

DRV-Booklet

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The long road to digital pension files – nearly 20 years from idea to implementation

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Sweden introduced it in 2004. Denmark initialised it as early as 1999. The Dutch took a little more time and launched their online platform for pensions in 2011, enabling their customers to get an overview of their acquired pension entitlements. What is the current state of affairs in Germany? Although the discussion about the introduction of a digital pension file has been going on since the beginning of the new millennium, it will not be until the end of 2022 that customers will be able to access their social insurance record online. Why that late? Is it the broad range of pension schemes? Is there scepticism towards digitalisation or a tendency towards perfectionism? Was there no need to combine information and make it available online? Was there no demand for real transparency? Were there concerns about possible data security breaches and disclosure of income details, or were there other reasons that so significantly slowed down the process? What will the digital pension file look like in the first place? At what stage is the implementation process currently? It is these and other questions that this article addresses.

Senior workers and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic

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During the phase of employment recovery that marked the period between financial crisis and COVID-19 pandemic, senior workers and employees really had it going for them. With regard to the labour participation rate, those over the age of 50 increasingly drew level with younger age cohorts. Simultaneously, the number of those still working despite them having already reached pensionable age was found to have increased considerably. The question arises as to what impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the employment situation of senior workers and employees and which conclusions may be drawn concerning their future participation in the labour market. Results show that older workers tend to be less likely to lose their jobs but often have a harder time returning to the labour market. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue could turn out to be even more serious than it was in earlier phases of economic recession as employers, due to the secular stagnation, seem hesitant to hire new staff. This is aggravated by the fact that older adults face higher risks of severe illness from COVID-19, which may have an impact on their working capacity as well as on the choice of employers looking to fill job vacancies.

Equal inheritance opportunities for women and men? On the gender-specific significance of inheritance for old-age provision

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In Germany, women are faced with a gender pay gap and gender wealth gap as well as a gender pension gap. The aim of this paper is to investigate whether there is also a gender inheritance gap, i. e. whether men and women have unequal inheritance opportunities. The article then goes on to examine whether inherited fortune plays an equally important role in providing old-age security for women and men. The data basis is the Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP). From 2002 to 2017, 7.7 per cent of all adult women and 6.9 per cent of all adult men inherited, so women are not faced with a gender-based inheritance gap. However, the majority of women, like the majority of men, do not inherit at all or only very small amounts. To that extent, the contribution of inherited property to old-age provision is somewhat greater for women than for men in relative terms, but remains low overall.

Flexible pension as an instrument for further development of supplementary pension schemes? Thoughts on extended options for the pay-out phase of the Riester pension scheme

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In the following article, thoughts on extended options for the pay-out phase of the Riester pension scheme are presented for discussion. The overall aim is to make the scheme more attractive for clients, while still guaranteeing full coverage of the longevity risk, which is indispensable from a socio-political point of view. In the model concepts, regulations of SGB VI (Sixth Book of the German Social Code) on flexible pensions in the statutory German pension insurance system are used, without this leading to a mixing of the subsidised supplementary pension scheme and the statutory German pension insurance system. However, the benefits from these systems would be better coordinated this way.

Growing inequalities regarding old-age provision? Riester pension reflected by various population surveys

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This article looks at how the prevalence of Riester pension products has developed within the last ten years from the perspective of various population surveys. It addresses the question whether there have been structural shifts with regard to the utilization of Riester pension products within this period which are disadvantageous to those population segments that are at a higher risk of old-age poverty due to their lower saving capacity. An analysis will be provided of the attribution of observable developments to the respective survey

instruments. Following the evaluations of the old-age security report, the survey of the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) regarding “Distribution of old-age provision“, “Course of life and old-age provision – LeA“ and the “Socioeconomic Panel – SOEP“ are compared in different socio-structural dimensions within the period from 2011 to 2019. All three data sources point to an overall declining trend with regard to pension saving activities. Despite their differing methodologies, the population surveys show a considerable degree of common ground. However, there are larger deviations with regard to the values quoted in the old-age security report of 2012. Furthermore, the analyses demonstrate that persons with low income and a low level of education as well as younger people participate less and less in state-subsidized private pensions. By contrast, Riester pension is still very sought after by families with children. Judging from age-specific rates of contract conclusions for these products, Riester pension can be perceived as having a considerable problem of attracting younger people. So far, there is a lack of sound analyses that could deliver a valid explanation of the downward trend in saving activities and simultaneously growing inequalities.