

DRV-Booklet

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Goals, Implementation and Difficulties of Work Related Rehabilitation in the German Democratic Republic

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In the former worker, and farmer state – GDR – every person was meant to follow a gainful occupation. Thus, the question of how persons with workers disability were rehabilitated, and under which specific laws, bears closer examination. Already during the time frame of Soviet occupation, when eastern Germany was under Soviet administration, specific guidelines were created to deal with work related disability, and how integration into the work force could be achieved. These guidelines were further developed and advanced after Soviet administration was handed over to the government of the GDR. An interesting aspect of this process is the role which fell to the individual employers in the GDR, most of which had their own medical and social services, and which ultimately were responsible for the reintegration of disabled workers, or for providing jobs for such workers. At the same time though, this caused unforeseen difficulties which were largely owed to inbuilt systemic difficulties.

“Bismarck’s Pension Insurance” and the Resulting Decrease of Births in Germany – a Critical Look at the Provided Substantiations

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The correlation between “pay-as-you-go” financed pension insurance, and number of children, is an always recurring subject in German social politics. Not only are there different views on this subject, but the recurring view is that in a pay-as-you-go system, the pension insurance doesn’t finance itself through monetary instruments but rather by the raising of children. This bears to ask the question if the implementation of a statutory pension insurance at the end of the 19th century directly results in the decrease of child births, as children were less seen as an investment in old age security? Further, how much proof is there that the theory of fertility reduction is linked to the implementation of a statutory pension system? These questions were recently investigated in depth, as two new empirical publications have been released. This article examines the reasons for the decline of child births and its correlation to a statutory pension system, furthermore why child birth rates are linked to the financing of the statutory pension system and how this effects the political decision making process. At the end of this article there is a look at the consequences of these actions on the German old age security system.

Involvement of the Staff Council of the German Pension Insurance in Matters of Fundamental- and Cross-Sectional Tasking

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During the course of organizational restructuring of the German pension carriers, the DRV Bund was tasked with providing fundamental- and cross sectional advice on all relevant matters concerning the whole of the German pension system. The legal quality of these decisions has not been finally investigated, albeit there is no ground for that. Needless to say, all policy decisions made by the DRV Bund are binding for all pension carriers in Germany. These decisions could directly affect staff councils under auspice of their own federal- or provincial participation rights, albeit these rights are not exhausted only because the staff councils were not heard during the decision making process (analog § 140 Social Code Book VI). If final decisions didn't leave the possibility of intervention through the individual staff councils, then these can at least effect a right for accuracy control, thus allowing for an in depth look at the correctness of a staff decision.

The Road to Old Age Poverty – Results of a Study of the Biographical Determinations of Basic Security During Old Age

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Location: Düsseldorf and Duisburg-Essen

The following article presents the central results of a research project of the University of Duisburg-Essen, which was held from spring 2012 until fall 2014 dealing with the subject of old age security and financial dependency in old age. The research project examined in depth the correlation between biographical risks and course of life patterns which resulted in the claiming of basic security for old age (in conjunction with Chapter 4 of the Social Codebook XII). The empirical data was drawn from 49 interviews which highlighted the biographical and research oriented data of individuals which were born between the years of 1938 and 1947. With this data the researchers were able to compile five risk groups who have a greater chance of having to apply for basic security during old age. Those five risk groups are “family oriented women”, “former self employed”, “immigrants”, “former citizens of the GDR with a discontinuous employment record” and lastly “complex discontinuous employees”. Each of these risk groups has a potential risk identifier and biographical pattern which is further highlighted in this article. Overall there are several identifiers which explain why certain seniors suffer from old age poverty. For instance the markers of perforated insurance biographies and the lack of missing social security in past times.

The Reform of the Finnish Pension Insurance 2017

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Arguably, the Finnish earnings related pension system of the private sector, is considered to be the most socially sustainable and financially secure systems of the world. Furthermore this system played a key factor in the development of the overall Finnish economy (see Kangas 2006). The now implemented reform in many ways solidifies this factor, especially in financial sustainability. On the other hand though, this reform does not support employees with short-, or interrupted careers in gaining a solid old age pension. The article will examine this pension reform, from its decision in the fall of 2014, its legalization in 2016, and implementation in 2017. The reform will provide changes to the current laws, affecting the begin of pension, the amount of pensions payed out, and the calculation of disability pensions. Additionally a new form of pension is being introduced, the “years-of-service-pension”. In the public eye this reform is seen as the biggest pension reforms of this century.