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**Pension Rights Adjustment in Case of Divorce**

...The Structural Reform and its Effects on the Statutory Pension Scheme

Authors: Dr. Axel Reimann / Thomas Wiechmann

Location: Berlin

Thirty-two years after its implementation in 1977, the pension rights adjustment in case of divorce has been restructured ("Gesetz zur Strukturreform des Versorgungsausgleichs – VAStrRefG"). The splitting of pension entitlements between husband and wife in equal shares (so called "Halbteilungsgrundsatz") remains to be the main goal. However, the processing changes fundamentally: The former law lead to a netting of all pension entitlements and resulted, in principle, in a onetime settlement carried out by the statutory pension scheme. The new law aims at the splitting of the respective entitlements within each particular pension scheme. Furthermore, the legal provisions concerning the pension rights adjustment in case of dicorce have been centralized in one law.

The article outlines the central aspects of the new law.

**Employment Opportunities for Elderly Employees and Risks in the Phase of Transition to Retirement**

...Trends and Perspectives

Authors: Professor Dr. Gerhard Bäcker / Dr. Martin Brussig / Andreas Jansen / Professor Dr. Matthias Knuth / Jürgen Nordhause-Janz

Locations: Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen

A later withdrawal from employment and a deferred commencement of retirement are important variables in the effort to maintain the financial stability and capacity of the pension system. This applies especially to the statutory pension scheme with its pay-as-you-go system (i.e. a system, in which the currently paid contributions are used to settle prevailing

pension claims). However, pension systems based on funding principle cannot escape demographic problems neither.

The conditions and, particularly, the reciprocal effects between the different influencing factors permitting and promoting an extended phase of gainful employment and a deferred commencement of retirement, are still not ascertained.

The authors describe the current development regarding the transition into retirement and discuss the significant factors influencing the employment of elderly persons, such as institutional framework, options, goals of the (prospective) employees, and requirements of the employers. The article presents selected results of the research project on employment opportunities for elderly persons („Beschäftigungsmöglichkeiten für ältere Arbeitnehmer/innen“) that has been supported by the Research Network of the Statutory Pension Scheme („Forschungsnetzwerk Alters-sicherung - FNA“). They conclude that unemployment and impairment of health are the main risks in the phase of transition into retirement. The authors argue for the implementation of a new social welfare benefit for persons who are partially disabled and restricted in terms of employability („Grundsicherung für teilweise erwerbsgeminderte und bedingt beschäftigungsfähige Personen“), stating that employment expectations for those persons are often unrealistic and a premature shift into a disability pension is not desirable.

## **26 Years of the Artists' Social Welfare Fund (“Künstlersozialkasse”)**

...Social Insurance for Self-Employed Artists and Publicists

Author: Dr. Carroll Haak

Location: Berlin

In 2008, the Artists' Social Welfare Fund celebrates its 25th anniversary. It is, today, the central institution guaranteeing the social insurance of self-employed artists and publicists in Germany. Since January 1, 1983, due to the law regarding the Artists' Social Welfare Fund („Künstlersozialversicherungsgesetz“), selfemployed artists and publicists have been included into the German statutory health and pension insurance. Since January 1995, they are covered by the statutory care insurance as well.

The article describes the implementation of the law regarding the Artists' Social Welfare Fund, outlines the mode of operation, and presents some facts regarding the old age income of artists and publicists covered by the fund.

## **Five Years of Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme**

...("Forschungsdatenzentrum der Rentenversicherung - FDZ-RV"): Data Supply and Demand Between 2004 and 2008

Authors: Dr. Ralf K. Himmelreicher / Veronika Philipps

Locations: Berlin, Göttingen

The article documents the utilization of the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme within its first five years of existence. Since the implementation of the Data Research Center in 2004, the amount of data has been expanded continuously, under strict

compliance with data protection and data security. Today, it comprehends cross-sectional data of the pension- and insured statistics. In the near future, it will be extended to rehabilitation data. In addition, the development and provision of longitudinal data enables research not only in the field of old age provision, but also in respect of continuative aspects, and allows analyses of complete employment biographies. Thus, the scientific benefit has increased considerably.

The demand for data provided by the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme increases continuously. More and more scientists from different sectors, working at universities and research institutes, are interested in the microdata that is made available by the Data Research Center. The increasing demand is reflected in the increasing number of publications in the mentioned period. Through the revealing of new subject areas and the advancement of userfriendly supply procedures, the authors anticipate an unwaning interest in the data.

## **The Possibilities of Regional Interpretations on the Basis of the Data Recorded by the Statutory Pension Scheme**

Author: Birgit Steppich

Location: Würzburg

In the last years, regional data became more important for the sociopolitical, and especially for the pensionpolitical discussion. To satisfy the increasing demand for qualified regional information, the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme ("Forschungsdatenzentrum der Rentenversicherung - FDZ-RV") developed concepts for the circulation of regional data, especially in the fields insurance and pension. The new concepts were part of the second period of promotion of the data research center and financially supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research ("Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung – BMBF"). Until now, the profundity of the regional basic files provided by the data research center is limited to the Federal States and to an east-west-partition. The provision of data on a more detailed geographical level requires special measures of depersonalization, tailored to the particular needs of a supply of regional data.

The author describes the current possibilities to analyze the data collected by the statutory pension scheme, which is available for internal and socioscientific research. The article concludes with some exemplary analyses of regional data.

## **The Common Conceptual Framework Regarding the Ambulant Medical Rehabilitation of Addicts**

...("Gemeinsames Rahmenkonzept zur ambulanten medizinischen Rehabilitation Abhängigkeitskranker"), as Agreed Upon by the Statutory Pension Scheme and the Statutory Health Insurance on December 3, 2008

Author: Project Group „Ambulant Rehabilitation Addiction“ (“Projektuntergruppe Ambulante Rehabilitation Sucht”)

Location: Berlin

The common conceptual framework regarding the ambulant medical rehabilitation of addicts is based on the agreement on addiction between the statutory health insurance and the statutory pension scheme of May 4, 2001. It describes the aims, prerequisites, target groups, and requirements for ambulant rehabilitation centers for addicts. As compared to the agreement on addiction, the conceptual framework includes detailed arrangements regarding rehabilitation matters, diagnostics, duration and frequency, personnel, facilities, technical equipment, networking, and quality assurance.

The common conceptual framework regarding the ambulant medical rehabilitation of addicts was stipulated on the basis of a draft contract presented by the pension insurance institutions. The charity institutions and the specialists' associations for matters of addiction contributed expert opinions. The conceptual framework came into force on December 3, 2008.