

DRV-Booklet

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Political Consulting through the Statutory Pension Insurance Scheme as Per Example of the German Re-Unification

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Locations: Munich, Berlin

Next to its primary task of implementing the statutory pension laws, the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund also has the task of consulting on political matters pertaining to old age security. Initially the article will strive to explain the different forms of consulting that it can use. Next, the article will examine certain key aspects involved in the process of political consulting. Six different topics that were individually discussed during re-unification, will be highlighted. Topics such as “The Foreign Pension Law (2.1)”, the laws concerning rehabilitation (2.2), the regulations concerning pension calculations (2.3), transfer of pre-existing pensions (2.4), the integration of additional and specialized pension systems (2.5), and lastly the financing of the pension convergence. For every topic listed above, the article will showcase the pre-existing situation followed by the argumentative side of the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund, and lastly the ultimate decision which was cast by the law makers. Summing it up, the article will showcase the importance of political consulting through the statutory pension scheme.

The Federal Court of Auditors and Its Authorities with Respect to the Pension Insurance Carriers

Author: Prof. Dr. Kyrill-Alexander Schwarz

Location: Würzburg

An independent budget control of all pension carriers through the Federal Audit Court is a necessary means, and constitutional tasking, if one looks at the sheer amount of money that is being handled by the statutory pension carriers. Albeit, the Federal Audit Court is not allowed to audit every area in respect to the tasks the pension carriers have to perform. The court has no right to comment on internal resolutions or similar draft resolutions nor may it audit and comment on political proposals, this as not to hamper the pension carriers in performing their political mandates.

Foreign Insured Customers and Pension Receivers in the Statutory Pension Scheme

Authors: Ulrich Bieber, Dr. Michael Stegmann

Locations: Würzburg, Berlin

Migration is a part of German history. For hundreds of years people have been moving to Germany. Others leave Germany to settle in a different country. Due to the expected high demand for qualified skilled personnel it can be expected that there won't be enough personnel in Germany, thus the need for immigration of qualified workers is evident. The article will take into account the data of the Federal Statistics Office, and empirical data of the pension carriers. The aim is to highlight the situation Germany is facing, using data on migration and occupation of foreigners. The latest statistics counted 5.8 million actively insured foreigners in the statutory pension scheme. Furthermore, currently 2.8 million pensions are being paid

to foreigners, and of those, 1.8 million pensions are transferred into foreign accounts. A closer look will reveal that the amount of pensions with foreign contact are on the rise.

Social Security for Platform Workers in the International Context – Good Practices and Options for Germany

Authors: Dr. Christoph Freudenberg, Dr. Wolfgang Schulz-Weidner, Ilka Wölfle
Locations: Berlin, Brussels

Digitalization leads to far-reaching changes in the work environment, which also affect the systems of social security and leads to mounting challenges. Especially new forms of digital work, as per example through platform work done through Uber or Upwork. The article aims to evaluate the social security aspects of self-employed platform workers in the European as well as international context. The authors can draw from the experiences of 35 social security carriers worldwide. The article presents innovative approaches towards the regulation of platform work in the international context. On this basis, administrative as well as social options are highlighted for Germany. This includes solution options for cross border platform work.

Gaps in Old-Age Pension Provision of Platform Workers and Self Employed – a Comparison

Authors: Dr. Wolfgang Schulz-Weidner, Ilka Wölfle
Location: Brussels

Work generated through digital platforms, changed the historically grown social security systems and created challenges for it. These challenges are equal for local, tied employment, for instance delivery

and transport services, as well as for mainly “online” executed work. The classification creates challenges for those that have to determine, under which legal aspects the employment falls. This creates discussions for legal professionals alike. Once it has been determined under what social security status the work falls, questions arise, as to how the person that performs the work should be viewed as? Self-employed, employed or as a third status worker? Here questions arise as to placement of the person, should they be registered in the statutory insurance scheme? A look at foreign insurance systems shows that there are different approaches and solutions to this question. Due to the fact that most platform workers are considered to be self-employed, the focus should lie on a closer look as to what self-employment in the context of platform work stands for. A closer look will reveal though that platform work that is deemed self-employed, creates substantial gaps in social security periods.

Social Politics and Added Value – the Involvement of Statutory Pension Insurance in Residential Construction and the GAGFAH from 1918 until 2004

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Through a historical analysis, the article aims to highlight the long-standing involvement of the statutory pension carriers in creating and sustaining housing. Since their inception in 1889, pension carriers have invested large amounts of their capital stocks in non-profit residential construction, with the goal of creating socially acceptable, and thus inexpensive housing. A special role was taken by the 1918 founded housing association GAGFAH which was fully owned by the statutory pension carrier. Using a time line perspective, the interaction between the GAGFAH and the pension carrier is

highlighted. This happens by focusing on three periods. Phase one, was the founding and expansion from 1918 until 1956 (during which the pension carriers invested substantially in the housing association). Phase two, between 1957 and 1976 where financing still played a major role, albeit initial changes were introduced to dampen the involvement of the pension carriers, and lastly phase three in the year 2004, when the housing association GAGFAH was sold to the American finance company Fortress. For each phase, the article aims to highlight certain specific patterns created between social economic and institutional connections between the pension carriers and the housing association (GAGFAH).