

**DRV-Booklet**

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**Is it still Feasible? The Net Return of a “Riester” Financial Product viewed from an Investor’s Standpoint**

Authors: Maik Wels and Christian Rieckhoff

Location: Berlin

In the following article, select results of calculations on the net return of an exemplary “Riester Rente” (Riester pension) will be presented. The calculations are based on a pure model character, and incorporate both the savings phase as well as the selection phase of this retirement benefit plan. These calculations ensure that all factors concerning a “Riester Rente” will be taken into account - all of this under the overall context of government aid, for this type of pension product. Basis of this study is always the viewpoint of a potential investor. Change of net income is taken into account, as this is the basis for calculating the return of the overall investment. The results will show that especially low income earners and parents, profit from the signing of a “Riester Rente”.

**The Pension Insurance between the Poles of National Sovereignty and EU Competencies  
– European Conformity of the German Statutory Pension System –**

Author: Dr. Arno Bokeloh

Location: Bonn

Like all other branches of social security, the German statutory pension system is bound by the regulations of the European Union. One of the most important aspects is the ban on discrimination due to citizenship and gender. Mediate, as well as immediate discrimination, is forbidden. Discrimination may be present, if a regulation doesn’t immediately link not only citizenship and gender, but also other aspects, and thus more people of a certain gender or citizenship of a member state get affected by this. It can be assumed though that the Ger-

man statutory pension, in it's current embodiment, fullfills European Union law.

### **Old Age Security in Japan**

Authors: Evelin Bocho, Dr. Frederik Diepgen and Sylvia Dünn

Location: Berlin

Even if the distance between Germany and Japan amounts to thousand's of kilometers, there are many parallels in the old age security systems owed to demographic and social changes. A comparison of the reform processes in both countries concerning the pension systems, thus is very interesting.

The article covers how Japan has changed demographically and societal in the last couple of years, and which trends can be identified. This enables the authors to take an indepth look at the Japanese pension system, and which reforms are currently being discussed.

Finally the article will take reference to the German-Japanese Social Security Agreement of 1998.