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**On the Occasion of the Prize Awarded by the Research Network of
the Statutory Pension Scheme**

Author: Annelie Buntenbach

Location: Berlin

On the Occasion of the Prize Awarded by the Research Network of the Statutory Pension Scheme
("Forschungsnetzwerk Alterssicherung, FNA") to Dr. Christina Werner on December 9, 2010 in Berlin

**Educational Guidelines and Advisory Service for Consumers
Regarding Old-Age Provision in the Context of the Pension System,
Public Subsidies, and Regulation of Financial Products**

Author: Dr. Christine Werner

Location: London

The reduction of the benefits granted by the statutory pension scheme causes a need for a supplementary private and occupational pension provision. At the same time, the palette of state-subsidised options broadens, and, consequently, the decision becomes more complex. Based on the findings of "Behavioral Finance" and of „New Institutional Economics" the author examines the potential of education guidelines and advisory service as instruments of customer assistance in Germany and Great Britain. The author identifies and analyzes the organization, the scale, and the relevant influencing factors of education and advisory service.

**The Law Regarding the Conditions for Making Pensions Payable
from an Employment in a Ghetto during the Second World War**

Authors: Dr. Wolfgang Binne, Christoph Schnell

Location: Berlin

In 2009 the Federal Social Court (“Bundessozialgericht”) decided on central legal questions concerning the law regarding the conditions for making pensions payable from an employment in a ghetto, referring to a Jewish quarter or urban area during the second world war (“Gesetz zur Zahlbarmachung von Renten aus Beschäftigungen in einem Ghetto – ZRBG”) – to some extent in renunciation of a former case law. The authors describe the former case law and its problematic issues, and analyze the pathbreaking rulings of 2009 and their implementation by the pension authorities.

Considerations regarding the Evaluation of the Information Campaign on Old-Age Provision (“Altersvorsorge macht Schule”)

Authors: Professor Dr. Andreas Oehler, Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Teacher of Commercial Studies Daniela Wilhelm-Oehler

Location: Bamberg

The changes in the pension systems and the ageing of the population result in an increasing need for a competent and comprehensive assistance in matters of finance and pension provision. Many empirical investigations indicate that investment advisors are not willing or able to fulfill the requirements. In addition, research in the field of behavioral finance phenomena revealed that decision makers who feel overextended and / or incompetent, tend to avoid decisions and register information superficially and restrictedly.

These factors are evidence of the importance of independent, neutral, and state-subsidised initiatives for a promotion of financial literacy, especially in the field of old-age provision. The realization of this fact is taking hold on a national and on an international level. A significant number of campaigns have been started, “Altersvorsorge macht Schule” being the broadest transinstitutional information campaign in Germany in the field of old-age provision.

The following evaluation of the data collected in 2007 and 2008 from the participants in the courses “Altersvorsorge macht Schule” in a primary survey and a follow-up survey concentrates on the effects of the information campaign on individual behaviour. The first survey (Frommert 2008) shall be complemented and further questions will be addressed. The here present study considers only the data collected from persons who participated in the primary survey and in the follow-up survey.

As regard to the question to which extent and why supplementary old-age provision exists, it can be noted that many younger persons, women, and persons with a low income are inadequately insured. These groups deserve closer attention in a further information campaign.

A further analysis based on the combination of the information given by the participants regarding the benefit of the courses “Altersvorsorge macht Schule”, the courseware, and the comprehensibility of the content with socio-economic and socio-demographic characteristics reveals that the courses “Altersvorsorge macht Schule” do not attract the focus groups (women, younger persons, and lower income-groups) sufficiently. The follow-up survey conducted after three months serves to gain information about potential measures taken by the participants in the field of old-age provision, however, the time-frame in which measures are taken can be influenced by varying uncontrollable factors. Under this approach, it must be taken into account that, to a certain extent, information would have been gathered and contracts would have been concluded irrespective of the participation in the course “Altersvorsorge macht Schule”.

The same follow-up survey revealed that less than half of the respondents took a step forward towards supplementary old-age provision. However, due to the uncontrolled situation between the end of the course and the follow-up survey, the benefit of the course cannot be assessed reliably. A more differentiated analysis reveals further essential aspects. If the campaign should be credited with a (positive) effect, a level of response is noticeable in the focus group “women” and in the lower income-groups, but not among younger persons.

Areas of Research concerning Old-Age Poverty

Authors: Dr. Jürgen Faik, Dr. Tim Köhler-Rama

Location: Berlin

The article refers to the problem of old-age poverty. Currently, old-age poverty does not play a significant role in Germany, but the problem could gain importance in the medium term. The authors suggest to acknowledge the influencing factors for the mentioned phenomenon in due time in order to provide a basis for conclusions that are thorough and applicable in the future. The commendable cooperation of statutory pension scheme and scientific research in the field of old-age insurance, as exercised in the research net-work of the statutory pension scheme ("Forschungsnetzwerk Alterssicherung – FNA"), lends itself to such studies.

Old-Age Poverty in Germany – Present Data

Authors: Ulrich Bieber, Dr. Michael Stegmann

Locations: Rheinbach, Würzburg

Old-age poverty has been, for quite some time, in the focus of a controversial pensionpolitical debate. There is a risk that old-age poverty will gain in importance in the future. This evokes the question how such a development can be prevented. There seems to be a consensus on the fact that, currently, old-age poverty is not a priorityranking problem in Germany. However, the financial situation of elderly persons is anything but homogeneous. The article outlines the different aspects covered by the term "old-age poverty" and the statistic data sources that can be used to describe the current situation.

The term "poverty" is complex and eludes a universal definition. In the broad public debate, the view prevails that, in Germany, poverty is synonymous with the receipt of the social welfare or with relatively low income. Yet, some further social indicators can be taken into consideration to approximate the phenomenon. These indicators arise from surveys, just as the data regarding the distribution of income, whereas the statistical data regarding basic income support ("Grundsicherung") result from administrative statistics.

The recent strategic plan of the European Union "Europe 2020" defines three criteria for poverty: a comparatively low income, a low earning intensity of the household, and the inability to afford those consumption goods and activities that are typical in a society at a given point in time, irrespective of people's preferences with respect to these items. However, in senior citizens' households, earning intensity plays a secondary role. The technical term for the inability to afford certain consumption goods and activities is "material deprivation" ("materielle Deprivation"). The term is wellknown in the scientific discussion. Furthermore, the seniors' own perception of their prosperity position can be taken into account (so-called subjective indicators).

The authors illustrate and evaluate the relevant data regarding the current dimension of old-age poverty in Germany on the basis of different available data sources. They come to the conclusion that the financial situation of seniors is better than the financial situation of younger persons. The same applies, if the data is restricted to recipients of a statutory pension aged 65 years and older.

Quo vadis, Riester-Pension? – Current State of Research, Critical Assessment of the Results, and Areas Requiring Further Research

Author: Christian Rieckhoff

Location: Berlin

The so-called Riester-Pension (optional and taxsubsidised pension scheme to compensate for cuts in state pension, named after the former Federal Minister for Labor and Social Affairs, Walter Riester)

has evolved into one of the most important instrument of supplementary pension provision in Germany. Therefore, the analysis of different aspects of the Riester-Pension in a controversial academic discourse is coherent and essential for its further development.

The authors present and discuss the results and conclusions of selected scientific publications regarding the Riester-Pension. Finally, they define areas requiring further research.

The Capital Accrued in Riester Pension Plans: An Empirical Study on the Basis of the Survey

Author: Dr. Carroll Haak

Location: Berlin

The conclusion of so-called Riester-contracts (optional and tax-subsidised pension scheme to compensate for cuts in state pension, named after the former Federal Minister for Labor and Social Affairs, Walter Riester) is possible since 2002. Consequently, if payments have been made since the implementation of the new provisions in 2002, the maximum duration of old-age provision expenditure will be seven years in 2009. The article analyzes the accrued savings in Riester pension plans to gain insights regarding the assessment of the individual economic success of tax-subsidised pension provision. The analysis is based on the survey "Individual Old-Age Provision 2009" ("Individuelle Altersvorsorge 2009 – IAV 2009"). This survey provided data about the distribution of pension entitlements in the three tiers of pension provision for the birth cohorts 1942 to 1961.

Fehler! Keine Indexeinträge gefunden.

The European Decision regarding the Aggregation of Insurance Periods

Author: Matthias Hauschild

Location: Berlin

On December 16, 2010 the Administrative Commission for the coordination of social security ("Verwaltungskommission für die Koordinierung der sozialen Sicherheit") passed the decision No H6 concerning the application of certain principles regarding the aggregation of periods under Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. This decision marks the preliminary end of the long lasting discussion about the consideration of periods of insurance completed under the legislation of a Member State by other Member States when calculating a pension. Thus, the commission consisting of representatives of all Member States of the European Union (EU), of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries, and of Switzerland interpreted one of the most important principles in the field of coordination of European social security systems in a way that contradicts the hitherto interpretation by the German pension insurance institutions. At the same time, this strategic alignment paves the way for the implementation of the electronic description and transmission of insurance periods in the course of the project "Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information – EESSI („europaweiter elektronischer Austausch von Sozialversicherungs-informationen") which is of particular importance for the statutory pension scheme. The author outlines the background and the consequences of the decision.

