financing (taxation, purchasing), decision-making, planning and providing.

During the second phase of the project (July 2006 – November 2007) teams have investigated the results of decentralisation processes (shifts in responsibilities between different governance levels). For that purpose, case-studies (vignettes) have been used to retrieve changes and their impact on welfare state clients in different policy areas.

In the final phase (2007/2008) results will be exhibited in a final publication to discuss changes in social welfare policies, participation and rights of clients, working conditions of professionals, and equality/inequality with respect to particular groups at risk (stakeholders): How can democracy, regional equality, effectiveness, efficiency and user-friendliness be guaranteed in the context and by means of multi-level governance?
Multi-City Study on Quantities and Financing Behaviour of Illicit Drug Consumption

Type of Activity: International Research Project

Research Areas: Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

Status: Ongoing

Duration: 2005 – 2007

European Centre Involvement: Exclusive Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Project Director: Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl

Project Team at the EC: Benno Patsch
Gabriele Schmied
Christine Reidl
Manfred Huber
Andrea Hovenier (Administration)

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Working Language: English

Financed by: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project Partners / Researchers:
- Franca Beccaria and Amedeo Cottino (Alcohol Research Group, Department of Social Science, University of Turin)
- Ladislav Csemy (Prague Psychiatric Centre)
- Dirk Korf and Marije Wouters (Bonger Institute of Criminology, Universiteit van Amsterdam)
- Jacek Moskalewicz and Grazyna Swiatkiewicz (Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw)
- Betsy Thom and Jenni Ward (Institute of Social and Health Research, School of Health and Social Sciences, Middlesex University, UK)
- United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)
Aims of the Project

The aim of the project is to assess the per capita consumption of five main drugs (heroin, cocaine, amphetamines besides ecstasy, ecstasy and cannabis) in six European cities and their “street” prices. In order to increase variability, six cities perceived to be sufficiently heterogeneous were selected: Vienna, London, Amsterdam, Prague, Turin and Warsaw.

Results

Per capita consumption and prices were assessed by face-to-face interviews with 100 “frequent” consumers of heroin, cocaine and amphetamines per city and 100 “frequent” consumers of cannabis and ecstasy including questions on the range of drugs and the drug combinations consumed, on the mode of consumption and on expenditures. In order to select “typical” interview partners and to judge their responses, “thick city reports” on the respective local drug situation have been compiled, beside epidemiological and other scientific studies based on expert interviews with up to 20 drug policy actors. The final report will include the thick city reports and the results of the interviews discussed in several comparative chapters.

The study started in July 2005. The first working meeting took place in September 2005 in Vienna, the second one in April 2006 in Prague, the third in November of the same year in Warsaw, the fourth and last one is organised in September of this year in Baden close to Vienna. Members of UNODC regularly participate in the working meetings and closely accompany the project. Since 2006 the working meetings are also visited by representatives of EMCDDA.
Qualitative Research on Juvenile Alcohol Scenes to Develop Effective Prevention Instruments

Type of Activity: National Research Project

Research Areas: Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Health Promotion & Disability Policy

Status: Ongoing

Duration: 2006 – 2008

European Centre Involvement: Exclusive Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers:
- Kurt Fellöcker & Alexander Bernardis (St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Programme Social Work)
- Judith Haberhauer-Stidl & Heinz Wilfing (Campus Vienna University of Applied Sciences, Programme Social Work)

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Working Language: German

Financed by: Fonds Gesundes Österreich; Sucht- und Drogenkoordination Wien; Niederösterreichische Landesregierung; and other sources

Aims of the Project:

Juvenile binge drinking is a phenomenon increasingly observed in all European countries. An explorative study for the EU-project MEGAPOLES on behalf of the health administration of the City of Vienna indicated that a part of juvenile binge drinking in Vienna takes place in public: Groups of youth meet in highly frequented places such as shopping malls and courts of apartment blocs, where they drink excessively and occasionally exhibit violent behaviour within the group and against “strangers”.

To deal with the question how the alcohol scenes in metropolitan areas differ from those in rural areas, the study is carried out in Vienna and in the surrounding State of Lower Austria. The first data collected in the course of the study indicated that the public “juvenile alcohol scenes” in a few years had spread over the whole urban as well as provincial areas.
**Results**

The project team collected data on juvenile alcohol scenes by different qualitative methods (mapping of the alcohol scenes on the basis of face-to-face and telephone interviews with police and youth workers, observations of selected scenes, group discussions with selected groups, interviews with selected youth) and in summer 2007 it started to develop effective prevention measures on this basis.

The European Centre closely collaborates with the Social Work Programmes of the Universities of Applied Sciences in Vienna and Lower Austria for the following reasons: The juvenile alcohol scenes are better approached by (younger) social workers than by more senior researchers and social work students therefore carried out most of the field work. Moreover, besides professional strategies, social workers have professional knowledge about prevention instruments and their adaptation to new social problems, which is an important topic studied in this project. There are plans to extend the study to other cities and regions.
Viennese Drug Policy over the Past 30 Years Seen by its Addressees and Actors

**Type of Activity**  
Publication of National Research Project

**Research Areas**  
Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

**Status**  
Ongoing

**Duration**  
2007 – 2008

**European Centre Involvement**  
Exclusive Responsibility

**Partners / Co-Organizers**  
Arno Pilgram (Institute for Sociology of Law and Criminology, Vienna)

**Project Director**  
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**Working Language**  
German

**Financed by**  
Sucht- und Drogenkoordination Wien

**Aims of the Project**  
The study aims at the evaluation of the Viennese Drug Policy of the last decades by its addressees and its actors. It comprises three main parts: The first part deals with the (rapid) development of the local drug policy measures – treatment and care, prevention, administration – and the development of the respective national frame – the Austrian drug law and law enforcement by the police, the courts and the prisons. The first part is based on the secondary analysis of written materials as e.g. statistics, reports and (rare) scientific studies. The second and the third part contain the results of face-to-face interviews on the basis of guidelines. The second part is based on the results of about 50 interviews with main “drug professionals” from different vocational background, e.g. medical doctors, social workers, policemen, judges, administrators and politicians. The third part analyses the results of about 50 interviews with drug consumers and relatives of drug consumers. The study demonstrates the support of the local drug policy by drug professionals but to a lesser extent also by drug consumers, it further depicts the acrobatic character of local drug policy, having to balance conflictuous needs and request, and it not at least assesses the tensions and problems of a policy carried out on different levels: in this case the national and the local ones.
Female Drug Users in European Prisons –
Follow-up Based Guidelines for Relapse Prevention

Type of Activity
International Research Project

Research Areas
Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Health Promotion & Disability Policy

Status
Completed

Duration
2005 – 2007

European Centre
Involvement
Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers
• Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Suchtforschung (ZIS), Hamburg, Germany
• BISDRO, Bremen, Germany
• General Directorate of Substance Abuse and AIDS
• Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK
• Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (IPiN), Warsaw, Poland

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Working Language
English

Financed by
European Commission, AGIS Programme for Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters

Aims of the Project
The research project is a follow-up to the international research project "Female Drug users in European Prisons – Best Practice for Relapse Prevention and Reintegration". It aims to evaluate different prevention interventions with regard to their impact on legal probation and relapse of female drug users after prison release.

An investigation of female drug users in the local prison in order to gain detailed information about their drug and crime history and their utilisation of treatment will be carried out. Interviews with former inmates will be carried out in the participating countries and a local project conference will be organised. Practicable and solid recommendations to optimise relapse prevention activities will be developed.
Health Promotion and Prevention in the Area of Sexual and Reproductive Health: Developing Strategies to Enhance Adolescent Boys’ Participation

Type of Activity
National Research Project

Research Areas
Health Promotion & Disability Policy

Status
Ongoing

Duration
2006 – 2007

European Centre Involvement
Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director EC
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Project Team at the EC
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Working Language
German

Financed by
- Fonds Gesundes Österreich, Vienna, Austria
- Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Provinces of Vienna, Styria and Tyrol

Aims of the Project
Research in the area of health and gender shows that women and men are different in their health behaviour. They differ in their knowledge and interest in health issues, their health-seeking behaviour, and their relationship to their bodies. It is therefore important to adopt a gender perspective when planning and implementing prevention measures. However, according to WHO, gender-specific determinants of men’s health behaviour (especially young men) have not been given enough attention. While a number of health promotion and prevention projects for men have been developed lately, experiences with programmes addressing young men, particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health, are scarce.
The aims of the project are to:

1) Enhance the understanding of adolescent boys’ needs in the area of sexual reproductive health, taking into consideration their gender-specific potentials, problems and risks, their attitudes towards and experiences with counselling and health services as well as prevention programmes. This includes insights into the sexual identity of adolescent boys and their perception of respectful and equal relationships.

2) Develop guidelines for the development and implementation of non school-based projects to facilitate adolescent boys’ access to health prevention and promotion services and increase their knowledge. Sexual orientation and ethnicity will be taken into consideration.

3) Develop a pilot project in the area of sexual and reproductive health together with an interested service provider.
Improving the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Living with HIV in Europe (EUROSUPPORT V)

**Type of Activity**
International Research Project

**Research Areas**
Health Promotion & Disability Policy

**Status**
Ongoing

**Duration**
2005 – 2008

**European Centre Involvement**
Joint Responsibility

**Partners / Co-Organizers**
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**Project Director EC**
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**Working Language**
English

**Financed by**
European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection

**Aims of the Project**
The project’s general objective is to promote the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of persons living with HIV (PLWH) and to prevent further transmission of HIV to their sexual partners by addressing health determinants that contribute to adopting healthy sexual lifestyles. The project aims at preventing transmission of HIV and other STIs from PLWH to their sexual partners by

- improving current strategies of secondary prevention targeting PLWH;
- supporting PLWH in adopting safer-sex practices;
- empowering PLWH to take informed choices about fertility issues (such as family planning and contraception), pregnancy-related issues and sexual problems related to HIV.
The general objectives can be seen as a contribution to further increasing the quality of life of PLWH. In addition, improving secondary prevention will also significantly enhance current primary prevention efforts and thus curb the spread of HIV and other STIs in Europe.

The specific objectives are set out at four measurable levels:

• Identifying SRH needs of men/women living with HIV using sound scientific and gender-sensitive methodologies. Target groups are men having sex with men, ethnic minorities, heterosexual men and women, and PLWH with a current or past (IV-)drug use history. Areas to be covered are: secondary prevention, sexual problems, fertility, and pregnancy-related issues.

• Identifying, analysing and disseminating models of best practice across Europe on the basis of the needs identified. Identifying existing barriers to the integration of HIV and SRH on a policy level.

• Developing policy recommendations and guidelines on the basis of the available best-practice evidence for an integrated field of HIV/Aids and SRH and to disseminate them among the Member States.

• Setting up a network of experts in an integrated area of SRH and HIV/Aids in Member States of the European Union that actively promotes the SRH of PLWH.
“Mainstreaming Ageing”
Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
<th>Expertise, Monitoring, and Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Areas</td>
<td>Ageing &amp; Generations; Pensions &amp; Social Security; Welfare Society; Health Economics &amp; Indicators; Incomes, Poverty &amp; Social Inclusion; Long-term Care &amp; Social Services; Labour Market &amp; Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Centre Involvement</td>
<td>Cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Project Partner</td>
<td>Andres Vikat (UN Economic Commission for Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Directors EC</td>
<td>Asghar Zaidi</td>
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<td>Bernd Marin</td>
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<td>Project Team at EC</td>
<td>Barbara Lipszyc (until April 2007)</td>
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<td>Silvia Fässler</td>
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<td>Mercedes Gonzalez-Quijano</td>
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<td>Annette Hexelschneider</td>
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<td>Manfred Huber</td>
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<td>Kai Leichsenring</td>
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<td>Orsolya Lelkes</td>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection</td>
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<td>Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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Preparatory and Conference Phase: 2001 – 2002

History of the Project

The European Centre was invited to have its Executive Director serve as the Rapporteur to the Expert Seminar on "Economic Security and Sustainable Growth in an Ageing World", Burgos, Spain, 10-12 September 2001. This meeting, at the invitation of the Spanish Government, was one of three expert seminars in preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MiCA) in Berlin (September 2002), which adopted the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the revised International Plan of Action on Ageing (IPAA), which was adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing (WAA-2) in Madrid (April 2002). In addition, the European Centre assisted UN-ECE in the Secretariat Drafting Group, participated in the Open-Ended Working Group, and – at the Ministerial Conference in Berlin – chaired a high-level decision-maker panel on “Exchange of Best Practices – Sharing Experiences” with the UK Minister of State Pensions, the Albanian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, the Former Director and Special Advisor of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Director of the UN Division of Social Policy and Development (DESA), Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

At the Ministerial Conference in Berlin, 51 out of 55 Member Countries of the UN-European Region participated, the great majority at ministerial or cabinet level, and a great number of intergovernmental organisations and NGOs.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) is in charge of supporting the global process of action on ageing on a European regional level. At the pre-conference preparation stage, it

- identified the issues and policy challenges related to ageing that are of particular relevance for the ECE region;
- made proposals to Member States on the main themes and issues to be addressed by the Conference;
- organised expert seminars to address each of the themes;
- and prepared, during the first half of 2002, a draft of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the revised MIPAA and developed it further by an open-ended working group in July 2002.
The European Centre, through its Executive Director, served as a junior partner to UN-ECE; it will also do so in the future, based on a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-ECE and based on earmarked funding provided by the Austrian Federal Government as a sponsor.

Since MiCA Berlin 2002, UN-ECE leads the requested promotion of the implementation and follow-up of the RIS through regional co-operation. There is consensus that the systematic review of implementation of the MiPAA by the Member States is essential for its success. The United Nations Regional Commissions have responsibility for translating MiPAA into regional action such as RIS. The UN-ECE secretariat
- provides government delegations with information on relevant implementation activities within the region,
- could suggest to Member States specific priority issues to be analysed in depth and, when appropriate,
- provides guidelines for reporting requirements in the follow-up process, and it
- assists Member States upon request with implementing the RIS and in their evaluation of the achievements of the RIS at the national level, “supported by the experts of the intergovernmental organisations relevant in the field of ageing” (RIS, Par. 99). “This process should rely basically on work carried out by all relevant institutions, particularly those in the area of statistics, indicators, training and research” (Par. 102), such as, for instance, the European Centre.

The Berlin Ministerial Declaration ("A Society for All Ages in the UNECE Region") also stresses “co-operation among the UNECE Member States in implementing the Regional Implementation Strategy. Such co-operation could be further enhanced by active collaboration among relevant United Nations departments and agencies and other intergovernmental organisations and institutions active in the field of ageing in the UNECE region” (Statement / Paragraph 10) and the Berlin Ministerial Declaration underlines “productive exchange of information, experience and best practices. This process would benefit as much as possible from adequate collaboration and active participation of relevant organisations of the region” (Statement / Paragraph 11), which provides future opportunities for the European Centre in assisting UNECE in the review and monitoring of the implementation process.
At the European Centre in Vienna, a new professional has been recruited as Coordinator of this newly-established programme; she directly reports to UN-ECE and to the Executive Director of the European Centre, who also actively take part in knowledge delivery. Furthermore, other researchers and professional staff members at the EC also collaborate on this programme when the specific topic addressed matches their expertise.

**Date / Location of Meetings in the Preparatory and Conference Phase**

- 8-10 October 2001, Vienna, Austria, Expert Seminar on “Age Integration, the Changing Life Course and Intergenerational Solidarity”
- 10 October 2001, Vienna, Austria, Start of the Secretariat Drafting Group
- 5-6 November 2001, Geneva, Switzerland
- 18-20 December 2001, Geneva, Switzerland, OEWG Meeting and Secretariat Drafting Group
- 10-12 April 2002, Madrid, Spain, Second World Assembly on Ageing (WAA-II), adopted the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
- April – July 2002 (Open-ended Working Group)
- 6-15 September 2002, Berlin, Germany, UN-ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MICA), adopted the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the MIPAA

**Follow-up and Monitoring Phase: 2003 – 2008**

In this follow-up project, collaboration between the European Centre and the UNECE, under the auspices of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, was laid down in January 2004 in the so-called “Memorandum of Understanding”. The Memorandum of Understanding specifies the role of the European Centre and its specialized MA:IMI Programme in this collaboration, whose main goal is to scientifically and “technically assist governments in the monitoring of the RIS"
Besides the specific mandate given to the European Centre, the Memorandum of Understanding also agreed on the establishment by the Austrian Government and the UNECE of a Task Force, whose function is "to offer guidance and advice to the contents and priorities of the follow-up". This Task Force was constituted in Madrid in April 2004, and has met three times since then. The European Centre reports on the actual and expected outcome of the project to each of these meetings. From May 2005 on, the Task Force works as six Functional Working Groups on the different parts of the Project: "Communication, Information, Exchange of Experience via Website", "Network Strategy", "Indicators", "Priority Theme for UNECE Annual Session 2006", "Capacity Building", and "Research Agenda".

Aims of the Project

The first follow-up phase is a 5-year project, whose first priority is to promote an exchange of experiences in the field of ageing-related policies. Second, to carry out and foster data collection, research and analysis, including in collaboration with other organizations (in particular UN agencies, ISSA, European Commission, OECD), national authorities, other concerned bodies and individuals. The third priority is to maintain in this context a network of organizations, national authorities, and other concerned bodies and individuals, active in the field of ageing.

Results

The European Centre also offers support to the follow-up work by developing and monitoring a set of agreed-upon "indicators of achievement". In this view, follow-up Technical Workshops are organized, aiming at the discussion of meaningful and feasible indicators. Each workshop deals with various age-related topics, as addressed in the UNECE RIS. Closed Expert Meetings are also organized to discuss further the outcome of these workshops, in order to propose a finalised list of indicators.

First Technical Workshop on
"Sustainable Ageing Societies: Indicators for Effective Policy-Making",
at the invitation of IMSERSO, 14-16 April 2004, Madrid, Spain

Besides a short introduction on the demographic process, our first technical Workshop focused on three broad areas: income and well-being of the elderly, social security and financial sustainability, and labour market issues.
The workshop brought together some of the foremost experts in the field of ageing involved in research and policy advice, representing different perspectives on and approaches to the issues discussed. Staff of international organizations active in the ageing field, as well as observers from UNECE Member States also attended.

**Related Expert Meeting, 24-25 February 2006, Vienna**

Based on the Technical Workshop's (and further) outcome, a list of indicators has been set up. The international experts present at the February Meeting had to finalise the list of the so-called "Madrid Indicators", to be proposed to policy-makers, in order to allow them to systematically monitor the implementation of active and sustainable ageing policies while mainstreaming ageing in all policy areas. The next (on-going) step is to gather missing data, in order to be able to illustrate proposed indicators for a wide range of the 55 UNECE/ European Centre member states.

**Second Technical Workshop on**
**“Care Provision in Ageing Societies: What Are the Policy Challenges and How to Address Them”, 19-21 May 2005, Malta**

This second workshop dealt with care provision issues, from prevention to a continuum of care, including specific needs of people with mental illnesses. As is the case with the Madrid Workshop, the work in Malta will be followed by further work on the indicators themselves.

**Related Expert Meeting, 26-27 June 2006, Vienna**

A first brainstorming meeting helped to elaborate indicators on care issues, starting from the indicators suggested in Malta. The list will be finalised further during the course of 2007.

**Related Website**

The Monitoring RIS Website, launched in February 2006, is dedicated to the knowledge and information about the follow-up process to the RIS. It supports and facilitates all the tasks attributed to the European Centre in this project. In a first step, the website informs the audience about the political process regarding Mainstreaming Ageing and Monitoring RIS, offering access to the main documents related to
Mainstreaming Ageing

the RIS, but also on the main partners and actors in the process, be it Task Force Member, NGO or Focal Point. Furthermore, the site aims at giving an overview of tools for analysis, figures and indicators, instruments and activities. Our target is that all interested actors, from governmental to local authorities, as well as NGOs partners will be able to find information catering to their needs:

www.MonitoringRis.org

Publications

In 2007, we will finalize the editing, and will publish a book based on the contributions prepared for the Madrid Workshop: “Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Progress and Policies”. Besides revised or original contributions from international high-level experts, it will also include an updated list of Madrid indicators and illustrations for each of them. A first booklet of indicators, addressing the demographic issue, should also be published.

Date / Location of Meetings

2003 – 2007

- 16-21 January 2003, Geneva, Switzerland,
  UN ECE Informal Consultations on the Follow-up to the Berlin Conference
- 13-14 April 2004, Madrid, Spain,
  Task Force Meeting
- 14-16 April 2004, Madrid, Spain,
  First Technical Workshop on “Sustainable Ageing Societies: Indicators for Effective Policy-Making”, hosted by IMSERSO
- 8-9 November 2004, Vienna, Austria,
  Task Force Meeting
- 23-25 November 2004, Madrid,
  WAA II Follow-up Meeting “Moving Forwards Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing – Training of Professionals on Ageing Matters”, organized by IMSERSO
- 18-19 May 2005, Malta,
  Task Force Meeting
- 19-21 May 2005, Malta,
  Second Technical Workshop on “Care Provision in Ageing Societies: What Are the Policy Challenges and How to Address Them”, co-organized by the UNECE and INIA, in cooperation with IMSERSO
- 16-18 November 2005, Madrid,
  WAA II Follow-up Meeting: “The Contribution of Older Persons to the Social and Economic Development”, organized by IMSERSO
- 24-25 February 2006, Vienna,
  closed Expert Meeting on “Madrid Indicators”, hosted by the European Centre
• 8-10 May 2006, Jaén, Spain,
  Challenges and Good Practices in Numbers”, hosted by IMSERSO
• 29 May 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark,
  Task Force Meeting
• 26-27 June 2006, Vienna,
  closed Expert Meeting on Care Indicators, hosted by the
  European Centre
• 13-15 November 2006, Segovia, Spain,
  UNECE – Focal Point Meeting, hosted by IMSERSO
• 26-27 February 2007, Vienna, Austria,
  Joint Meeting of the Task Force Monitoring RIS and the
  Expert Group for the UNECE Conference on Ageing
• 12-13 July 2007, Geneva, UNECE,
  Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the
  UNECE Conference on Ageing
• 8-9 October 2007, Geneva, UNECE,
  UNECE Preparatory Committee Bureau Meeting
• 6-8 November 2007, León, Spain,
  UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing
Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems

**Type of Activity**  
International Research Project

**Research Areas**  
Pensions & Social Security; Ageing and Generations; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

**Status**  
Ongoing

**Duration**  
2007

**European Centre Involvement**  
Exclusive Responsibility

**Project Directors**  
Asghar Zaidi  
Bernd Marin

**Project Team at the EC**  
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Silvia Fässler  
Michael Fuchs  
Annette Hexelschneider  
Catherine Keppel  
Marius Rummel  
Eszter Zolyomi  
Clement van de Coevering

**Working Language**  
English

**Financed by**  
Spanish Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Madrid
**Aims**

In this project, pension system indicators were developed jointly with the Spanish Government with the aim to provide a comprehensive picture and analysis of existing pension systems in selected European countries in a comparative context. This project also forms the foundation of our work towards setting up the European Observatory on Pension Systems, which will enable us to monitor changes in both the pension policies and the pension systems of European countries, and how these developments are likely to impact on retirement incomes of pensioners in the future.

The project covers 11 countries: Austria, Germany, France, Spain, the UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, as well as three New Member States of the EU, namely, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland. Pension indicators cover a descriptive part about the parameters and basic design of pension systems on the one hand, and pension statistics, such as number of pensions and coverage on the other. Both old age and invalidity pensions (benefits) are covered. Outcome indicators refer to the financial state of national social security systems.

The first main general trends emerging from the collected data will be discussed and complemented by the most interesting findings. Finally, it will be mentioned what further work is required for completion of the project and we will emphasise the project’s contribution to building an European-level pension database.
International Seminars

• Modelling the Capability to Be Free of Time and Income Poverty
  26 January 2007

• Pension Reform in the UK: Challenges, Choices and Progress
  2 March 2007

• Can Parents Afford to Work?
  20 April 2007

• ‘Western Childhood’ and the Welfare State
  23 May 2007

• Pension Reform in Europe: Need and Options for a More Coordinated Reform Approach
  8 June 2006

• Personal Accounts to Improve Pension Coverage and Adequacy: The UK’s Proposed Pension Reforms and Lessons for Other EU Countries
  11 June 2007

• Quality Assurance Systems for Long-Term Care:
  An International Perspective
  27 June 2006
## Index

### A
- Ageing & Generations 47,92
- Ageing and Generations 32,100
- Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction 70,81,83,85,86

### C
- Childhood, Youth & Families 44,47,50,52,70

### H
- Health and Disability Policy 76
- Health Economics & Indicators 75,92
- Health Promotion & Disability Policy 83,86,87,89
- Health Promotion & Prevention 78

### I
- Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion 32,35,38,40,44,45,47,55,58,60,79,92,100

### L
- Labour Market & Social Policy 35,42,43,64,65,67,92
- Long-term Care & Social Services 70,73,79,92

### M
- Migration & Integration 79

### P
- Pensions & Social Security 32,38,43,63,64,65,66,67,92,100
- Poverty & Social Inclusion 32,35,38,40,42,47,55,58,60,79,92,100

### T
- Tax/Benefit Policy Modelling 35,40,55,58,60

### W
- Welfare Society 35,40,92
Overview

Publications Officer: Willem Stamatiou
Graphics & Design: Barbara Waldschütz
Internet: http://www.euro.centre.org

**Book Series “Public Policy and Social Welfare”**
(Ashgate, Aldershot)
*English*

Started in 1990, it contains monographs and collected volumes focusing on outcomes of the Centre’s research projects or expert meetings. Studies published in the series are mostly cross-national and comparative, interdisciplinary, and empirical, with both a theoretical and a policy orientation.

**Buchreihe “Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung”**
(Campus Verlag, Frankfurt / New York)
*German*

Started in 1993 for German publications or translations of important books into German. It covers welfare policy and links it to both political and social theory as well as to social research.

**Other Book Publications**
Various Publishers and Languages

Several books or special reports produced by European Centre researchers and collaborating scholars have been, and continue to be, published outside the above series, with a variety of established publishing houses.

**EUROSOCIAL Reports Series**
*English / French / German*

This series exists since 1974. A report consists of 60 to 200 pages and may be a conference synthesis, a state-of-the-art document, may summarize the most significant of the contributions presented at an expert meeting, or be a national or regional report resulting from a particular project.

**Occasional Reports Series**
*English / French / German*

This recently established series is an outlet for the results of European Centre projects that have high relevance for ongoing policy discussions and therefore need speedy publication possibilities. Occasional Reports support decision-making processes and policy formulation and inform a wider public about empirical findings in areas under current media discussion.
Beginning with the year 1989, the European Centre started to publish the "Journal für Sozialforschung", until 1992 in cooperation with Campus Verlag. The "Journal" was issued quarterly and was one of the widely read and reputed social science journals in German-speaking countries, regions and communities throughout Europe. It was the only social science journal in Europe that continuously reported on international public opinion poll data in politics, economy and society, by multicoloured pictorial statistics (pictograms). The Journal für Sozialforschung was closed down in 1996.

Policy Briefs

English / French / German

Policy Briefs are a publication series that provides a synthesis of issues of research and policy advice on which the European Centre researchers have been working. All Policy Briefs are accessible on the website of the European Centre, http://www.euro.centre.org

Grey Literature: Unpublished Research Reports and Expertises

English / German

Often, (interim) results from projects and expertises do not get published in book form and are only provided as so-called “Grey Literature”, i.e. as research reports, working and background documents.

Programme Overview / Annual Report of Activities

English

Published in Autumn, it comprises approximately 200 pages, and provides very detailed information about the European Centre’s programme activities and publications.
Great strides towards rising human longevity in recent times now pose new challenges for policy-makers worldwide. Facing unprecedented rises in social expenditures and needing to mitigate the moral hazard of poverty in old age, policy-makers require a holistic understanding of personal resources of older people. To this end, this work provides new insights by undertaking research in three themes: (a) the conceptualisation and measurement of the multidimensional measures of older people's well-being, (b) the income experience of older people during the ageing process, and (c) the comparative analysis of income dynamics for older people who live in different institutional arrangements for pensions and social assistance (viz. Great Britain and the Netherlands).

**Part I** of the book sets out the broader context for all the empirical work carried out. It assesses the relative strengths of various conceptual approaches, by presenting a systematic appraisal of the orthodox utility from consumption, income entitlement and standard of living approaches and the comparatively novel capability approach. Then, it outlines specific methodological choices for the purpose of the empirical implementation of the standard of living measure of older people’s well-being. This contextual information base is further strengthened by a schematic description of the British social insurance and social assistance system.

**Part II** reports on the empirical work, further organised in three streams of research:

- In **Theme I: Multidimensional well-being of older people**, we demonstrate that with ageing, factors such as health 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 income status alone. In obtaining the multidimensional measure, we estimate the extra costs of living associated with disability. We find these costs are substantial, and income not adjusted for them significantly understates the problem of low income amongst the older people.

- In **Theme II: Income experience in old age**, we investigate the dynamics of older people’s income using descriptive statistics and econometric models. This approach broadens the conventional snapshot-type analyses and provides insights about income processes underlying the ageing experience. We capture the extent of income mobility experienced and also identify the personal attributes and life-course transitions that trigger income mobility during old age. Significantly, and contrary to conventional wisdom, old age is revealed as a period of sizeable income mobility, while other attributes – such as widowhood, changes in living arrangements and composition of pension income – influence the extent of that mobility. Notably, the revealed degree of mobility is found to be sensitive to both the concept of mobility employed and its empirical operationalisation.

- In **Theme III: Comparative perspective on income dynamics**, we evaluate how the relative importance of individual attributes and life-course events differ in determining the income experience of older people who live in different systems of social insurance and old-age social provisions in Britain and the Netherlands. Results show that British older people are not only worse-off compared to their Dutch counterparts, they also observe a greater extent of income mobility. The income mobility differential between the two countries is observed for both upward and downward income mobility, although the differential is particularly noticeable for long-range upward income mobility.

**Part III** provides the synthesizing discussion, which sets out policy implications of the research and recommendations for future research.

**Asghar Zaidi** is Director Research at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna.
Mainstreaming Ageing
Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Progress and Policies

Bernd Marin / Asghar Zaidi (Eds.)

Ashgate, 2007

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. Bernd Marin is Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, and Asghar Zaidi its Director Research. The editors were assisted by Barbara Lipszyc and Mattia Makovec, who were formerly researchers at the European Centre. 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).
Poverty of Older People and Pension Policy in the EU

Asghar Zaidi

Ashgate, forthcoming early 2008

This book is based on research work financed by the European Commission under their Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusions. It describes the situation with respect to poverty of older people across the 25 Member States of the European Union.

In Part I, we discuss how we ought to measure the risk of poverty for older people. We review the European datasets that are currently available and point to their weaknesses and strengths. For the income-based measures of risk of poverty, we will report that as many as 13 million older people are at risk of poverty in EU25 (in the year around 2003), amounting to as many as one-in-six elderly living in private households. With the exception of Cyprus, all countries with high poverty risk come from the former EU15 bloc of countries. The 10 new Member States are largely countries with the lowest risk of poverty among older people. As for the concentration of the elderly poor, about three out of four elderly who are at risk of being poor live in five large countries of EU15: Spain, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy. In the majority of countries, the cohort aged 75+ in the early 2000s has a much higher poverty rate than younger cohorts of the elderly.

In Part II, we provide a detailed and systematic description of what pension reforms have recently been implemented. The analyses identify specific parameters of a pensions policy reform and then assess how they are likely to impact the income situation and poverty risks of future generations of older people. We will report that while in 1995, nearly all the Member States of the EU had an earnings-related DB PAYG scheme as the main centrepiece of their pension system, by 2005 majority of the Member States had shifted towards other pension models, notably personal accounts or NDC schemes. Moreover, all countries had, or considered, changes to various different parameters in their state pension schemes during this time. In most cases, the reforms were mainly driven by fiscal sustainability concerns and the impact of these reforms on income adequacy and pensioner poverty do not appear to have been given significant consideration. In particular, the effects of systematic shifts in pension policy on particular groups, such as women and lower income earners, have not been assessed in great depth. This book offers a contribution in that direction.

Asghar Zaidi is Director Research at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna.
Book Series “Public Policy and Social Welfare”, Vols. 1-10

Edited by the European Centre Vienna
with Campus Verlag / Westview,
Frankfurt and New York / Boulder, Colorado

         Shifts in the Welfare Mix.
         Their Impact on Work, Social Services and Welfare Policies
         pp. 412 (out-of-stock)

Vol. 2:  Evers, A., Farrant, W., Trojan, A. (Eds.) (1990)
         Healthy Public Policy at the Local Level
         pp. 242, EURO 22,–

         In Search of Usable Knowledge.
         Utilization Contexts and the Application of Knowledge
         pp. 166, EURO 22,–

Vol. 4:  Marin, B. (Ed.) (1990)
         Generalized Political Exchange.
         Antagonistic Cooperation and Integrated Policy Circuits
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Aus der Sicht der Betroffenen stellt sich die Entwicklung zusammengefasst so dar: Konnten die DrogennutzerInnen zu Beginn der 70er Jahre kaum mit Betreuung und Behandlung rechnen, haben sie Anfang des dritten Jahrtausends Mühe unter allen Angeboten das Geeignete auszuwählen, was unter anderem dazu führt, dass einige Freiheitsstrafen den Vorzug geben. Die Eltern von DrogennutzerInnen, die nach wie vor auf die Heilung ihrer Kinder von der Sucht hoffen, sind durch die Ersatzdrogenprogramme irritiert, die im letzten Jahrzehnt zur leitenden drogenpolitischen Initiative anwuchsen. Die drogenpolitischen Akteure schließlich, die am Beginn der Untersuchungsperiode passionierte Neueter waren, sind zu Bürokraten geworden, die in begrenzten und voneinander getrennten Subbereichen tätig sind.

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