

DRV-Booklet

DRV-Number: 3/2011

Table of contents:

The History of Social Courts and 20 Years of Pension Insurance in the New Laender	1
Quo vadis “Statutory Pension Insurance”?	1
A New Appearance of the Pension Adjustment Formula	2
The Reform of the Coordination Rules of the European Union with Regard to Statutory Pension Insurance.....	2
The 8th Workshop of the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme..	2

The History of Social Courts and 20 Years of Pension Insurance in the New Laender

Author: Dr. Josef Berchtold

Location: Kassel

...Written version of the speech held by the author at the celebration of “20 Years of Pension Insurance in the New Laender” in Frankfurt/Oder on June 24, 2011

The pension law applicable in the New Laender is, in substance, equivalent to the pension law applicable in the Old Laender. The German Social Court Law (“Sozialgerichtsgesetz – SGG”) is also subject to the same regulations across Germany. Thus, the target of insuring legal unity is fairly reached. Nonetheless, the genetic predisposition of this status quo must be taken into account. Particularly, the nationwide pension law has to consider that a group of insured passed (at least a part of) their employment biographies in the German Democratic Republic (“Deutsche Demokratische Republik – DDR”) and, thereby, not under the law that is now applicable for them. This group requires a considerable amount of special regulations in the substantive German pension law, which leads to a number of legal disputes with a particular kinds of problematics.

Quo vadis “Statutory Pension Insurance”?

Author: Prof. Dr. Winfried Schmähl

Location: Niebüll

...An Interim Statement 10 Years after the “Paradigm Shift” in the German Pension Policy

In the first decade after the turn of the millenium, political decisions of the 1998 elected “red-green” government of Chancellor Schröder led to a fundamental change of the German pension system. Ten years after the legislative implementation of the new policy, we should examine the past and look ahead to the future. The author intends to characterize a further “paradigm shift” of the German pension system regarding its most important elements and aims. Furthermore, he outlines the most significant – so far apparent – social and districutive effects of the implemented measures, focusing on the increasing risk of old-age poverty. The author concludes that the current development – in combination with former changes – puts the construction of the German pension system on display. This leads to the question of how the system will develop, if the chosen path is continued.

A New Appearance of the Pension Adjustment Formula

Authors: Winfried Hain, Andrea Weprek, Dr. Holger Viebrok

Location: Berlin

...A Proposal for a Simplified Pension Adjustment Formula -

For the more than 20 million pensioners, the annual adjustment of their monthly pension is an important occasion. This adjustment follows the pension adjustment formula which aims at the maintenance of the wage replacement program. Furthermore, the formula is meant to contribute to the financial sustainability of the pension system. Over the years, the pension adjustment formula has been changed several times and, thereby, lost its clearness. The authors suggest a significant simplification of the formula, preserving the basic principle of the current formula: the even distribution of the impact of demographic changes between pensioners and contributors.

The wage component in the formula should follow the development of the average gross monthly wage according to national accounts ("Volkswirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnungen"). Finally, the authors comment on aspects regarding the concrete implementation of the formula, such as the calculation of the pensioner / contributor ratio ("Rentnerquotient"), the balancing factor ("Ausgleichsfaktor"), and the federal subsidy ("Bundeszuschuss").

The Reform of the Coordination Rules of the European Union with Regard to Statutory Pension Insurance

Author: Dr. Arno Bokeloh

Location: Bonn

...An Evaluation

The 8th Workshop of the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme

(German Statutory Pension Scheme („Forschungsdatenzentrum der Rentenversicherung – FDZ-RV“))

Authors: Associate Professor Dr. Ralf K. Himmelreicher, Prof. Dr. Carsten Schröder

Locations: Berlin, Kiel

Conference Report on the 8th Workshop of the Data Research Center of the German Statutory Pension Scheme – in Cooperation with the Christian-Albrechts-University (CAU), Kiel, Institute for Economics, Professorship for Public Finance, Social Policy, and Health Economics, and the Lorenz-von-Stein Institute for Public Management and Administrative Sciences ("Lorenz-von-Stein Institut für Verwaltungswissenschaften")