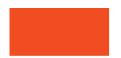




EUROPEAN CENTRE
FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH
AFFILIATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Publisher European Centre for Social Welfare

Policy and Research

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- 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)

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- 93 Intoxication and Intoxicated Behaviour in Contemporary European Cultures: Myths, Realities and the Implications for Policy and Practice
- 95 Wiener Drogenpolitik 1970 bis 2005. Außen- und Innenansichten (Viennese Drug Policy 1970 to 2005. External and Internal Views)
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Activities 2008 / 20<u>09</u>

Completed, Ongoing and Planned Status as of November 2008 **Head of Research Pillar:**

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International Research Project

Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems

(funded by the Spanish Government, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) 2007 - 2008

International Research Project

European Observatory on the Social Situation

(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) 2005 – 2009

International Workshop

Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives and their Well-being and Childwatch International Regional Network Meeting of Central Eastern European Countries

(funded by Childwatch International and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth) 8-9 September 2008

National Research Project

Österreichischer Familienbericht 2009 / Austrian Family Report 2009

(funded by the Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

Children's Rights Indicators: 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 Sources

(funded by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) 2008 - 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 - 2008

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

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 – 2008

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 – 2008

Publication Project

Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-Sensitive Arrangements

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 Spitalsärztinnen 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 – 2008

ctivities 2008/ 2009

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 Research Project

Schwerarbeit und Lebenserwartung

(Heavy Labour and Life Expectancy)
(funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection)
2007 – 2009

National Research Project

Adaptierung des Steuer- und Transfer-Mikrosimulationsmodells EUROMOD und damit durchzuführende Analysen der Auswirkungen von Änderungen im Steuer- und Transfersystem

(Adaptation of the Tax-/Benefit Microsimulation Model EUROMOD and Analysis of Outcomes of Changes in the Tax-/Benefit System in Austria) (funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Security and Consumer Protection) 2008

National Expertise

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) (funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection) 2008 – 2009

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International Research Project

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 – 2008

International Research Project

Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services: HealthQUEST

(funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) 2007 – 2008

International Research Project

ANED – Academic Network on European Disability. "The Implementation of EU Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategies in European Countries with Reference to Equality for Disabled People"

(Funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) 2008 –

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 – 2008

International Networking

European Network of Regions on Demographic Change and Mobility

(funded by Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North-Rhine Westphalia) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

Long-term Care for Older People in Europe: Facts and Figures

(funded by Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Spain, Switzerland, UN-ECE, European Centre) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe

2005 - 2008

International Conference

Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe

13-14 November 2008, hosted by the Lucerne School of Social Work, Switzerland

International Research Project

Generationenpolitik – Internationale Ansätze und Entwicklungen / Generational Policy – International Approaches and Developments

(funded by the Swiss Federal Social Insurance Office / Eidgenössisches Bundesamt für Sozialversicherungen) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

Commissioning for Quality

(in cooperation with the European Social Network / ESN, Brighton UK) (funded by the ESN with funding from the European Commission, DG Employment / PROGRESS) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

INTERLINKS. Health Systems and Long-term Care for Older People in Europe - Modelling the INTERfaces and LINKS between Prevention, Rehabilitation, Quality of Services and Informal Care

(funded by the European Commission, DG Research, EU 7th Framework Programme for Research) 2008 – 2011

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 - 2009

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National Research Project

Qualitative Erforschung jugendlicher Alkoholszenen 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 Workshop

Intoxication and Intoxicated Behaviour in Contemporary European Cultures: Myths, Realities and the Implication for Policy and Practice

(funded by the European Forum for Responsible Drinking / EFRD) (in cooperation with Middlesex University, School of Health and Social Sciences) 25-27 September 2008, Vienna, Austria

Publication

Wiener Drogenpolitik 1970 bis 2005. Außen- und Innenansichten / Viennese Drug Policy 1970 to 2005. External and Internal Views

(Co-funded by the Addiction and Drug Coordination Vienna) 2007 – 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

National Research Project

Addicts in the Public Area

(funded by Sucht- und Drogenkoordination, Vienna) 2008 – 2009

International Research Project

Senior Drug Dependants and Care Structures

(funded by the European Union, under the programme "Public Health 2003-2008" of the Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme) 2008 – 2010

Activities 2008/ 2009

Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

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Expertise, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Research and Technical Staff:

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)

2008 - 2012 (Second Review and Appraisal Cycle)

The 1st Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

12-13 July 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

The Meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

8-9 October 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

A Special Session during European Centre's GAM on the Review and Progress of the 1st Phase of the MA:IMI Project and Its Continuation into the 2nd Phase

27 October 2007, Vienna, Austria

The 2007 Ministerial Conference on Ageing: "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"

6-8 November 2007, León, Spain

Special Side Event on the Progress and Future of the MA:IMI Project during the 2007 Ministerial Conference on Ageing

6-8 November 2007, León, Spain

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The Forum of Civil Society on Ageing

6-8 November 2007, León, Spain

Special Session on Pension Issues at the 30th General Conference of the International Association of Research in Income and Wealth

24-30 August 2008, Portoroz, Slovenia

High-Level Expert and Policy-Makers Conference on "Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health and Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe"

23-24 October 2008, Dürnstein, Austria

Follow-up and Future Meetings for the Second Review and Appraisal Cycle 2008 – 2012

High-Level Expert and Policy-Makers Conference

Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health & Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe

(funded by AARP and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research) 23-24 October 2008, Dürnstein, Austria

Further Activities

Support in Preparing the Austrian UNECE Conference Room Paper for UNECE's 60th Anniversary, Presented at the 62nd Annual Formal Meeting

Editing and Dissemination of the Madrid Book "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Progress and Policies" (finalising authors' contributions to the book; drafting lead chapter 'Trends and Priorities of Ageing Policies in the UN-European Region', etc)

Editing and Dissemination of the Book "Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies"

Continual Updating of the Monitoring RIS Website

International Exchange
International Seminars

http://www.euro.centre.org (link homepage) 2005 – 2008

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Silvia Fässler faessler@euro.centre.org

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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 2008 / 2009: Review and Outlook

Review and Outlook

Programme Overview 2008 / 2009: Review and Outlook

Research Pillar "Work, Wealth, Welfare"

Work, Wealth, Welfare is one of the two pillars within which the research programme of the European Centre has been organised. Further the staff allocation and recruitment has continued during the course of 2008. The research objectives for the pillar "Work, Wealth, Welfare" mentioned below continue to develop further, but the main work areas remain as those of 2007.

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 –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 –help us identify and advise on key social welfare policy reforms that are necessary within the wider bloc of 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 (in particular for persons with disabilities).
- 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 women and pensions; intergenerational transfer of disadvantages;
 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 in this work area remains the project Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI). The researchers in the pillar WWW provided work in many different forms for this project. The MA:IMI team has been supporting in participating in the international meetings and the technical workshops, and in organising meetings of experts, and 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 made to complete 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 research for the European Commission also helped analyse 'who the poor are' in the EU countries, identifying age-related patterns and causes of poverty across the countries of the European Union. This and other work within the project "Social Situation Observatory" contributed to the Social Situation Report that the European Commission published during 2008.

II. Childhood, Youth & Families

In 2008, the international workshop "Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives and their Wellbeing" has been 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 (sponsored by Childwatch International Global Research Network and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth).

The workshop, which was a follow-up event to an expert meeting held in Vienna 2007, aimed at strengthening the already established platform of experts from different countries and disciplines in order to exchange research findings on child poverty and social exclusion from the viewpoint of children and discuss theoretical as well as methodological issues concerning child poverty and its effects for children. We are pleased to report that 25 experts from 16 countries (different European regions, the Middle East and the USA) including five international organisations (Childwatch International, EUROCHILD, OECD, UNICEF and UNIFEM) attended this event, which was held in September 2008 (hosted by the Institute for Labour and Family Research in Bratislava). A summary report is currently under preparation and will be available soon. Presentations, papers and all other relevant information is downloadable from the European Centre's website. In addition, a book publication based on the results of both workshops on child poverty is planned for 2009 (to be published in the Ashgate book series of the European Centre).

Immediately after the workshop a meeting of the Childwatch International Regional Network for Central and Eastern European Countries took place, which was attended by 16 experts interested in future collaborations with experts from the CEE region and other regions (e.g. Southern Europe, the Middle East). Apart from discussing network activities in the near future, the meeting aimed at collecting ideas for contributions to a planned event entitled Children's Rights at the Crossroads. A Global Conference to Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be held in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in November 2009. The initiative to this event has been developed in close collaboration between Unicef Innocenti, The African Child Policy Forum and Childwatch International Research Network.

The implementation of the UN CRC is also a core topic of the EU-Study Children's Rights Indicators: 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 started in January 2008 (funded by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union and coordinated by the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law at the University of Liverpool, and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in Vienna). This international research project focuses on developing indicators for the rights of the child in order to allow the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency to describe the social situation of children across the European Union and thus to contribute to the European Commission's future assessment and subsequent updates every five years of the effectiveness of its existing action affecting children. The European Centre has been involved in two work packages, namely the one on "indicators to ensure an adequate standard of living" and the one on "indicators in the area of education". In September 2008, the European Centre has left the project due to some personnel changes (see below).

In spring 2008, Mona Sandbaek (Norwegian Social Research, NOVA) who worked for the Council of Europe during the last two years visited the European Centre for two weeks in order to discuss current developments concerning children's rights in Europe with the staff of the European Centre. Her visit was rounded off by a presentation on "The Implementation of Children's Rights – Two Challenges for Research" in the context of the international seminar series of the European Centre.

In addition, we are pleased to report that the tender for main parts of the "Austrian Family Report 2009" was successful. The contributions to this detailed report on the situation of families cover a wide range of topics that will be prepared in collaboration with a number of external partners. This project started March 2008 and will be completed by June 2009.

Back to the international level, we would like to report that 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) has been a core activity in this research area. During the period under review, the European Centre was actively involved in the working group on "Children's Participation". Another networking activity aimed at supporting the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet), founded in 2007, with the preparation of its first International Conference, entitled Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal (held in May 2008 in Nicosia, Cyprus). At this conference, more than 200 papers, posters etc were presented and discussed – among them a presentation by Renate Kränzl-Nagl on the topic "Parenting of Children at Risk of Social Exclusion – Lessons from a Council of Europe Project". The European Centre has already left or will leave both networks due to personnel changes as described in the following.

Staff development

Renate Kränzl-Nagl, who joined the Childhood Programme in 1996 and who has been responsible for the research area "Childhood, Youth and Families" for many years (as the successor to Helmut Wintersberger who left the European Centre in March 1997), left the European Centre. From 1st September 2008 onwards she started her new job as Professor for Sociology and Social Empirical Research at the Upper Austrian University of Applied Sciences, Faculty for Health and Social Services in her hometown Linz (courses "Social and Public Management" and "Master of Services of General Interest"). She continues to collaborate with the European Centre as a consultant till June 2009 in order to complete some of her ongoing projects – and hopefully the European Centre can continue the productive and pleasant collaboration with her in the future. Nonetheless, the European Centre has to decide upon the future of this research branch.

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 2008, the European Centre continued work within the European Observatory on the Social Situation, which provided insights into many different areas of poverty and social exclusion. The key examples are our work on social exclusion of migrant families and on exploring the level of poverty across the EU countries, the trends over the past decade and identifying high poverty risk groups. The outcomes will be published in a special volume by the European Commission next year, and in addition they will contribute to the Social Situation Report, also published by the Commission on an annual basis.

We finalised 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 (I) 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 2008, the European Centre's researchers will complete their work within the project, using the case studies of Austria, Hungary, Italy and Finland. European Centre will also publish a book "Well-being of Older People in Ageing Socieities", that provides insightful analyses of income risks faced by older people.

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 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.

The Centre has conducted research on the take-up of social assistance in Austria and Finland, exploring the patterns and reasons why people do not actually claim benefits they are entitled to. Working jointly with an international team of researchers within a research project of the European Commission, the ultimate aim is to assess how non-take up affects poverty, income inequality and social policies. In both countries non-take-up rates in terms of eligible households appear to be considerably high and amount to more than 50%. Thus, welfare goals of socials assistance are far from being reached and unjustified disparities among eligible clients result.

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 investigated 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 heavy 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 Security and Consumer Protection, as well as a consultation on invalidity in flux in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund, the European Centre compiled an expertise on the positive externalities of the salary and part-time system of the Salary Fund. Via cost allocations to the Salary Fund, not only a compensation in the costs between elder and younger employees is secured, but also equal salaries for men and women in case of an equal job performance. Working hours of salaried pharmacists are assessed in tenth parts (full-time occupation: 40 hours per week), in which the minimum working hours amount to 8 hours a week (2 tenths). Compared to the total economy and other sectors, it was

found that the pharmacy sector: saw a vast employment increase over the last decades, features a very high share of women especially in the highest qualification groups and a highly pronounced part-time behaviour of salaried pharmacists, shows practically no unemployment and a very high retirement age (on average at the legal retirement age) as well as impressive rates of early re-entry of mothers with small children.

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 2008, 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 4 of thenew Member States, and to establish the feasibility of bringing all of the others into EUROMOD. For the 4 selected 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.), and perhaps most importantly (4) the presentation of the Euromod model, including the validation of baseline output in relation to other statistics. The Centre organized an international conference in April 2008 with 80 participants from 25 countries, including representatives of the European Commission, Eurostat, OECD, Luxembourg Income Study and governments and research institutes all over the enlarged Europe. A book publication from selected papers is currently being finalised.

As a number of countries have 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 microsimulation model, which we regard to be a positive spill-over effect of this project.

Funded by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the Tax-/ Benefit Microsimulation model EUROMOD was updated for Austria in two ways:

(I) the newest available household micro-data for Austria (EU-SILC 2006) was prepared as up-to-date input-data, (2) the policy basic scenario for the year 2007 was modelled. The analytical part consisted of model calculations related to several reform measures

specified by the Federal Ministry, among them a working tax credit for families with children and a staggered reduction of health insurance contributions for persons with relatively low employment incomes above the limit for minor employment ("Gering-fügigkeitsgrenze").

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"

During 2008, a number of project reports and final publications of the European Centre received a broad audience among the research and policy community. Among these, the European Commission published the "Report on the Situation of Social and Health Services of General Interest in the EU" (SHSGI) and the study on "Quality of and Access to Health Care". The SHSGI report is the first publication that covers a broad range of social services (such as long-term care, child-care, services for disabled people) analysing at the same time aspects from labour market effects of these service industries to quality of care initiatives and the ways administrations and governments have responded to the challenges raised by uncertainties of the EU legal framework for services of general interest. This report on SHSGI has also served as core input to the first biennial report of the European Commission on Social Services of General Interest.

In the European Centre's Occasional Reports series, a qualitative study concerning the sexual and reproductive health of young men in Vienna, Styria and Tyrol was published, as well as a qualitative study on the development of the Viennese drug policy in the period of 1970 until 2005. A project on juvenile "alcohol scenes" in public places in Vienna and in Lower Austria was finished and will be published in November. In September, the European Centre has hosted a workshop with European experts on 'intoxication' and 'intoxicated behaviours' in contemporary European cultures.

I. Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

Addictions and misuse of alcohol and drugs are increasingly considered to be a scourge for European countries and respective research questions and studies have since many years been a core part of the activities of the European Centre.

In the area of drug policy, the year 2008 saw the launch of three new projects.

Contract negotiations are expected to be finalised soon on a follow-up project for the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (jointly funded with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs) , to conduct surveys on drug consumption patterns in European cities. The results of this project will be relevant for drug policies on local, national and European level. Moreover, the outcome of the project will provide an important input for the UNODC estimates and publications of trends in drug consumption.

Commissioned by the Addiction and Drug Coordination of the City of Vienna, a one-year project will analyse the number and the socio-demographic profile of addicted persons without care that are dwelling in the public area as well as about their fluctuations, needs and about their drug consumption patterns, their risk behaviour, their health, their psychosocial and medical supply and about the reasons for the non-utilization of services and for their dwelling in the public area.

In cooperation with partners from Germany, Scotland, and Poland, the European Centre participates in a new project focusing on senior drug dependents and their care and treatment needs. National data sets (Germany, Austria, Poland and Scotland) and data sets of the project partner cities (Frankfurt, Vienna, Warsaw, Edinburgh/Glasgow) are reanalysed to estimate the scope of the problem as well as legal and financial framework of each partner country regarding the delivery of community-based and residential care for senior drug dependents. Examples of good practice in caring for senior drug dependents will be identified by interviewing experts in the field. The project is commissioned by the Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme (PHEA).

Moreover, the project on binge drinking among young people in Vienna and Lower Austria – the rural state surrounding the Austrian capital was successfully finalised. 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 have been presented at an international workshop organised at the European Centre 25-29 September 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. The study will be published in the European Centre's Occasional Series in November.

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 was 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 final report has been submitted to the European Commission.

III. Health and Disability Policies

In the field of disability policy, the European Commission's PROGRESS programme established an Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED), in 2007, with a purpose to inform on disability policy making at the European level. The European Centere is a partner in this network and currently in charge of drafting a report on the implementation of the European Union's Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategies in Member States.

The project on "Quality in, and Access to Health Care Services" that had been undertaken in 2007 in cooperation with the European Health Management Association and other partners, was finalised in 2008. This project was 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 contributed to Improved knowledge at European level on barriers to access to health care for people at risk of social exclusion, and identified potentially effective policy initiatives in this area that have been taken in Member States. The experience of eight countries was 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

IV. Long-term Care and Personal Social Services

Long-term care has continued to be a major focus of work of the Health and Care Pillar.

Ongoing work is undertaken to take stock of available care data and international comparisons in order to establish a system of care indicators for monitoring long-term care polices for older people in Europe. This project is part of the follow up of the MA:IMI project. As main outcome of this work, a publication "Long-term Care for Older People: Facts and Figures" will be published in spring 2009. This publication will cover

Review and Outloo

all aspects relevant to care policy, namely demographic background; changing living arrangements and household patterns; trends in informal care giving; as well as availability, quality and expenditure on professional long-term care services. This publication will be accompanied by a publication on the sources and estimation methods used, which will be a complemented companion to this complex field of international comparisons.

A workshop in 2009 will act as a forum for discussing the further strategy towards a more routine exchange on trends and policies in long-term care for older people at the European Centre. The findings of the publication will be discussed with a broader audience of policy analysts and stakeholders during a conference in 2009/20010.

In addition, project negotiations have been successfully come to a close with the European Commission to start a major new project "INTERLINKS: Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe – Modelling the INTERfaces and LINKS between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care" in cooperation with partners from 14 European countries. The Austrian Association for Support of Research (FFG) has provided seed money for the European Centre to bring this consortium together. This support facilitated a decent preparation of the proposal which was evaluated by independent experts and ranked first among 18 competitors who had submitted a proposal to this call (HEALTH-2007-3.2-2)

This large-scale project will further strengthen the role of the European Centre as research hub for policy ideas to improve quality and efficiency of care systems in Europe. An informed public (national experts from research and practice, high-level policy makers, EU institutions and European level non-governmental organisations and providers) will be involved in the validation of findings and in the elaboration of model elements by means of National Expert Panels and two international Sounding Board Conferences. It is a specific aim of the project to identify and involve "change agents" in policy and practice — persons who are open for change and able to implement learning and evidence into practice — as much as possible in the gathering of data (evidence-based good practice), in the validation of findings and in the implementation of methods and instruments.

A major policy impact of the European Centre's activities can be reported from the Autonomous Province of Bolzano-Alto Adige (Italy), where the European Centre has accompanied the preparatory process for the introduction of a long-term care scheme since the year 2000. The European Centre was in particular involved in developing a new tool for assessing long-term care needs. The results have shown that, as the assessment of needs is one of the most persuading steering mechanisms available, it makes sense to invest in the development of such a tool which, however, should be of benefit for all three groups involved: (potential) beneficiaries and their families, the providers of care services and the administration.

Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

The European Centre has been mandated to undertake various follow-up activities of the so called "Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing" since 2002. This work was supported by the Austrian Government (through the Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). The work had been undertaken with a formal collaboration and the assistance of the UNECE, Geneva, and the newly defined Task Force.

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 helped to review the implementation of the Plan by the UNECE's Member States, by a monitoring process based on effective exchange of information, experiences and best practices. European Centre provided keynote speeches and discussions during several specialised sessions of the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in León, Spain. This conference was attended by ministers and high-level officials from 45 UNECE Member States and the European Commission, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Discussions included progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing adopted at the 2002 Ministerial Conference in Berlin. The Conference also adopted the Ministerial Declaration "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities".

The European Centre's project "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation" was specially staffed for this work programme, and in the course of the project many additional researchers, administrative and technical staff contributed to the work programme. While this 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, requiring a doubling of the basic endowment offered by the Republic of Austria to the European Centre.

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.

The MA:IMI project's initial phase has now ended. The second phase will undoubtedly be of historical importance and a most critical one, as the challenges facing ageing societies are further pronounced due to demographic advantages now ending in many UNECE countries. A last window of opportunity to implement at least the core measures to live-up to the goals, objectives and ten commitments formulated in 2002 will open between 2007 and 2011.

Thus, the European Centre has embarked on the 2nd phase of the work programme within the MA:IMI project. The premise for a continuation of the MA:IMI programme is that the 1st phase of the projects has resulted in very practical tools for national authorities and UNECE by collecting data on ageing specific indicators and providing substantive research on salient issues facing ageing societies in the UNECE region. The book "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Progress" (edited by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi) is just one example of the work generated in the Ist phase of the MA:IMI project. Another book "Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies" (by Asghar Zaidi) has also been produced. 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 NGOs partners, media and the public at large".

The European Centre wishes to undertake the tasks under the 2nd phase of the MA: IMI project involving a continued collaboration with the UNECE Secretariat and with support from as many governments as possible from the UNECE and EC Members States. Already, European Centre has commitments from many governments, far beyond existing supporting countries such as Spain, Germany and Austria, who made their continuous support conditional upon a broadening and "Europeanization" of support.

The work proposed in the 2nd phase will be undertaken during the next five years (2008-2012) and it will be staffed by additional full time research analysts, who will be fully devoted to the work of the MA:IMI project. The MA:IMI team will be headed by Eszter Zolyomi, and further supported by the advice and the coordinating work of the Executive Director (Bernd Marin) and Director Research (Asghar Zaidi).

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 work proposed for the 2nd phase is divided into several work packages:

- The work package I reports on the work proposed for the collection of data on ageingrelated 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 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, collecting corresponding data of gender on all Mainstreaming Ageing indicators, as well as on long-term care indicators.

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

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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 2008, 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.
- Informed Board/NLOs with a quarterly special Newsletter and topical mails, and made NLOs more visible with portraits on the EC website and with news in the EC Newsletter. In cooperation with NLOs, information about the EC has been disseminated into special important country channels.
- Two years after the launch of the EC website some necessary improvements have been made. Among others, PDF documents are now integrated into the website's search engine and point to the respective main documents.

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Research Pillar "Work, Wealth, Welfare"

Vork, Wealth, Welfare

Indicators and Comparative Analyses of European Social Protection Systems

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Pensions & Social Security; Ageing & Generations;

Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status Ongoing

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Directors Asghar Zaidi

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Project Team EC Jason Allman

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Clement van de Coevering

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Working Language English

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

Aims

One of the objectives of the project is to collect and analyse data on a number of indicators about the basic internal parameters of pension systems in eleven European countries in a structured and comparative way. Indicators were developed jointly with the Spanish Government with a particular focus on indicators most related to affiliation or coverage, and to early and invalidity pensions. The following countries are covered in the project: Spain, Austria, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland.

The project will also generate two policy reports on substantive issues of pension research. The first report assesses how European pension reforms alter the risks between individuals, firms and the State in securing adequate income in retirement. The second report

provides an overview of existing minimum income guarantee schemes for the elderly in the selected eleven countries, and discusses the main reforms and developments of these schemes. Using statistical data, it investigates the impacts of these different schemes on poverty alleviation among the elderly population in the period between 1997 and 2007.

The project is funded by the Spanish Government (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs). This project also forms the foundation of our work towards setting up the European Observatory on Pension Systems which will be an important tool 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.

Work, Wealth, Welfare

European Observatory on the Social Situation

Type of Activity International Research Project

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

Welfare Society

Status Ongoing

Duration 2005 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Applica, Belgium

Essex University, UK TARKI, Budapest

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs

and Equal Opportunities

Aims 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.

Results In 2008:

- Final report for 2008 prepared, with a major contribution of poverty analyses from the European Centre.
- Presentation of results to the European Commisson and representatives of other networks within the Social Observatory in September 2008 in Brussels.
- Research Note on migrants completed, including (I) methodology on identifying migrants, (2) demographic characteristics of migrants, and (3) poverty amongst migrants in the EU.

Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives and their Well-being and Childwatch International Regional Network Meeting of Central Eastern European Countries

International Workshop Type of Activity

Childhood, Youth & Families Research Areas

> Completed **Status**

Duration 2008

European Centre

Joint Responsibility Involvement

Daniel Gerbery, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Partners / Co-Organizers

Bratislava (local organiser)

Mona Sandbaek, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo

Renate Kränzl-Nagl **Project Director EC**

Renate Kränzl-Nagl **Project Team EC**

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English **Working Language**

8-9 September 2008, hosted by the Institute for Labour Date / Location of Meeting

and Family Research, Bratislava, Slovakia

Financed by Childwatch International Research Network; Federal Ministry for

Health, Family and Youth, Austria

The international workshop aimed at strengthening the established

platform for theoretical-methodological discussions concerning child poverty and social exclusion of children. The workshop focused on identifying the ways in which poverty and social exclusion affect children's lives and their well-being, with particular reference to children's health. The lives of children and their well-being from different perspectives, including their own perceptions and feelings, were the focus of discussion. The general framework of the workshop

is rooted in child-centred research and part of the agenda of

children's rights.

The aims of the workshop were:

- To discuss the theoretical approaches of child-centred research concerning child poverty and social exclusion in detail and in depth.
- To build a platform for exchange and discussion of research findings about the impact of poverty and social exclusion on children's lives and well-being, with particular reference to health issues.
- To identify the main priority areas as well as specific groups of children whose well-being is seriously at risk (caused by poverty and social exclusion) in different regions, in particular of children living in the CEE Region, the Southern part of Europe, and the Middle East.
- To exchange and reflect good practices in relation to policy responses concerning these children.
- To discuss the practice- and policy relevance of (child-centred) research on the workshop topic.
- To continue with the discussion of challenges for research and policies by taking into account the UNCRC as well as recent developments in the area of children's rights (e.g. at EU level).
- To collect ideas for follow-up activities on the topic "Child Poverty and Social Exclusion" in the respective regions.

The Meeting of the Childwatch International Regional Network of CEE countries took place immediately after the international workshop and was attended by 16 participants that were interested in future activities in the CEE region and collaborations between experts from CEE countries and other regions (e.g. Southern Europe, the Middle East). The objectives of the CEE Regional Meeting were:

- To collect ideas for future activities in the CEE region based on a discussion of priority areas and in accordance with the Childwatch International Strategy 2007-2009.
- To discuss linkages between the CEE Regional Network and other (regional) networks, thematic groups, study groups etc. of the Childwatch International Research Network.
- To collect ideas how to contribute to the planned global conference at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, jointly organised by Childwatch International and UNICEF (scheduled for November 2009).

Results

In total, 25 experts from 16 countries (different European regions, the Middle East and the USA) including six international organizations (EUROCHILD, OECD, UNIFEM, UNICEF Office for CEE /CIS, Childwatch International and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research), participated in the international workshop. A meeting report is under preparation and will become available soon. Presentations and papers of the workshop as well as other information are provided at the workshop website: http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1189

ork, Wealth, Welfare

Österreichischer Familienbericht 2009 / Austrian Family Report 2009

Type of Activity National Research Project

Research Areas Childhood, Youth & Families

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers • Martina Beham, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

• Johann Bacher, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

• Ulrike Zartler, University Vienna, Austria

Liselotte Wilk, Austria

Andreas Lange, German Youth Institute, Munich, Germany

Karin Jurczyk, German Youth Institute, Munich, Germany

External Project Director Nikolaus Dimmel, Social Profit Management (ISPM), Austria

Project Director EC Renate Kränzl-Nagl

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Working Language English

Financed by Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth

Aims In Austria, detailed reports on the situation of the family are being produced every 10 years (since 1969). The European Centre's contribution to the Austrian Family Report 2009, to be prepared in collaboration with a number of partners, will cover a wide rage of topics:

· the impact of social change on families,

· discourses about family in politics, the media and research,

• features of families today (in the light of recent family and household data at the national and international level),

familial relationships, with particular reference to generational relationships,

- causes and effects of divorce/ separation on women, men and children,
- the use of time in Austrian families (e.g. taking into account gender differences of time use),
- child care facilities (e.g. accessibility, affordability, quality of early child care services),
- reconciliation of family and work (by taking into account recent developments and trends at the labour market),
- the interrelation between family and school.

The final report will be completed by the end of June 2009, an interim report is scheduled for November 2008.

ork, Wealth, Welfare

Children's Rights Indicators: 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

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Childhood, Youth & Families

Status Ongoing

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers • Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna

• Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law,

University of Liverpool

Children's Society (NGO), UKChildONEurope, Istitutio degli Innocenti, Florence

European Children's Network (EURONET), Brussels

• German Youth Institute, Munich;

Jonathan Bradshaw, University of York (external supervisor)

External Project Directors •

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Working Language English

Financed by European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna

Aims The study focuses on developing indicators for the rights of the child

in order to allow the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency to describe the social situation of children across the European Union and thus to contribute to the European Commission's future assessment and subsequent updates every five years of the

effectiveness of its existing action affecting children.

The aims of this international research project are:

- To develop a set of indicators for children's rights based on a review of available sources and a structured consultation with experts and key stakeholders.
- To map and assess available data resources, on the basis of the indicators developed, at national, EU and international level regarding comparability, gaps and other issues.
- To draft a report containing a comprehensive overview of the situation regarding data availability, reliability and comparability across the EU.

According to these aims the work programme has been divided into five key stages:

- Developing the conceptual framework, based on a review of already existing concepts (including models of good practices) and available data sources.
- 2. Conducting structured consultation with experts and stakeholders.
- 3. Developing a set of indicators.
- 4. Mapping of data and information resources and analysis.
- 5. Refinement of indicators, including follow-up consultation with national experts.

An interim report has been submitted to the ordering party in August 2008, the draft final report is scheduled for December 2008.

ork, Wealth, Welfare

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

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme

Aims The aim of this project is to upgrade an existing European social science research tool, the tax-benefit simulation model EUROMOD, in order to:

- I) enhance its geographical coverage, from EU-15 to EU-19 and explore feasibility of enlargement 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 (I) the key features of national tax-benefit
 systems, and (2) the identification of appropriate data sources
 which meet the data requirements for tax/benefit microsimulation.
- Workshops in Tallinn and Vienna.
- 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 in order to integrate their tax-benefit systems into EUROMOD as part of I-CUE.
- Workshop in November for the four prototype countries.

In 2008:

- Organization of an international conference 3-4 April 2008 with 80 participants from 25 countries, including representatives of the European Commission, Eurostat, OECD, Luxembourg Income Study and governments and research institutes all over the enlarged Europe. A book publication from selected papers is currently being finalised.
- The four selected countries (Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) have been successfully integrated into the Euromod model.
- Research papers based on the enlarged Euromod, exploring the impact of alternative policy reforms (child benefit reform, flat tax reform) on income distribution.

Project Network

Project network in the New Member States (established by the European Centre as part of the project:

Cyprus

- Panos Pashardes Economics Research Centre, University of Cyprus
- Demetra Komodromou Economics Research Centre, University of Cyprus

Czech Republic

- Kamil Galuscak Czech National Bank
- Jozef Zubricky CERGE-EI

Estonia

- Silja Lüpsik Ministry of Environment
- Andres Võrk PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies

Hungary

- Péter Szivós TÁRKI
- Peter Hegedus TÁRKI

Latvia

- Alf Vanags Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS)
- Mark Chandler Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS), Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) in Riga

Lithuania

- Tatjana Stirling Department for Work and Pensions, UK
- Romas Lazutka Department for Social Work, University of Vilnius

Malta

- Miljanic Brinkworth Maya Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity
- Vella Kevin Ministry of Finance

Poland

- Olivier Bargain IZA, Bonn
- Leszek Morawski University of Warsaw
- Michal Myck DIW
- Mieczyslaw Socha University of Warsaw

Slovakia

- Marek Porubsky Ministry of Finance
- Jana Antalicová Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Labour Slovenia
- Boris Majcen IER
- Mitja Cok Ljubljana University

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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

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Luxembourg Income Study Asbl

• National University of Ireland, Galway

Universiteit Antwerpen

External Project Director Holly Sutherland, University of Cambridge

Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Research, 6th Framework Programme

Aims 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.

Publication of research on non-take-up of social assistance in Austria as a EUROMOD working paper (in English).

In 2008:

- Publication of research on non-take-up of social assistance in Austria as a contribution to the "Handbook on Poverty in Austria" (in German).
- Compilation of a scientific comparative paper on non-take-up in Austria, Germany and Finland
- Final results on estimating income tax evasion in Hungary.
- Discussion of research results and future joint work in a workshop in Colchester.

Vork, Wealth, Welfare

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 Completed

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director Asghar Zaidi

Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

Bernd Marin

Working Language English; German

Financed by Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Aims and Results Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi accompanied the Austrian Minister

for Social Affairs and Consumer Protection Erwin Buchinger, and the Under-Secretary Christoph Matznetter, at the occasion of meetings with the UK Secretary of State Peter Hain (Work and Pensions) and many more politicians, executives and experts in the United Kingdom regarding the topic Work Tax Credit. The meetings took place 12-13

December 2007.

The report written resulted in the following policy brief: http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1109

Webpage http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1130

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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 Completed

Duration 2006 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Applica, Belgium

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Terry Ward

Asghar Zaidi / Isilda Shima

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Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

Isilda Shima Eszter Zolyomi

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs

and Equal Opportunities

Aims This project is jointly accomplished with APPLICA and financed by

the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The objective of the study is to collect data on people with disabilities through Administrative Registers of the EU 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 of the Member State, the intention is to collect data from the national administrative registers on the following five topics: Prevalence of Disability; Education; Employment, Unemployment,

Inactivity; Cause of Disability; Access to Services.

The tasks of the European Centre are firstly to collect data on disability from the administrative registers in Austria and Germany, secondly to analyse the Disability Data related to Employment, Unemployment and Inactivity of people with disabilities and thirdly to analyse the employment measures in implementation among 25 EU Member States aiming the integration into the labour market of people with disabilities.

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)

ork, Wealth, Welfare

Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best? Designing Gender-sensitive Arrangements

Type of Activity Publication Project

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

Welfare Society

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director Bernd Marin

Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

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Working Language English

Financed by European Centre

Aims The book, edited by Bernd Marin and Eszter Zolyomi, aims to explore

the difficulties women face during their working life and in retirement (i.e. disrupted working history due to caring responsibilities, labour market segregation, gender pay gap, old age poverty) and the gender implications of recent social and pension policies. It attempts to provide some answers on how to design or adapt pension systems so as to better accommodate women's needs and achieve "fair" outcomes for all women. The book contains valuable contributions from international pension and social policy experts, and there is also a section on statistical information of a number of different indicators focusing on gender differences. The book will be published during

2008.

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 Bernd Marin

Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

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Working Language German

Financed by Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance

Δims

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection launched a working group consisting of social partners, government representatives and other experts that should develop proposals for a reform of invalidity legislation till mid-2008. Important topics were the extension of provision and early intervention strategies, the improvement of the interplay of different stakeholders (pension insurance, health insurance, labour market service, etc.) as well as the adaptation of the current legal regulations, among them occupational protection, access to and reasonableness of rehabilitation measures as well as a potential special regulation for cases of hardship.

Results

In close cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, the European Centre brought in its rich expertise in the field and compiled possible solutions in the form of one detailed research expertise and two short and punctual statements related to reform steps proposed by the working group. Both from the point of view of the individual (right to rehabilitation, rehabilitation prior to forced inactivity) as well as from the financial point of view, a careful planning and introduction of possible reform measures seems to be of utmost importance.

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ork, Wealth, Welfare

Auswirkungen der Pensionsreformen 2003 / 2004 und Möglichkeiten des Verlustausgleichs für Spitalsärztinnen und Spitalsärzte

Effects of Pension Reforms 2003 / 2004 on Hospital Doctors and Alternatives for Loss Compensation

Type of Activity National Expertise

Research Areas Pensions & Social Security

Status Completed

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

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Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

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Working Language German

Financed by Federal Curia of Salaried Physicians of the

Austrian Medical Association

Aims Beside 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 — which would correspond to only 64% of the assessment base as pension entitlement. 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 based on higher yearly accrual rates (plus 50%) which should compensate for the long (night) working hours of hospital doctors.

The expertise has three main targets:

 an overview on the scientific state of knowledge on burdens related to long, irregular and atypical working hours incl. the outcomes related to mortality, health status, drug use as well as burn-out and depression for physicians;

- an evaluation of the lifetime-working time model proposed by the Austrian Medical Association in the light of current pension debates:
- the development of possible alternatives for the betterment of hospital doctors in the pension system by avoiding both fiscal objections and socio-political counter-arguments.

The methods comprised of an analysis of national and international scientific literature and the secondary analysis of two international panel datasets: the Health and Lifestyle Survey (HALS) for the United Kingdom and the Socio-Economic Household Panel (SOEP) for Germany.

Results

In a general view there is some evidence for a relationship between long working hours and stress, health impairment and increased accident risk. However, a separate significant impact of long working hours is not easy to identify empirically. On the contrary, the outcomes of shift work are scientifically well documented and associated with considerable health risks and both negative mental and physical consequences, in particular above 40/45 years of age.

Physicians seem to have a higher disposition for burnout and depressions than other occupational groups. Regarding the consumption of addictive drugs, a widespread self-treatment with pharmaceuticals available on prescription only, has to be rated as worrying. Regarding diseases and accidents, compared to the total population an above-average concern of physicians cannot be ruled out. However, data refer either to the broad health sector or to self-reported diseases, which reduces their explanatory power.

On the other hand, the mortality risks of physicians are well documented. Both compared to the total population and to other academics or comparable groups with high socio-economic status, lower mortality rates are shown.

In sum, the long working hours of hospital doctors suggest that in Austrian hospitals, an insufficient number of physicians is occupied. In order to at least achieve lower work intensity among hospital doctors, it should be verified whether and to what extent administrative tasks can be delegated to administrative staff without loss of quality and control. Moreover, prior to the evaluation of compensation measures within pension systems it should be verified, whether compensation for the working burdens of hospital doctors is not already effected by accordingly higher salaries.

Regarding measures within pension systems, measures which allow for higher benefits without accordingly increased contributions, seem to be not justifiable: the lifetime-working time model proposed by the Austrian Medical Association solely targets the parameter accrual rate, without providing concrete proposals for a coverage, in order to equal the 50% higher benefit entitlements per contribution year by increased contributions. The justification for higher benefits is lacking, as empirical data disproves that physicians pay more into their old age provision than they can expect due to a lower life expectancy.

Thus, in the first instance a solution seems to be possible via increased pension contributions. In order to create additional contributions by the employer as a guarantee for contributions, a regulation in the style of the law on heavy labour during the night is conceivable. Here, the employer pays a separate contribution in the size of 2% of the contribution base. It should be evaluated in the individual case, whether existing occupational burdens of hospital doctors justify a subsuming under this law. Following the intention of the Austrian Medical Association, a legal change towards a higher pension benefit at the time of the legal pension age (instead of an early retirement) would be necessary.

However, additional contributions can also be made by the concerned hospital doctors themselves. One possibility would be to enable also a voluntary higher insurance within the framework of the pension provision by the welfare funds of the Medical Association of the provinces — beside the obligatory contributions. The advantages are that obligatory contributions are fully tax-deductible and also the assessment is tax-privileged.

Alternatively, in the sense of an increase of pension contributions via the extension of the contribution period, considering the long duration of study in medicine, additional possibilities of post-purchasing of study periods (currently 12 semesters at maximum) are thinkable.

A concrete proposal of the Austrian Medical Association targets at a staggered cheaper post-purchase of study periods in case retirement is postponed beyond the legal pension age. Under compliance to the condition that in conjunction with the general bonus for later retirement, an actuarial neutrality is still ensured, in the sense of a general regulation for all former students there are no objections to be found against this proposal.

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vork, wealth, welfare

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 Completed

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director Bernd Marin

Project Team EC Michael Fuchs

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Working Language German

Financed by Austrian Pharmaceutical Salary Fund

Aims The starting point of the expertise lay in the fact that in the pharmacy

sector, the payment of salaries is done by the central Pharmaceutical Salary Fund. Via cost allocations to the Salary Fund not only a compensation of costs between elder and younger employees is secured, but also equal salaries for men and women in case of an

equal job performance.

Regarding working time, the system of the Salary Fund is based on a part-time system: working hours of salaried pharmacists are assessed in tenth parts (full-time occupation: 40 hours per week), in which the minimum working hours amount to 8 hours a week (2 tenths). In practice, under the precondition of acceptance by the employer, within this regulation the concrete weekly working hours can be determined autonomously by the employee to a large extent.

Within the project the positive externalities of the salary and parttime system among others in terms of employment, share of women in employees, part-time, job vacancies and applicants, retirement age, number of children as well as re-entry into the labour market are analysed and compared to other sectors.

Work, Wealth, Welfare

Results

The pharmacists in Austria are part of the general trend towards an employment increase within the health sector: thus, the number of salaried pharmacists has more than quadrupled since 1960. The increase was not only higher compared to the total economy but also compared to other groups including white-collar employees and civil servants in the service sector.

Pharmacist is not only a typical "female profession", the increasing share of women is especially to be found in the highest qualification groups: for salaried (academic) pharmacists it has increased from 65% in 1960 to 86% in 2006, for self-employed pharmacists from 39% to over 50%. This is far beyond corresponding shares in the total economy but also in all relevant comparison groups.

Part-time work behaviour of pharmacists is highly pronounced: 70% work part-time — absolutely voluntary —, a unique quota not reached by far in any other qualified profession. This high preference for part-time work corresponds with the high share of women. However, also male pharmacists work almost ten times more often part-time than other Austrian men. In addition, contrary to the total economy and especially the tertiary sector, within the pharmacy sector there is no trend towards marginal occupation (below 12 hours a week, "sustainable livelihood" of the ILO).

While the pharmacy sector, like the total economy, reports employment records, in the years 2000 till 2004 there were even more job vacancies than unemployed persons in the pharmacy sector (!) – and also since then no unemployment. In contrast, during the last decade in the total economy often two-digit numbers of unemployed job applicants, for academics up to 45, were counted for one job vacancy.

The age-independent job security by the Pharmaceutical Salary Fund removes any pressure from the pharmacies on elder employees, to drop out of the labour force early. Accordingly, contrary to the total economy (where 80% of men and 62% of women retire before the legal pension age) pharmacists remain significantly longer in the labour force: the effective retirement age of salaried pharmacists corresponds exactly to the legal pension age – and for self-employed pharmacist lies significantly beyond.

Female pharmacists (45 till 59 years old) have on average as few children (1.55) as all other female academics and significantly less children than females in the total population. This is insofar astonishing, as the much more family-friendly working conditions in the pharmaceutical sector seem to have no impact on the generative behaviour of women.

On the other hand, the rapid reintegration of young mothers is impressive. While in the total economy 58% of female recipients of childcare benefit with a prior employee status did not make a reintegration within 30 months after the birth of the child, the corresponding drop-out-rate for female pharmacists amounted to only 6% in 2005.

In sum, the salary and part-time system of the Pharmaceutical Salary Fund features an impressive success story in many respects.

The results of the expertise were presented at the 100-year anniversary celebration of the Salary Fund in October 2008.

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ork, Wealth, Welfare

Schwerarbeit und Lebenserwartung

Heavy Labour and Life Expectancy

Type of Activity National Research Project

Research Areas Pensions & Social Security

Status Ongoing

Duration 2007 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers • Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs

and Consumer Protection

• Statistics Austria

Umbrella Organisation of the Austrian

Social Insurance Associations

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Working Language German

Financed by Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Aims

The research target is to verify the presumed relationship between heavy labour and increased mortality by empirical data as far as possible. For this purpose available data from international panel surveys (Socio-economic Panel for Germany, British Household Panel Survey for the United Kingdom) as well as Austrian Micro-census data linked with death records are analysed by the European Centre. In addition, a comprehensive national and international literature analysis is carried out.

Following the government programme for the 23rd legislative period, in case a substantial shorter life expectancy for heavy workers is found, the already existing special pensions for the target group should be designed anew in the sense that via the consideration of life expectancy, retirement before the legal retirement age should be enabled without reductions for early retirement.

Work, Wealth, Welfare

Adaptierung des Steuer- und Transfer-Mikrosimulationsmodells EUROMOD und damit durchzuführende Analysen der Auswirkungen von Änderungen im Steuer- und Transfersystem

Adaptation of the Tax-/Benefit Microsimulation Model EUROMOD and Analysis of Outcomes of Changes in the Tax-/Benefit System in Austria

Type of Activity National Research Project

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

status Completed

Duration 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director Michael Fuchs

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Working Language German

Financed by Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Aims

For the analysis we used the tax-benefit microsimulation model EUROMOD. It is based on representative household micro-data and designed to analyse the effects of changes to components of disposable household incomes. To carry out the analyses we adapted EUROMOD in two ways. Firstly, we integrated the latest available household micro-data for Austria (EU-SILC 2006). Secondly, we implemented the tax-benefit rules for Austria in 2007 (including detailed regulations like social assistance and family bonuses for each of the Austrian provinces).

Results

The analytical part consisted of model calculations related to several reform measures specified by the Federal Ministry, among them a working tax credit for families with children, a staggered reduction of health insurance contributions for persons with relatively low employment incomes above the limit for minor employment ("Geringfügigkeitsgrenze") as well as the evaluation of the share of housing costs in minimum benefits in the case of potential receivers of the scheduled minimum income guarantee ("Bedarsorientierte Mindestsicherung").

With the model calculations it was not only possible to evaluate potential costs and receivers of the reform measures but also to analyse potential outcomes on the household level (changes in disposable incomes, poverty rates, etc.)

rk, Wealth, Welfare

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

Type of Activity National Expertise

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

Status Planned

Duration 2008 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

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Financed by Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Aims

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 rejections in the year 2004 with a follow-up period that is still to be specified. The further biography will be analysed according to its nature (employment episodes, unemployment episodes, etc.) and according to sociodemographic 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).

lealth and Care

The Situation of Social and Health Services of General Interest in the European Union

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services;

Childhood, Youth & Families; Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

status Completed

Duration 2006 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Belgium

International Centre of Research and Information on the Public,

Social and Cooperative Economy (CIRIEC), Liège

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs

and Equal Opportunities

Aims 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 contributed 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 had 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.

Health and Care

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 comprised 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 had been distributed that addressed 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

The final report has been published In July 2008 on the web pages of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/ssgi_en.htm

Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services: HealthQUEST

International Research Project Type of Activity

Health and Disability Policy Research Areas

> Completed Status

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Joint Responsibility Involvement

Partners / Co-Organizers

European Health Management Association (EHMA), Dublin

Finland: Kristian Wahlbeck, University of Helsinki

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: Stanislawa 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

Jennifer Bremner, European Health Management Association **External Project Coordinator**

> Manfred Huber **Project Director EC**

Manfred Huber Project Team EC

Anderson Stanciole

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Working Language English

> European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs Financed by

> > and Equal Opportunities

Health and Care

Aims The main objectives of this project were:

- 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 final report of the project, executive summaries, and eight country reports have In July 2008 been published on the web pages of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/studies_en.htm#healthcare

7 I

Health and Care

ANED - Academic Network on European Disability The Implementation of EU Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategies in European Countries with Reference to Equality for Disabled People"

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Health and Disability Policy

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 -

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Human European Consultancy and Centre for Disability Studies,

Leeds University

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Project Team EC Manfred Huber

Kai Leichsenring Ricardo Rodrigues Isilda Shima Pieter Vanhuysse

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission

Aims

The Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) has the purpose to establish and maintain a pan-European academic network in the field of disability policy. The network has a focus on research that supports the objectives of European disability policy towards the goal of full participation and equal opportunities for all people with disabilities.

The priorities for 2008 to achieve these objectives are:

- To establish a management structure for co-ordination of the Network across EU/EFTA countries, establishing the network management and bringing together the research expertise.
- To put in place new tools to identify knowledge; exchange examples of good practice in the practical implementation of social inclusion or social protection of people with disabilities among the selected countries; and promote networking within

- the European research community through the establishment of a collaborative online working environment.
- To provide scientific background and support to the European Commission for policy development.
- To produce thematic reports on the implementation of EU strategies for employment and social protection/inclusion.
- To provide forward-looking recommendations on disability policy, in particular in view of positive changes in the social inclusion / social protection of people with disabilities in selected countries.

The Role of the European Centre

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research is in charge of a thematic report that will provide an overview of national social inclusion and social protection strategies.

Aims

The purpose of the report is to review the national implementation of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in social inclusion and social protection, and in particular the National Strategic Reports of Member States from a disability equality perspective, and to provide the European Commission with useful evidence in support of disability policy mainstreaming. National examples and evidence will be provided by ANED's country experts, based on reviews of Member States' National Reform Programmes and other sources. The report will also include recommendations to the European Commission on priorities for future policy and research development.

In order to achieve the objectives we intend to:

- Provide an overview of mainstreaming disability within Social Inclusion and Social Protection Plans of EUMS focusing on the mainstreaming of disability and measures proposed in the National Action Plans.
- Identify the gaps in SISP according to the OMC.
- Provide an overview of income, pension and benefits available for people with disabilities, and information on general characteristics of these benefits, based on reports of ANED's country experts.
- Provide an overview of health and long-term care support for people with disabilities, e.g. what care and support options are available, with greater focus on how disabled persons are allowed to participate in the choice and management of their care, policy trends and debates.
- Identify good practices of implementation of social inclusion or social protection policies for people with disabilities among the selected countries.
- Provide conclusions and recommendations arising from the information gathered from the reports of ANED's country experts, including areas in need of further research.

Health and Care

Intervention to Increase Health Systems' Performance among Socio-economically Disadvantaged Groups

Type of Activity National Case Study

Research Areas Health Promotion and Prevention

Status Completed

Duration 2007 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

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Project Team EC Christine Reidl

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Working Language English

Financed by Austrian Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth

Aims

In the framework of the WHO Poverty and Health Technical Consultation 07 the case study for Austria concentrated on underand un-employed persons. The focus was on a measure to increase health system performance among homeless persons, in which four physicians offer medical care to residents of several homeless shelters in Vienna according to their needs ("Team neunerHAUSARZT").

The study is introduced by a short general description on the access to health care in Austria containing both legal background and empirical evidence. Furthermore, it presents 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.

For the case study, available documents (concept, annual reports, etc.) were analysed and an expert interview with the project manager of "neuner-HAUSARZT" was carried out. On the basis of the analyses of the data, the documents and the interview, conclusions were 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.

Health and Care

Results

Both people who are rough sleepers or without permanent residence and people who are homeless and live in welfare institutions were estimated to be about 0.2% of the population in 1999. The majority of them are affected by income poverty and vulnerable health. Even if the coverage of costs is secured, in practice they still face several barriers to health care. Among these barriers is their tendency to ignore symptoms, because their main challenges are to find a place to sleep and money for something to eat. Also, when they finally get in touch with the medical system, they are often critically ill and need inpatient treatment. There is a tendency to avoid subsequent medical examinations. Additional barriers result from organizational and bureaucratic requirements of outpatient clinics and general practitioners; for the homeless, such barriers often include the lack of necessary documents, difficulties in keeping appointments and finding waiting intolerable. Thus, in terms of health policies, low-threshold services are important and should be linked to other care and integration services.

The overall aim of the programme neunerHAUSARZT, based in Vienna, is to safeguard and improve homeless people's access to standard health services. It also tries to influence other sectors, such as specialist medicine, hospital care and home care. Currently, four physicians provide regular low-threshold health services at 10 of 24 Viennese hostels for homeless people. From March to December 2006, 661 hostel occupants visited a general practitioner at the hostels. In September 2007, the pilot phase was completed and the programme gained permanence, with the Vienna District Health Insurance Fund and the Viennese Social Fund agreeing to cover 100% of the costs.

To ensure that different services complement each other, the physicians in the programme practise case management, favouring an interdisciplinary and holistic approach. They cooperate closely with the staff of the homeless shelters, as well as with other health care providers that offer their services at the shelters. Among the services for these homeless people are regular meetings with the psychiatrists of the Psychosocial Service of the City of Vienna as well as with specialists from the women's health centre F.E.M., which provides counselling for women. Starting in 2008, comparable support will be available for men. Offering such gender-sensitive support for homeless people is novel.

Establishing such a programme, which enters uncharted terrain, was quite challenging. For example, at times it was difficult to negotiate funding and support with the different partner institutions. The programme, however, did manage to receive broad acceptance, and it received positive feedback from patients, partner organizations and social workers at the shelters. Also, the programme closed a gap in health care for the target population. Moreover, in the services provided, the different partners complement each other: health care providers contribute medical expertise and social services play an important role in reaching the homeless.

To establish a similar programme in other regions, the local structures have to be taken into account, as stakeholders, political determinants and social systems differ from place to place. Also, detailed knowledge of existing services and structures is of utmost importance to successful project planning and implementation.

The case study was presented at the "Poverty and Health Technical Consultation" organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Venice, from 29 November to 1 December 2007. It will be published as one of the country examples in the joint initiative between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Commission on the development of "tools for assessment and information sharing for health system performance on socially determined health inequities in Europe" in late 2008/early 2009.

Health and Care

European Network of Regions on Demographic Change and Mobility

Type of Activity International Networking

Research Areas Health Promotion and Prevention; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion;

Labour Market & Social Policy; Long-term Care & Personal Social

Services; Pensions & Social Security; Welfare Society

Status Starting

Duration 2008 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

of North-Rhine Westphalia

Project Director EC Flip Maas

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Working Language German/ English

Financed by Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

of North-Rhine Westphalia

Aims

The Ministerium für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Soziales (MAGS) of Nordrhein-Westfalen (NRW) has the intention to actively engage in establishing a network of regions in Europe. This network would particularly focus on the exchange of practices on issues related to demographic change and mobility, which are fields of interest of the Ministry, with the goal to be informed on and learn about experiences of policy development and implementation in other European Regions, which can be useful for NRW as a Region itself as well as NRW as a partner of other (bordering) Regions in Europe. This exchange would focus on successful implementation of policies elsewhere as well as on problems encountered. A particular focus would be placed on the regional concept, i.e. what (positive) differences and added-value can the regional level and regional cooperation provide for policy development and active implementation.

To implement the project, the MAGS has the intention to submit an application for funding under the European Commission InterregIVc programme.

The Centre undertakes the leading role in particular as regards the establishment of the network of regions as well as in preparing the project proposal to InterregIVc.

Results

In 2008:

 Establishment of a Network of European Regions in the fields of demographic change and mobility.

In 2009:

 Presentation of an application for funding to the European Commission InterregIVc programme.

lealth and Care

Long-term Care for Older People In Europe: Facts and Figures

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe

(UN-ECE)

Project Director EC Manfred Huber

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Working Language English

Financed by Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Spain, Switzerland, UN-ECE,

European Centre

• Consolidate a conceptual framework for care indicators in Europe.

 Present a comprehensive picture on indicators relevant for longterm care policy analysis, from fundamental demographic statistics to figures on expenditure and outcomes of care.

 To disseminate the results in an easily accessible "facts and figures" report based on graphics with concise explanations.

• Contribute to the international discussion on improving the evidence base for policy on long-term care.

Results

Final publication planned for March 2009. Interim results have been published as IARIW Conference Report.

Main Activities

- Develop a conceptual framework of comparable care indicators in the European context.
- Undertake comprehensive stock-taking of available data from national and international sources on long-term care, as well as recent research.
- Comparative analysis of policy trends and outcomes based on relevant indicators, namely as regards care needs, use of informal and formal care options and emergence of new approaches to provision of care, such as support of family care giving.
- Document sources and methods on care indicators.
- Present the findings in a user-friendly publication, resorting whenever possible to innovative graphic displays.

Final Conference

The final publication will be presented at a conference in Vienna in 2009.

Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies - A Comparative Study on the Path towards Multi-level Governance in Europe

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services; Incomes, Poverty &

Social Inclusion; Citizenship, Civil Society & Volunteering

Status Completed

Duration 2005 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint 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 (Sweden)

Stockholm University (Sweden)

Project Manager Kai Leichsenring

Scientific Coordinator Yuri Kazepov

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Working Language English

Financed by Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, Spain, Poland, Switzerland,

European Centre

Aims The aim of this project was 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. Different starting points, strategies and solutions in European countries, which are facing similar challenges, were analysed and discussed in workshops and

A team of experts from 8 European countries, representing different welfare regimes and geographical areas, worked over a period of more than 3 years with different innovative research methods (vignettes) to gather data and analyse policies.

Results

research papers.

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 were pulled together for three policy areas: social assistance, activation policies and long-term care for older people. A final conference will take place in Luzern from 13-14 November 2008.

A final publication is under preparation.

lealth and Care

International Conference: Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies A Comparative Study on Steps toward Multi-level Governance in Europe

Type of Activity International Conference

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services; Incomes, Poverty &

Social Inclusion; Citizenship, Civil Society & Volunteering

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

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Working Language English

Date / Location of Meeting 13-14 November 2008, hosted by the

Lucerne School of Social Work, Switzerland

Background

"Rescaling of Social Welfare Policies – A Comparative Study of Steps toward Multi-level Governance in Europe" is a project co-ordinated by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna) and carried out with partners from eight countries:

- Finland: National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Helsinki
- France: Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Strasbourg
- Italy: University of Urbino "Carlo Bo", Faculty of Sociology, Scientific Project Director: Prof. Yuri Kazepov
- · Norway: Oslo University College
- Poland: The Gdansk Institute for Market Economics, Department for Social Security
- Spain: IMSERSO, Madrid
- Sweden: Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm
- Switzerland: Lucerne School of Social Work

The project aims to expand the knowledge base for evaluating intentional and unintentional impacts of policies on multi-level governance (centralisation – decentralisation) in social welfare, such as public assistance and local anti-poverty programmes, employment practices and care for the elderly. Furthermore, it examines various strategies and solutions that can be observed in European countries facing similar challenges with a view to enabling them to learn from each other.

Aims To explain the results of more than three years of research to a broader public, in particular by:

- presenting our findings to experts in the field of social policy research
- explaining the approach we used to scholars, practitioners and policy-makers, and
- building a dialogue on further perspectives of multi-level governance in Europe.

Website http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1282

lealth and Care

Generationenpolitik - Internationale Ansätze und Entwicklungen Generational Policies - International Approaches and Developments

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Ageing & Generations

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 – 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Beat Fux, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Andreas Lange, German

Youth Institute in Munich, Germany (external supervisor)

Project Director EC Kai Leichsenring

Project Team EC Kai Leichsenring, Bernd Marin, Monika Thenner-Eßkuchen

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Working Language English

Financed by Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, Schweizer Bundesamt

für Sozialversicherungen (BSV), Bern, Switzerland

Aims This I-year study aims at analysing and reflecting different approaches and developments concerning "Generational Policies" and related policy measures in Europe by:

 developing the conceptual framework and a set of indicators based on a review of existing literature and available data related to this topic,

- analysing the state-of-the-art in different European countries based on an international semi-standardised survey and a small number of interviews with experts,
- collecting models of good practice from different European regions with regard to the implementation of policy measures in the field of "generational policies",
- carrying out an in-depth-analysis in seven European countries (Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands) and a cross-national analysis based on these findings,
- analysing and reflecting the Swiss situation in the light of these results.

The final report will be published by the end of Spring 2009, the first interim report is scheduled for June 2008, the second one for mid-December 2008.

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services;

Citizenship, Civil Society & Volunteering

Status Ongoing

Duration October 2008 – September 2009

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers European Social Network (ESN), Brighton (United Kingdom)

Project Manager Kai Leichsenring

Project Team EC Kai Leichsenring

Manfred Huber Ricardo Rodrigues

Financed by ESN with funding from the European Commission, DG Employment

(PROGRESS)

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Working Language English

Aims This research project has the following objectives:

- To explore how a well-managed market and well-managed contract procedures can contribute to improving quality of care services, and therefore, quality of life for service users, within an overall quality model.
- To build up a picture of how the different existing relationships among actors responsible for planning, managing and delivering social services at the local level are managed in terms of quality assurance and continuous improvement.
- To support exchange and learning in relation to these issues across ESN as a network and beyond.

The European Centre is in an excellent position to approach these issues as it has been involved in a number of European R&D projects that were focusing on social services management and policies, in particular with respect to developments triggered by New Public

Management, privatisation, decentralisation and quality management. A general approach of these projects has always been to look for solutions based on good practice and on the expertise of all stakeholders involved.

The project will consist of two phases. In 2008, a questionnaire for ESN members will be developed and tested. Furthermore:

- An internal website that serves as a database and a source for mutual exchange has been established.
- National reports describing changes in multi-level governance and respective realities in the participating countries since the late 1980s have been written. 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.

Phase I will consist of the elaboration of a presentation and a brief paper, which provide an overview on issues at stake for the ESN audience at the "ESN Policy & Practice Seminar Commissioning for Quality". During this phase, a questionnaire will be developed and sent out as a test to selected ESN-Members for exploring ongoing experiences and good practice.

During Phase II of the project (January 2009 – November 2009), a revised questionnaire will be sent to ESN Members – responses will be followed-up by telephone interviews to get a more detailed picture of how public authorities manage local social care markets and how they utilise contracts and other tools in the market-place to improve the quality of services in practice at the local level.

By this time, an ESN working group will have been launched that will serve as a "sounding board" for the presentation of findings from the in-depth interviews, questionnaires and further research. Participation in the European Social Services Conference 2009 (22-24 June, Prague) will constitute a further opportunity to draw on learning and exchange among ESN Members and other interested stakeholders. Based on these activities, a final report will be drafted during the summer with new insights into challenges of managing services at a local level and presenting innovative practice in raising quality through market and contract processes.

INTERLINKS. Health Systems and Long-term Care for Older People in Europe - Modelling the INTERfaces and LINKS between Prevention, Rehabilitation, Quality of Services and Informal Care

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Long-term Care & Personal Social Services; Health Economics &

Indicators; Health Promotion and Prevention

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 – 2011

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility (Co-ordinator)

Partners / Co-Organizers

• University of Southern Denmark

• Ecole d'études sociales et pédagogiques, Switzerland

• University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Institut de Recherche et Documentation en Economie de la Santé,
 France

 National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland

Institut f
ür Soziale Infrastruktur, Germany

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Germany

CMT Prooptiki Itd., Greece

• University of Valencia – ERI Polibienestar, Spain

Studio Come S.r.l., Italy

· Vilans, The Netherlands

• Institute for Labour and Family Research, Slovak Republic

• Institute of Public Health, Slovenia

 Forum for Knowledge and Common Development, Stockholm County Council, Sweden

· University of Kent, United Kingdom

• University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Project Director EC Kai Leichsenring

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English

Financed by

European Commission, DG Research, Seventh Framework Programme

Aims

The objective of this 3-year project is to construct and validate a general model to describe and analyse long-term care (LTC) systems for older people from a European perspective. The particular aspects of the different emerging national models that currently address long-term care needs in Europe will be used to show how the links to health care services, the quality of LTC services, the incentives for prevention and rehabilitation, and the support for informal carers can be governed and financed to enhance structures, processes and outcomes of LTC systems.

Based on the assumption that LTC systems in Europe have only started to develop at the boundaries of health and social care, the project will focus on the elaboration of concepts, indicators and models for policies and practice at the interfaces and links between health systems and LTC. Good practice determinants will be identified and validated across countries. A European "state of the art" model for describing and analysing long-term care provision will thus be constructed as an analytical toolbox that takes into account pathways of reform policies at any stage of a national LTC system's development.

The project outcome will guide policy analysis and design, permit comparison and will substantially broaden the scientific base that supports the Member States to better organise their health and LTC systems. It will also integrate the professional and the non-professional domain with inputs from a wide range of stakeholders by means of National Expert Panels and European-level Sounding Board Conferences.

The project will be carried out by a consortium of 16 partners from universities, national and international research institutes with international and interdisciplinary expertise, also in cross-national research. The consortium represents 14 Member States covering different welfare regimes and geographical domains to allow for the regional and developmental, path-dependent differences to be addressed.

Health and Care

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 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

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

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Working Language English

Financed by \quad United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and

Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project Partners / Researchers

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- 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

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, their purity, 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.

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 was organized in September 2007 in Baden close to Vienna. Members of UNODC regularly participated in the working meetings and closely accompanied the project. The working meetings were also visited by representatives of EMCDDA.

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 six thick city reports and the results of the interviews discussed in several comparative chapters. Work on the publication will be finalized by the end of 2008.

Health and Care

Qualitative Erforschung jugendlicher Alkoholszenen zur Entwicklung effektiver Präventionsinstrumente

Qualitative Research on Juvenile Alcohol Scenes to Develop Effective Prevention Instruments

Type of Activity National Research Project

Research Areas Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Health Promotion and Prevention

Status Completed

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

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 study these groups — called juvenile alcohol scenes — more closely, a project was set up, also dealing with the question how the alcohol scenes in metropolitan areas differ from those in rural areas. The first data collected in the course of the study indicated that the public "juvenile alcohol scenes" in few years had spread over the whole urban as well as provincial areas.

Methods

The project team collected data on the juvenile alcohol scenes by different qualitative methods: mapping of the alcohol scenes on the basis of face-to-face and telephone interviews with professionals dealing with youth in their leisure time, observations of selected scenes, group discussions with selected groups, interviews with selected young men and women. On the basis of the results of the study effective prevention measures were developed.

The field work was mainly carried out by students of social work, who – because of their young age – were well suited to approach the drinking young people.

Results

The results indicate that drinking of young people differs by social strata, gender and – urban or rural – setting. To achieve sustained success, prevention measures should share an underlying strategy, be carefully coordinated and also extend to social-political measures. Main players in the field (e.g. police and social work) should closely collaborate and have clear defined tasks. The results of the study were presented in the workshop on "Intoxication and Intoxicated Behaviours in Contemporary European Cultures", hosted by the European Centre in September 2008. The publication will be finished in October and presented to the public beginning of November.

Intoxication and Intoxicated Behaviour in Contemporary European Cultures: Myths, Realities and the Implications for Policy and Practice

International Workshop Type of Activity

Research Areas Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Health Promotion and Prevention

> Ongoing Status

Duration 2008

European Centre

Joint Responsibility Involvement

Betsy Thom (School of Health and Social Sciences, Partners/ Co-organizers

Middlesex University, Enfield)

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl **Project Coordinator**

Gabriele Schmied Project Team EC

Andrea Hovenier (Administration)

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Working Language English

25-27 September 2008, Vienna, Austria Date / Location of Meeting

> Financed by European Forum for Responsible Drinking (EFRD)

Aims

Over recent years, media and policy attention have highlighted "binge" drinking as a social problem which has spread across Europe. Viewed predominantly as a youth problem, the focus of concern has been on young people's drinking, the behaviours associated with it and related harms. In particular, research has looked at binge drinking in relation to public health, public safety and public order and has concentrated on urban, city centre localities.

This emphasis has neglected examination of the wider issue of "intoxication" and "intoxicated behaviours" within which "binge drinking" is to be considered as one particular pattern. How "binge drinking" is defined and measured depends on the prevailing concept of intoxication and intoxicated behaviour which is variable not only from time to time but also from culture to culture. It can be argued that, to understand "binge drinking" and associated behaviours, and to find ways of intervening to prevent or reduce harm, it is necessary

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to understand the wider social and cultural determinants influencing perspectives on acceptable and unacceptable forms of intoxication and intoxicated behaviours.

The aim of the workshop is to consider current research and knowledge, debates and discussion on "intoxication" and "intoxicated behaviours" in contemporary European cultures.

The participants and their contributions are:

- Franca Beccaria (Turin): The Italian Alpini annual event
- Ladislav Csemy (Prague): Heavy episodic drinking and intimate partner violence
- Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl & Gabriele Schmied (Vienna): "Street scenes, disco scenes and private scenes": same drinking patterns, different meanings, different reactions
- Stephan Quensel (Bremen): Normal drinking, deviant abstention
- Pekka Hakkarainen (Helsinki): Is generational transmission fact or fiction?
- Torsten Kolind (Aarhus): Constructing youth identities: How Danish adolescents learn themselves to drink and party
- Marie Choquet (Paris): Fading wine cultures in Europe, fading influence of the older generation and their traditions?
- Iossif Gurvich & Veronika Odinokova (St. Petersburg):
 Russian history, hazardous drinking and recent changes
- Virginia Berridge (London): Temperance and culture: a case-study of using history
- Betsy Thom (London): The concept of binge drinking: construction and reality
- Fiona Measham (London): Determined drunkenness and the pursuit of pleasure
- Lorenz Böllinger (Bremen): "The socio-psycho-dynamics of drug prohibition – a psychoanalytical perspective"

For further information, the workshop programme, presentations and papers, please visit:

http://www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=1291

Dissemination / Publications

Outcomes are to be published in the Journal "Drugs: Education, Prevention" and through an European Centre Policy Brief, the presentation of results be done at the European Foundation for Responsible Drinking (EFRD) in November in Brussels.

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Wiener Drogenpolitik 1970 bis 2005. Außen- und Innenansichten

Viennese Drug Policy 1970 to 2005. External and Internal Views

Type of Activity Publication of National Research Project

Research Areas Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction

Status Completed

Duration Fall/Winter 2007/2008

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Arno Pilgram (Institute for Sociology of Law and Criminal Sociology,

Vienna)

Project Director Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl

Project Team EC Christine Reidl

Willem Stamatiou

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Working Language German

Financed by Sucht- und Drogenkoordination Wien

Aims

The aim of this project was to assess the development of regional drug policy and control in a period of "Europeanization" of national drug policies and controls and to investigate the perception of drug policy by those who are directly addressed by it (drug consumers and their relatives) as well as by those who enforce it (so-called drug policy actors). The project covered the period between 1970 and 2002 and consisted of three parts.

- In the first part, drug policy in Vienna is described on the basis
 of written materials as for instance police and criminal statistics,
 statistics on drug deaths, reports of drug treatment facilities and
 programmes, reports of the municipal administration, research
 reports and drug brochures.
- In the second part 47 semi-structured interviews were carried out with diverse drug policy actors such as policemen responsible for drug affairs, drug treatment and drug prevention professionals, drug administrators etc.

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3. The third part consisted of 47 semi-structured interviews with drug consumers with different experiences with drug control (few experiences, experiences with day treatment, experiences in prison) and with parents of drug consumers. All interviews were analysed using content analysis.

Results

Five phases of Viennese drug policy could be distinguished. In the first phase drug policy only took place on the national level and it was focussed on penal measures. In the second phase drug treatment was cautiously added to the drug policy measures and hence the regional level came into play. Drug treatment became the leading response to drug problems in the third phase and at the same time regional policy was further strengthened. One result was that in the fourth phase a regional drug administration was established, governing all drug responses besides penal ones and establishing addiction prevention. The fifth phase (the last few years of the research period) was characterised by the integration of regional drug policy into regional social policy and its restricted budget.

As regards drug consumers, at the beginning of the 1970s they could hardly find any care and cure, in the end they had troubles to select and decide between diversified offers, with few of them preferring prison sentences over treatment. Parents of drug consumers, who still hope for a cure, are increasingly worried about substitution programmes that are more and more becoming the leading response on the regional level.

With regard to the drug policy actors, having mostly started as enthusiastic pioneers and experimentators they more and more turned into professionals skillfully managing the "drug question" and hence calming the public, working in restricted and split areas.

The study recommends that despite extensive diversification, drug policy again should be perceived as a whole on the regional as well as the national level and as a social response to basically social problems.

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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 and Prevention

status Completed

Duration 2005 - 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium

External Project Coordinator Christiana Nöstlinger

Project Director EC Gabriele Schmied

Project Team EC Gabriele Schmied, Andrea Hovenier

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Working Language English

Financed by European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection

Aims The project's general objective was 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 specific objectives were set out at four measurable levels:

- Identifying SRH needs of men/women living with HIV. 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 covered were: 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.

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- 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.

Results

37 focus groups were held in the member countries to identify the main problems of PLHA.

About one third of the sample of the ensuing quantitative research displayed sexual risk behaviour defined as "unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse within the past 6 months", with significant differences between women, heterosexual men and MSM.

The majority of the SRH departments investigated in the study did not use a guideline or state-of-the-art protocol to integrate sexual health and reproductive health into service delivery. Barriers to implementing adequate SRH services are related to shortage of staff, lack of specialised staff, time pressure and lack of an integrated approach.

Policy Recommendations

All evidence gathered in ESV showed that SRH issues for PLHA need to be tackled using a tailored individual approach. Special attention should be given to differences in culture, language and life style, and other factors affecting PLHA's coping with SRH needs and problems. It is reasonable to address motivational factors, enhance behavioural skills and offer psychological support to cope with SRH problems. Services should be provided through an interdisciplinary team.

The Eurosupport V network comprises 16 partners in 13 European countries. For further information, please visit: http://www.sensoa.be/eurosupport/euro_support.htm

Addicts in the Public Area

Type of Activity National research project

Research Areas Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Health Promotion and Prevention

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 - 2009

European Centre

Involvement Exclusive Responsibility

Project Director EC Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl

Project Team EC Christine Reidl

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Working Language German

Financed by Sucht- und Drogenkoordination, Wien

Background

Not much is known about addicts dwelling in the public area. It is to be supposed that a considerable share of these persons is suffering from manifold problems and that a certain – unknown – number is not reached by care offers. The present study is in particular interested in addicts dwelling in the public area that are not reached by care offers. Among others, it deals with the following questions: What is the meaning of the public area for drug users? What are their reasons for staying at certain places at particular times? How many of them are without care? How do those without care live and what are their problems and needs? What should be done to also reach them with care offers? How could these be organized?

Aims The study has two goals:

 It should enable assumptions about the number and the sociodemographic profile of addicted persons without care that are dwelling in the public area as well as about their fluctuations (seasonal fluctuations, weekly and daily fluctuations, movements between city quarters, etc.). 2. It should provide information about the needs of addicted persons without care as well as about their drug consumption patterns, their risk behaviour, their health, their psychosocial and medical supply and about the reasons for the non-utilization of services and for their dwelling in the public area. The focus here is on qualitative questions.

Methods

Studies of hidden populations, to which drug consumers without care in the public area count, are charged with great uncertainties. The quality of the results will essentially depend on the design of the study, on appropriate research instruments and on the success in establishing contacts with the target group. In order to arrive at useful results, close cooperation with the drug services and other services having contact with the target group are of central importance. Also important is the cooperation with drug clients who are familiar with the situation of "not being cared for" and with the dwelling in the public area and who have contacts with drug users who are presently without care.

Among others, the following survey steps are foreseen:

- A workshop with selected experts at the beginning of the project.
- Telephone interviews with further experts.
- Group- and individual discussions with clients of drug services and with drug users without care.

Senior Drug Dependants and Care Structures

Type of Activity International Research Project

Research Areas Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction; Ageing & Generations;

Long-term Care & Personal Social Services

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008 - 2010

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers

Schweizer Haus Hadersdorf, Vienna,

 University of Applied Sciences, Institute of Addictions Research & Verein Arbeits- und Erziehungshilfe & Institut für Infrastruktur,

Frankfurt/ Main, Germany

· Scottish Drugs Forum (Research), Edinburgh, Scotland

Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland

External Project Director Irmgard Vogt, University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt/Main

Project Director EC Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl

Project Team EC Christine Reidl

Andrea Hovenier (administration)

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Working Language English

Financed by European Union, call for proposal "Public Health (2003-2008)" / PHEA

Aims Specific objectives of the project are

- to create a knowledge base regarding senior drug dependents by different age groups and gender,
- to develop practical implementation tools in the form of guidelines which can assist in the delivery of effective care in community and residential settings, which take account of gender mainstreaming principles, and
- to disseminate the project results.

and Care

The study focuses on:

- Long-term drug dependants aged 35+
- Their social integration (e.g. housing, access to labour market, etc.)
- Their health situation, especially their co-morbidity and infectious diseases
- Social and health care services (best practices)

Main Activities

- The study comprises four in-depth country studies based on the re-analysis of national and regional data covering Austria/Vienna, Germany/Frankfurt, Poland/Warsaw and the United Kingdom/ Glasgow as a basis to estimate the scope of the problem and to assess its qualities. This work package is within the responsibility of the European Centre.
- Examples of good practice in caring for senior drug dependents in the partner countries will be identified by interviewing experts in the field (single interviews and focus group interviews) and by literature research in European countries
- The perspectives of the target group on preferred living and caring arrangements will be explored by qualitative and quantitative interviews.
- The results will be summarized in guidelines for communitybased and residential care services for senior drug dependents in Germany, Austria, Poland and in Scotland as well as in a guideline framework for European countries in general.
- The results will be published and disseminated via the project website (that is linked to partner websites as well as to all cooperating partners), workshops, conferences and journals.

National Stakeholders

In each country, national seminars will be organised by umbrella drug treatment associations with the involvement of responsible public authorities to describe the project outcomes and discuss concrete steps on how to proceed in the implementation of care for senior drug dependents.

Final Conference

The findings of the study will be presented at a European conference directed to researchers, representatives of health and social care associations, political decision-makers and experts in the field. This conference will raise awareness for present and future needs of ageing drug dependents and discuss practical aspects of the implementation of effective care for this population.

Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation (MA:IMI)

Expertise, Monitoring, and Evaluation Type of Activity

Ageing & Generations; Pensions & Social Security; Welfare Society; **Research Areas**

Health Economics & Indicators; Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion;

Long-term Care & Personal Social Services; Labour Market &

Social Policy

Ongoing Status

Preparatory and Conference Phase: 2001 - 2002 Duration

Follow-up and Monitoring: 2003 - 2008

Second Phase of the Work Programme: 2008 – 2012

European Centre

Cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe Involvement

(UN-ECE)

Andres Vikat (UN Economic Commission for Europe) **External Project Partner**

Eszter Zolyomi **Project Directors EC**

> Bernd Marin Asghar Zaidi

Jason Allman Project Team EC

> Silvia Fässler Michael Fuchs

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English **Working Language**

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Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations Financed / sponsored by

and Consumer Protection

Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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.

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

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

- 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.

Responsible Persons at the European Centre

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

- 9-12 September 2001, Burgos, Spain,
 Expert Seminar on "Economic Security and Sustainable Growth in an Ageing World", Report (Rapporteur: Prof. Marin)
- 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

Establishment

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 wellbeing 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

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 have finalized the editing and published the book based on the contributions prepared for the Madrid Workshop: "Mainstreaming Ageing. Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Policies". Besides revised or original contributions from international high-level experts, it included an updated list of Madrid indicators and illustrations for each of them.

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", coorganized 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, International Meeting on "The Situation of Ageing 2005 until 2006. 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

Second Phase of the Work Programme: 2008 - 2012

The European Centre has been mandated to undertake various follow-up activities of the so called "Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing" since 2002. This work was supported by the Austrian Government (through the Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). The work had been undertaken with a formal collaboration and the assistance of the UNECE, Geneva, and the newly defined Task Force.

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 helped to review the implementation of the Plan by the UNECE's Member States, by a monitoring process based on effective exchange of information, experiences and best practices. European Centre provided keynote speeches and discussions during several specialised sessions of the 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in León, Spain. This conference was attended

by ministers and high-level officials from 45 UNECE Member States and the European Commission, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Discussions included progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing adopted at the 2002 Ministerial Conference in Berlin. The Conference also adopted the Ministerial Declaration "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities".

The European Centre's project "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation" was specially staffed for this work programme, and in the course of the project many additional researchers, administrative and technical staff contributed to the work programme. While this 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, requiring a doubling of the basic endowment offered by the Republic of Austria to the European Centre.

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.

The MA:IMI project's initial phase has now ended. The second phase will undoubtedly be of historical importance and a most critical one, as the challenges facing ageing societies are further pronounced due to demographic advantages now ending in many UNECE countries. A last window of opportunity to implement at least the core measures to live-up to the goals, objectives and ten commitments formulated in 2002 will open between 2007 and 2011.

Thus, the European Centre has embarked on the 2nd phase of the work programme within the MA:IMI project. The premise for a continuation of the MA:IMI programme is that the 1st phase of the projects has resulted in very practical tools for national authorities and UNECE by collecting data on ageing specific indicators and providing substantive research on salient issues facing ageing societies in the UNECE region. The book "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Sustainable Progress" (edited by Bernd Marin and Asghar Zaidi) is just one 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 NGOs partners, media and the public at large".

The European Centre wishes to undertake the tasks under the 2nd phase of the MA:IMI project involving a continued collaboration with the UNECE Secretariat and with support from as many governments

as possible from the UNECE and EC Members States. Already, European Centre has commitments from many governments, far beyond existing supporting countries such as Spain, Germany and Austria, who made their continuous support conditional upon a broadening and "Europeanization" of support.

The work proposed in the 2nd phase will be undertaken during the next five years (2008-2012) and it will be staffed by additional full time research analysts, who will be fully devoted to the work of the MA:IMI project. The MA:IMI team will be headed by Eszter Zolyomi, and further supported by the advice and the coordinating work of the Executive Director (Bernd Marin) and Director Research (Asghar Zaidi).

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 work proposed for the 2nd phase is divided into several work packages:

- The work package I 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 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, collecting corresponding data of gender on all Mainstreaming Ageing indicators, as well as on long-term care indicators.

Furthermore, the Knowledge and Information Management and Support Unit (KIMSU) of the European Centre will also be involved in webpage development and generating newsletters alerts. The MA:

IMI team will help organise technical workshops to bring international experts together. Additionally, international conferences will be organised and hosted by the European Centre to generate and disseminate scientific work for the MA:IMI project. The newsletter alerts will be generated regularly and they will contain summaries of major pieces of ageing-related research as well as synopses of policy changes that affect older people of the present and future.

Date / Location of Meetings

2008 - 2012

- 24-30 August 2008, Portoroz, Slovenia, Special Session on Pension Issues at the 30th General Conference of the International Association of Research in Income and Wealth
- 23-24 October 2008, Dürnstein, Austria,
 High-Level Expert and Policy-Makers Conference on
 "Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health and Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe"
- Follow-up and Future Meetings for the Second Review and Appraisal Cycle 2008 – 2012 still to be determined

lainstreaming Ageing

Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health and Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe

Type of Activity High-Level Expert and Policy-Makers Conference

Research Areas Pensions & Social Security; Health Economics & Indicators;

Incomes, Poverty & Social Inclusion

Status Ongoing

Duration 2008

European Centre

Involvement Joint Responsibility

Partners / Co-Organizers AARP

Project Team AARP Edward Johns, Jessica Frank, Britta Berge

Project Director EC Bernd Marin

Project Team EC Jason Allman, Silvia Faessler, Michael Fuchs, Mercedes Gonzalez-

Quijano (Org), Annette Hexelschneider, Frédérique Hoffmann, Kai Leichsenring, Andrea Hovenier (Org), Manfred Huber, Orsolya Lelkes, Bernd Marin, Ricardo Rodrigues, Isilda Shima,

Pieter Vanhuysse, Asghar Zaidi, Eszter Zolyomi

Contact Email gonzalez-quijano@euro.centre.org

Working Language English

Date / Location of Meeting 22-25 October 2008, Dürnstein, Austria

Financed by AARP and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

Aims The European Centre organises this high-level expert and policy-

makers workshop, titled "Reinventing Retirement: Reshaping Health and Financial Security for the EU 27 and Eastern Europe". This event is sponsored by AARP's Office of International Affairs, and will take

place on 23-24 October in Dürnstein (Austria).

This project is a response to an AARP initiative to provide recent evidence on population ageing in "New" Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia, in comparison with North America and Western "Old" Europe, and its impact on East and West. The project serves as a starting event of the second review and appraisal cycle of "Monitoring RIS", the UN-European Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), in the context of the "Mainstreaming Ageing: Indicators to Monitor Implementation" / MA:IMI project.

The conference aims at:

- Facilitate a dialogue of Western with Central and Eastern
 European countries, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic,
 the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, BosniaHerzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania,
 Estonia, the United States, as well as with representatives from the
 World Bank, European Commission and OECD.
- Investigate the current situation of people aged 50+ and "unique" ageing patterns and draw lessons for policy-makers in Europe and the United States.
- Identify and evaluate current ageing trends in Central and Eastern European countries and their social and economic impact on future societies.
- Propose workable arrangements and policy approaches to improve the situation of people 50+ in Central and Eastern European countries.

The conference is the 4th in a series of AARP symposia examining how different countries confront and address retirement and the needs and talents of older people.

It is the first conference of the MA:IMI / II 2008 – 2012 Second Review and Appraisal Cycle.

Mainstreaming Agein

Achim Goerres: The Political Participation of Older People in Europe: The Greying of Our Democracies 8 October 2008

Markus Tepe: Traveling without Moving? Pension Regime Change in Ageing Welfare States
3 October 2008

Michael Förster: Increasing Employment among People with Disability: New Ways of Addressing Partial Work Capacity in OECD Countries
7 July 2008

Herwig Immervoll: Gender Inequalities and the Allocation of Market Work within Households
3 July 2008

Mona Sandbæk: The Implementation of Children's Rights; Challenges for Future Work. Pieter Vanhuysse: Are Mature Welfare States on the Path to the Politics of Gerontocracy? Evidence from 18 OECD Democracies, 1980-2002 8 May 2008

Andrew Clark: Happiness, Habits and High Rank: Comparisons in Economic and Social Life 25 January 2008

Pieter Vanhuysse: Divide and Pacify – Strategic Social Policies and Political Protests in Post-Communist Democracies 30 November 2007

Johanna Mierendorff: 'Western Childhood' and the Welfare State 23 May 2007

Herwig Immervoll: **Can Parents Afford to Work?** 20 April 2007

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

Tania Burchardt: Modelling the Capability to be Free of Time and Income Poverty
26 January 2007

Joshua M. Wiener: Quality Assurance Systems for Long-Term Care: An International Perspective
27 June 2006

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

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opean Centre Publications

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.

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.

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.

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 Germanspeaking 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.

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Iropean Centre Publications

Well-being of Older People in Ageing Societies

Asghar Zaidi

Ashgate, September 2008

Great strides towards rising human longevity in recent times pose new challenges for policy-makers worldwide. Facing unprecedented rises in public social expenditures and needing to mitigate the moral hazard of poverty in old age, policy-makers require a holistic understanding of determinants of personal resources of older people. To this end, this book provides new insights by reporting research in three themes.

- In Theme I, Multidimensional well-being of older people, it is demonstrated that with ageing, factors such as ill health and disability become ever more important in determining the personal well-being of older people, and these factors have financial implications not captured by an analysis of income status alone.
- In Theme II, Income experience in old age, the dynamics of older people's income have been
 analysed, using descriptive statistics as well as econometric models. This approach broadens
 the conventional snapshot-type analyses and provides insights about income processes
 underlying the ageing experience.
- In Theme III, Comparative perspective on income dynamics, the work reported in the book
 evaluates how the relative importance of individual attributes and lifecourse 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.

The results demonstrate that a careful scrutiny of existing state benefits designed to compensate for the extra "costs of disability" is essential, since their levels fall short of the extra cost estimates obtained in this book. Moreover, these results present a strong case for developing robust disability-adjusted poverty and inequality statistics to present alongside official figures on pensioners' incomes.

Perhaps the most important policy implication arising from this book is the extent to which people are exposed to income mobility risks in their retirement. While individuals and governments already safeguard against such hazards, this empirical research shows that these measures will need to be strengthened in light of the increasingly longer time spent in the post-retirement phase of life and in view of greater reliance by retirees on diverse and potentially volatile sources of income. Moreover, the evidence of high inequality amongst pensioners needs to be considered alongside the fact that older people observed considerable income mobility and that income mobility is less frequent for those observed in low incomes.

The empirical work reported also highlights the importance of cross-national research on income dynamics during retirement. The results provide important pointers towards how the different social security systems affect the income risks associated with various attributes and lifecourse transitions experienced by older people. A move towards the Dutch retirement income system in which entitlements to the basic state pension are not linked to the labour market association and means-testing is avoided will improve the relative status of the elderly and will reduce financial insecurity allied with income mobility during retirement.

Asghar Zaidi is a Senior Economist at the Social Policy Division, OECD, Paris and he is also Director Research at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna.

New Frontiers in Microsimulation Modelling

Asghar Zaidi / Ann Harding / Paul Williamson (Eds.)

Ashgate, May 2009

During the past 15 years microsimulation models have become firmly established as vital tools for analysis of the distributional impact of changes in government programmes. Across Europe, the US, Canada and Australia, microsimulation models are used extensively to assess who are the winners and losers from proposed policy reforms. Encouraged by the ever-increasing complexity of social and economic programmes, microsimulation models have become an essential part of the policy reform process, allowing identification of the magnitude of gains and losses from policy changes in such areas as taxation, social security, pensions and social services.

While the analysis of the distributional impact of tax and cash transfer changes in developed countries has for some decades been the 'bread and butter' of microsimulation modelling, microsimulation is now expanding into new frontiers. These include geographic expansion (into African countries and the countries of the former Soviet Union); subject area expansion (embracing such new topics as small area analysis, health care and child care); and breakthroughs in the technology associated with microsimulation (such as in behavioural and labour supply modelling).

This volume contains selected papers from the 1st General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association, held in Vienna in August 2007. As well as providing a useful introduction to the state of microsimulation internationally today, it contains a wide range of chapters illustrating the new applications and approaches being used across the world.

This book will be of relevance to government policy makers, social policy planners, economists and those concerned with predicting the impact of public policy change. For those who live in countries that have already developed a sophisticated microsimulation modelling infrastructure, the volume will provide a highly relevant guide to the path-breaking directions being taken at the frontiers of this discipline. For researchers and policy makers living in countries that have not yet developed microsimulation models, the volume will provide insights into the questions that can be addressed using these types of models.

In short.

- This book provides an introduction to microsimulation models, which are today one of the
 essential tools for social policy analysts and contribute to improved social policy by illuminating the winners and losers from proposed policy changes;
- This book provides an insight into the new frontiers of microsimulation modelling, including how to link microsimulation models to macroeconomic models
- Governments across the world rely on microsimulation models to assess the distributional consequences of policy, today and into the future, and this book provides examples of how decision makers can use these tools to address vital policy questions;
- This book provides practical illustrations of the big-picture issues that microsimulation modelling is now addressing, including the sustainability of our pensions systems and how the welfare state impacts upon labour supply and work incentives; and
- This book illustrates the expansion of microsimulation models into new areas, including the fast-growing field of small area microsimulation, providing estimates at the local or neighbourhood level

Asghar Zaidi is a Senior Economist at the Social Policy Division, OECD, Paris and he is also Director Research at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna. Ann Harding is Professor of Applied Economics and Social Policy / Director NATSEM, at the University of Canberra, Australia. Paul Williamson works at the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, UK.

uropean Centre Publications

Illicit Drug Consumption. A Survey of Six European Cities

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl / Jacek Moskalewicz / Betsy Thom (Eds.)

Ashgate, forthcoming 2009

This book reports on the findings of an empirical study on the situation of drug users, their consumption patterns and drug spending for the five most common illegal drugs (heroin, cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy and cannabis). This research is based on a newly created detailed survey instrument that was developed for the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A state-of-the art review from additional sources complements this comparison of the drug situation in six European cities, which represent a wide range of drug problems and public policies. The cities studied are from West to East: London, Amsterdam, Turin, Prague, Vienna and Warsaw

Per capita consumption and prices were assessed by face-to-face interviews with 100 frequent consumers of heroin, cocaine and amphetamines per city (so-called "marginalized drug users") and 100 occasional consumers of cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines and cocaine (so-called "socially integrated drug users"), 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 were compiled, beside epidemiological and other scientific studies based on expert interviews with up to 20 drug policy actors. The final report includes the six "thick city reports" and five comparative chapters on the following topics: (1) social background of the two groups of drug consumers, (2) consumption patterns of socially integrated drug users, (3) consumption patterns of marginalized drug users, (4) consumption patterns of substituted and non-substituted drug consumers, (5) quantities, costs and sources of the drugs consumed.

The most salient features of this work are the following:

- · Study on the per capita consumption of selected illicit drugs
- · Focus on drug combinations
- Comparison of consumption patterns of substituted and non-substituted drug users
- Actual European multi-city-study
- · Combination of quantitative and qualitative data

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl is a Senior Social Scientist and Lead Researcher in the area of "Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction" at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria. / Jacek Moskalewicz is Head of the "Alcohol and Drug Research Group" at the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland. Betsy Thom is Professor at the Institute of Social and Health Research, School of Health and Social Sciences, Middlesex University, Enfield, UK.

Activity, Incomes and Social Welfare

A Comparison Across Four New EU Member States

Manuela Sofia Stanculescu / Tine Stanovnik (Eds.)

Ashgate, forthcoming 2009

The book's main aim is to describe and quantify the large socioeconomic changes that have occurred in four new member states of the EU (Slovenia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria) since the early 1990s. Within the broad frame of socioeconomic change, a number of topics were explored in greater detail: changes in activity, occupational status and educational attainment, household income sources and income inequality, and risk of income poverty.

The analysis was based on household budget surveys, and complemented with other statistical sources, so that a coherent analysis and interpretation is offered. For example, the impact of large changes in social policy, such as changes in entitlements and amounts disbursed for child benefits and unemployment benefits is assessed at the household level. Similarly, changes in income inequality are analysed by income sources, documenting the important role of social benefits in decreasing overall income inequality. Risk of income poverty is analysed with particular emphasis on potentially vulnerable population sub-groups.

The value of this research lies not only in its "blend" of aggregate statistical data (published by national statistical offices) and micro data (i.e. data from household budget surveys), but also in its methodological coherency. The country chapters are based on common methodological guidelines, with only very minor deviations; the methodological guidelines and technical issues (related to survey data) are thoroughly explained in the technical annex.

The book:

- Describes the social context of four new EU member states.
- Analyses household well-being by looking simultaneously at the activity and social policy side.
- Uses the same methodology in the four countries, which enables meaningful comparisons.
- Is written by leading country experts, with thorough knowledge of the country context of socioeconomic change.
- Provides a coherent analysis of the important economic and social changes which occurred
 in the 1990s, and their impact at the household level.

Manuela Sofia Stanculescu is Professor at the University of Bucharest, Romania. Tine Stanovnik is Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Iropean Centre Publications

Rescaling Social Policies towards Multilevel Governance in Europe

How Policies Change: Social Assistance, Activation and Care for Older People

Yuri Kazepov (Ed.)

Ashgate, forthcoming 2009

"Rescaling social policies towards multilevel governance in Europe" is an international research project that aims at disentangling the complex relations between changes taking place in the territorial organisation of social policies and the increasing number of actors involved in policy design, management and delivery.

The proposed book presents results of this 3-year project focusing on the relations between the vertical rescaling and the horizontal governance arrangements emerging from change processes since the 1990s. It provides the analytical tools to understand these changes by outlining the different scenarios in Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Empirical results of view are: a) social assistance; b) activation policies on the labour market; c) care for older people. The countries considered in the book are: Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The book is not organised around national chapters dealing with these policies from the national point of view, but transversally taking into consideration how within each policy area the analytical dimensions of the processes at stake are addressed in the different countries comparatively. It provides:

- A unique general overview on the implicit and explicit changes taking place in the vertical and horizontal dimensions of social policies in 8 European countries.
- Empirical evidence for the comparison of key changes in 3 social policy areas in 8 European countries, modelling trends and possible outcomes.
- Better understanding of the meaning of rescaling and multilevel governance from the point of view of social policies in the different countries and their implications.
- Pros and cons of decentralization processes in Europe, considering its potential impact framed by existing differences and timing.
- Lessons to learn, problems and solutions to be identified concerning the processes of territorial reorganization of social policies and regulation and coordination issues of a multitude of actors.

Yuri Kazepov is Professor of Comparative Social Policies at the University of Urbino (Italy), Faculty of Sociology, Institute of Sociology.

An Enlarged Role for Tax Benefit Models

Assessing Policies in the Enlarged European Union

Orsolya Leikes / Holly Sutherland (Eds.)

Ashgate, forthcoming 2009

This book is based on the best papers of the final conference of a European Commission financed project called Improving the Capacity and Usability of EUROMOD (I-CUE), and will be one of the first systematic collection of papers based on the European tax-benefit microsimulation model, and thus a synthesis of a scientific work of researchers over a dozen countries for over a decade.

The first chapter by Sir Anthony Atkinson will set a context for EUROMOD in EU policy making and will provide an insightful assessment of the policy processes. Prof Holly Sutherland's contribution will describe the past, present and future of EUROMOD. The book will provide novel analysis on the impact of tax and benefit systems on individuals' incomes and work incentives. Not only actual policies will be assessed, but hypothetical scenarios as well, for example the introduction of flat taxes. The special feature of most papers is that they are based on a comparative tax-benefit microsimulation model, EUROMOD, thus allowing a systematic and consistent comparison of countries. In addition to the 15 "old" member states of the European Union, the model has been recently enlarged to Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, thus allowing a wider range of comparisons. The second part of the papers will present analysis based on national tax-benefit models, presenting a selection of exemplary and innovative studies, demonstrating the power of the microsimulation method for policy analysis.

The central premise of the book is that more evidence is needed for an optimal policy decision, and provides a powerful presentation on how complex information on the interaction of specific tax and cash benefit policy instruments can be presented in a concise and comprehensible way.

In short:

- Pitfalls and future directions of decision-making at the European Union level
- · Evidence-based policy making at a European and national level
- Comparable analysis of tax systems and social benefits in Europe, including four Eastern European Countries
- · Combination of national representative micro data and actual tax/benefit rules of countries
- Assessing actual and hypothetical policy scenarios

Orsolya Lelkes is Researcher at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna. Holly Sutherland is Professor at ISER, University of Essex, UK.

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ropean Centre Publications

Women's Work and Pensions: What is Good, What is Best?

Designing Gender-sensitive Arrangements

Bernd Marin / Eszter Zolyomi (Eds.)

Ashgate, forthcoming 2009

The book aims to explore the difficulties women face during their working life and in retirement (i.e. disrupted working history due to caring responsibilities, labour market segregation, gender pay gap, old-age poverty) and the gender implications of recent social and pension policies.

It attempts to provide some answers on how to design or adapt pension systems so as to better accommodate women's needs and achieve "fair" outcomes for all women. The book contains valuable contributions from international pension and social policy experts, and there is also a section on statistical information of a number of different indicators focusing on gender differences.

- I. How do childcare and family credits affect women's retirement benefits and employment situation?
- 2. How do different pension systems affect women's employment opportunities, and their motivation to enter employment?
- 3. How to design more women-friendly pension systems?
- 4. Why are women more at risk(s) when retiring?

Bernd Marin is Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna. Eszter Zolyomi is Researcher at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, and Coordinator of the MA:IMI / II project.

Book Series "Public Policy and Social Welfare", Vols. I-10

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Wiener Drogenpolitik 1970 bis 2005. Außen- und Innenansichten

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Arno Pilgram, Christine Reidl

2008

Die Studie untersucht die Entwicklung der regionalen Drogenpolitik von Wien im Zeitraum von 1970 bis 2005. Die Untersuchung setzt zu der Zeit ein, als man auch in Österreich begann, auf die grundlegenden Veränderungen des Drogenkonsums zu reagieren, die in industrialisierten Ländern in den 1960er Jahren stattgefunden hatten: Die DrogenkonsumentInnen waren jünger, gebildeter und gesellschaftskritischer geworden und Cannabis war zur meistgebrauchten illegalen Substanz avanciert. Wie in anderen Ländern, so wurde auch in Österreich das strafrechtlich- "repressive" drogenpolitische Instrumentarium durch "integrative" Maßnahmen aus den Bereichen Gesundheit, Sozialhilfe und Bildung ergänzt, die auf regionaler Ebene ausgebaut wurden.

Die Studie betrachtet die Entwicklung der Wiener Drogenpolitik über einen Zeitraum von rund 35 Jahren aus verschiedenen Blickwinkeln: Aus einer wissenschaftlichen Beobachterperspektive und aus der subjektiven Perspektive zweier Gruppen von Betroffenen. Die "Innenansichten" sind auch als – qualitative – Form der Evaluation der drogenpolitischen Aktivitäten der Gemeinde zu lesen.

Für die "Außenansicht" wurde die Ausdifferenzierung des kommunalen drogenpolitischen Apparates auf der Grundlage von Berichten und Statistiken untersucht. Auf derselben Grundlage wurde der nationale Rahmen erkundet, insbesondere die Drogengesetzgebung und die Aktivitäten der Drogenexekutive, beide zentrale Bereiche der nationalen Drogenpolitik, die in die lokale hineinwirken und sie begrenzen.

Bei den Betroffenen handelt es sich zum einen um Professionelle, die in der Beobachtungsperiode mit der Umsetzung von regionaler und nationaler Drogenpolitik in Wien befasst waren – um drogenpolitische "Akteurlnnen" –, zum anderen um Drogenkonsumentlnnen und Angehörige von Drogenkonsumentlnnen – um drogenpolitische "Adressatlnnen". Insgesamt wurden über 90 Betroffene interviewt und die Interviews inhaltsanalytisch ausgewertet.

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Senior Social Scientist am Europäischen Zentrum für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung, Programme Area "Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction", davor Senior Researcher am Ludwig Boltzmann-Institut für Suchtforschung, Wien

Arno Pilgram, Senior Researcher am Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie, Wien, Forschungsbereiche Rechtspolitik und Gesetzesimplementationen, soziale Interventionen in der Kriminaljustiz

Christine Reidl, Researcher am Europäischen Zentrum für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung, vorher Researcher am Ludwig Boltzmann-Institut für Suchtforschung und am Institut für Rechts- und Kriminalsoziologie, Wien

Männliche Jugendliche: Sexualität und Aufklärung

Gesundheitsförderung und Prävention im Bereich sexueller und reproduktiver Gesundheit für Burschen unterschiedlicher sozialer und kultureller Herkunft

Gabriele Schmied, Christine Reidl

2008

In der Adoleszenz formt sich die sexuelle Identität und es finden wichtige Weichenstellungen für Einstellungen und Werte bezüglich Sexualität und Partnerschaft statt. Außerschulische sexualpädagogische Aufklärungsangebote können einen wertvollen Beitrag leisten, um junge Menschen in dieser Lebensphase zu unterstützen.

In den letzten Jahren hat sich die Erkenntnis durchgesetzt, dass eine gendersensible Sexualpädagogik mit spezifischen Strategien für beide Geschlechter sinnvoll ist. Während weibliche Jugendliche bereits gut durch Informationskampagnen, -materialien und Beratungsangebote angesprochen werden können, sind männliche Jugendliche schwerer zu erreichen. Sie suchen seltener Beratungsstellen auf und sind an schriftlichen Informationsmaterialien weniger interessiert als Mädchen. Diese Studie zeigt auf, von welchen Aufklärungsangeboten vor allem männliche Jugendliche profitieren und wie Sexualpädagogik in der außerschulischen Jugendarbeit optimal auf die Bedürfnisse dieser Zielgruppe zugeschnitten werden kann.

Die Studie wurde im Zeitraum 2006/07 durchgeführt. Einen Überblick zur aktuellen sexualpädagogischen Praxis der Jugend- bzw. Burschenarbeit bieten eine Literaturstudie und ExpertInnenbefragungen in den Bundesländern Wien, Steiermark und Tirol. Der Bericht analysiert ferner eine Auswahl an nationalen und internationalen Beispielen "guter Praxis" zum Thema Sexualaufklärung und Prävention im Bereich der sexuellen und reproduktiven Gesundheit.

Die Sichtweise der Burschen wurde durch Interviews mit heterosexuellen Jugendlichen (49 Interviews) verschiedenen Alters und mit unterschiedlichen sozialen und kulturellen Hintergründen erhoben. Etwa die Hälfte der Befragten hat einen Migrationshintergrund. Ergänzend wurden drei Fokusgruppen mit insgesamt 19 Mädchen durchgeführt. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, welche Einstellungen zu Geschlechterrollen, Sexualität und Partnerschaft die jungen Menschen haben, welche Informationsquellen sie nutzen und wie sie diese bewerten. Soziale bzw. Bildungsschichten und kulturelle Prägungen spielen dabei eine wesentliche Rolle.

Auf der Grundlage dieser Ergebnisse wurden Richtlinien ausgearbeitet, die konkrete Anhaltspunkte für die sexualpädagogische Burschenarbeit liefern. Es werden dabei gesellschaftlich-institutionelle Rahmenbedingungen ebenso thematisiert wie methodisch-konzeptionelle Umsetzungsanforderungen. Um männliche Jugendliche bei der Entwicklung einer verantwortungsvollen und partnerschaftlichen Sexualität zu unterstützen, sie vor sexuell übertragbaren Krankheiten und ungewollter Vaterschaft zu schützen bzw. sie mit diesbezüglichen außerschulischen Angeboten überhaupt zu erreichen, bedarf es Initiativen auf vielen Ebenen. Die Investition in die Aus- und Weiterbildung von haupt- und ehrenamtlichen JugendarbeiterInnen ist hier ebenso wichtig wie die Entwicklung von Aufklärungsangeboten, die auf Multikulturalität und den Umgang mit daraus resultierenden widersprüchlichen Normen eingehen.

Gabriele Schmied und Christine Reidl sind Researcher im Bereich "Health and Care" am Europäischen Zentrum für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung, Wien.

Jugendliche Alkoholszenen. Konsumkontexte, Trinkmotive, Prävention

Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Alexander Bernardis, Kurt Fellöcker, Judith Haberhauer-Stidl, Gabriele Schmied, Heinz Wilfing

2008

Der Alkoholkonsum von Jugendlichen wird in der Öffentlichkeit seit geraumer Zeit heftig und kontrovers diskutiert. Dabei wird einerseits von der Annahme ausgegangen, dass die Trinkgewohnheiten junger Menschen exzessiver geworden sind, andererseits werden die veränderten Getränkepräferenzen und Konsumkontexte von Jugendlichen angesprochen. Anhand epidemiologischer Ergebnisse kann ein einheitlicher Anstieg jugendlichen Rauschtrinkens in europäischen Ländern allerdings nicht nachgewiesen werden, doch finden sich zahlreiche Hinweise, dass junge Männer und Frauen zunehmend nicht traditionelle Getränke an öffentlichen Orten konsumieren.

Die veränderten Trinkgewohnheiten junger Menschen werden in der vorliegenden Studie mit qualitativen Methoden in einem großstädtischen Raum – in Wien – und im kleinstädtischen und ländlichen Bereich – in Niederösterreich – untersucht. Im Zentrum der Untersuchung steht der gemeinsame Alkoholkonsum von Jugendlichen, der Konsum in Gruppen und Gruppierungen, die hier als "jugendliche Alkoholszenen" bezeichnet werden. Die Studie konzentriert sich auf das Trinken in "öffentlichen" Kontexten, wie in "halböffentlichen" (also etwa in Lokalen, wie auch bei Veranstaltungen), doch wird auch auf den Alkoholkonsum in privaten Kontexten eingegangen.

Um einen ersten Überblick zu gewinnen, wurden zuerst Erwachsene, die beruflich mit (trinkenden) Jugendlichen zu tun haben, befragt – Sozialarbeiterlnnen, Angehörige der Sicherheitsexekutive, Lokal- und Geschäftsbesitzerlnnen. In einem zweiten Erhebungsschritt wurden ausgewählte jugendliche Alkoholszenen beobachtet, im dritten und vierten Teil der Studie kamen die Jugendlichen in Gruppen- und Einzelgesprächen selbst zu Wort. Der größte Teil der Feldarbeit wurde von Studenten und Studentinnen der Sozialarbeit in Wien und St. Pölten durchgeführt.

Auf der Grundlage der vielfältigen Ergebnisse der Feldarbeit wurde eine Typologie jugendlicher Alkoholszenen entwickelt. Unauffällige Szenen wurden mit auffälligen verglichen und die Charakteristika der letzteren herausgearbeitet. Die Ergebnisse zeigen deutlich, dass sich Konsumkontexte und Trinkmotive nach sozialer Schicht und nach Geschlecht unterscheiden. Auf die Folgen des Konsums – wie schwere Rauschzustände und aggressive Handlungen – wird ebenso eingegangen wie auf den (zusätzlichen) Gebrauch illegaler Substanzen.

Nach der Sichtung der Präventionsprojekte, die in den letzten Jahren durchgeführt wurden, wurden Vorschläge für die Prävention entwickelt. So wäre es außerordentlich wichtig, die Interventionen den Zielgruppen und den mit ihnen verbundenen sozialen Milieus noch weitergehend anzupassen. Des weiteren wäre auf die Nachhaltigkeit der präventiven Maßnahmen zu achten, nicht zuletzt durch die bessere Koordination der einzelnen Initiativen und vor allem durch die Formulierung einheitlicher und nachvollziehbarer alkoholpräventiver Ziele.

Alexander Bernardis, Geschäftsführender Obmann – Verein Jugend und Lebenswelt, Lehrbeauftragter der FH St. Pölten. Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl, Senior Social Scientist am Europäischen Zentrum für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung, Programme Area "Alcohol, Drugs, Addiction". Kurt Fellöcker, Professor an der FH St. Pölten. Judith Haberhauer-Stidl, Dozentin an der FH Campus Wien. Gabriele Schmied, Researcher am Europäischen Zentrums für Wohlfahrtspolitik und Sozialforschung, Bereich "Health and Care". Heinz Wilfing, Professor an der FH Campus Wien.

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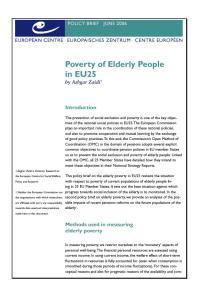
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